

# PearlLam Galleries

Hong Kong

## K11 MUSEA POP-UP: YUANSU BY REN RI

Exhibition dates    23 June–29 August, 2021    Monday–Sunday, 10am–10pm  
Venue                Shop 610, L6, K11 MUSEA, Victoria Dockside, 18 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui

Hong Kong—Pearl Lam Galleries is pleased to present *Ren Ri: Yuansu*, a pop-up exhibition of unique beeswax sculptures by Beijing-based artist Ren Ri at K11 MUSEA. Ren Ri (b. 1984) works in the unique medium of beeswax, creating, in collaboration with the insects, mesmerizing sculptures that document his intimate experience with bees as both an artist and a beekeeper. He manipulates the movement of bees and the formation of honeycombs to create metaphysical and hybrid sculptures, which investigate the force of nature and consequences of human intervention.

On view are two distinctive series of artworks: *Yuansu I: The Origin of Geometry* (2007), which incorporates maps into the make-up of the beeswax, and *Yuansu II*, in which Ren has created a series of stunning geometrical sculptures by manipulating bee behaviour. Ren places a queen bee in the middle of a box, while the worker bees start to build natural beehives around her. Every seven days, Ren randomly changes the position of the box, like rolling dice, to create a living object. These organic sculptures embody a new belief system, one that symbolizes new metaphysical qualities and forms of life itself.

The narrative flow is broken down into different sections. Upon entering the exhibition, viewers are greeted by documentary videos to familiarize them with the artist. The videos are followed by *Yuansu I: The Origin of Geometry*. This series has more to do with conditioning the bees to represent the world through cartography with a deliberate intention. In the middle of the exhibition area, there is an elevated 3.5 m wide wooden square platform for showcasing the *Yuansu II* series in its entirety to accentuate the architectonic aspect of the sculptures and to invite a comparative reading of the beeswax sculptures and their details. The formation of the sculpture is much more liberal and unexpected. The bees are creating their utopia so to speak. With a high ceiling and an interesting panoramic backdrop of a dense metropolis and natural landscape, the venue is perfect for presenting *Yuansu* and inviting audiences to ponder the relationships between nature and the man-made environment.

### About Ren Ri

Ren Ri (b. 1984, Harbin, China) studied Fine Art at Tsinghua University before receiving his master's degree at Saint-Petersburg Herzen State University in Russia. He also holds a PhD in Fine Art from Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing.

Ren Ri's art is easily recognizable because of a very special medium he uses: beeswax. He first started beekeeping in 2006 and several years later began to create three series of art pieces fully made of beeswax: *Yuansu I, II* and *III*. *Yuan* means element, while *su* means mould—*Yuansu* can be translated as 'a comprehension of the gestalt of life'. The artist believes his sculptures represent the truth of how humans interact with nature, which involves harmony, destruction, moulding, and interference, and can result in unpredictable, sometimes volatile, but sometimes wondrous results.

Ren Ri's exhibitions include *AI: More than Human* (2019), Barbican Centre, London, UK; KWS Art Lounge Newcomer (2016), Einbeck, Germany; Kaissering Award for Young Artists (2015), Mönchehaus Museum, Goslar, Germany; West Bund Art & Design (2014), Shanghai, China; *Fusion Convergence* (2014), T Museum, Hangzhou, China; *Fame Di Terra* (2012), Milan, Italy; 6th Art Laguna Exhibition (2012), Venice, Italy; and *Carve & New Media* (2007), 798 Art District, Beijing, China.

## About Pearl Lam Galleries

Pearl Lam Galleries is a driving force within Asia's contemporary art scene. Founded in 2005, the gallery plays a vital role in stimulating international dialogue and cross-cultural exchange between the East and West.

Following a rigorous programme, Pearl Lam Galleries presents museum-quality exhibitions that re-evaluate and challenge perceptions of cultural practice in Asia. With a thoughtfully balanced roster of Chinese and international artists, the gallery is strategic in its curation, positioning itself as an educator.

The gallery maintains a flagship space in the historic Pedder Building in Hong Kong, whilst the Shanghai gallery is situated in the heart of the Bund district. With a team of international staff, Pearl Lam Galleries' reach is global, having presentations at major international art fairs including The Armory Show, Art Cologne, Art Basel Hong Kong, Frieze Masters, and West Bund Art and Design.

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## Press Enquiries

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