

PearlLam Galleries

Shanghai

MR DOODLE at chi K11 Art Museum in Shanghai

“Mr Doodle in Love”: A SOLO EXHIBITION BY MR DOODLE

Exhibition dates 2 March–5 June, 2022 Monday–Sunday, 10am–8pm

Venue chi K11 Art Museum, B3F, Shanghai K11 Art Mall, No. 300 Middle Huaihai Road

Shanghai—Pearl Lam Galleries is proud to announce British artist Mr Doodle’s first museum exhibition *Mr Doodle in Love* at K11 Art Museum, Shanghai, curated by Dimitri Ozerkov, Director of Contemporary Art Department, State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The exhibition presents the everyday world of Mr Doodle and his doodles, which shine with love, joy, and happiness; it is both a celebration of the artist’s love story and recent marriage. Viewers are brought on a journey where the dense clusters of black and white doodles are gradually tinted with an array of bright colours. As visitors walk through the exhibition, a chronology of the artist’s love story unfolds. An extra section entitled “The Mr Doodle Living Room” gives visitors the amazing opportunity to interact with DoodleWorld by adding to the walls and furniture in the room using stickers received upon entry.

“We wanted to create an everlasting visual, artistic record of our first year of marriage. We hope that the people of Shanghai will enjoy seeing the work exhibited together and in sequence. Love and colour are both truly universal languages, and I think that the audience will appreciate our story before it is shared with the rest of world.” – Mr Doodle

A liberating act, doodling occupies a critical place throughout history as the technique of scribbling funny or grotesque characters can be traced back to antiquity. While Renaissance sources have noted doodles in the art of Leonardo da Vinci and Albrecht Dürer, it finds its best examples on the margins of medieval manuscripts. The Webster Dictionary of the English Language defines “to doodle” as “to sketch or scribble while the mind is occupied”. Being faithful to the process of mark making as a form of improvisation, Mr Doodle channels his creations directly from his world into ours with great stamina, developing artworks at different locations, on various surfaces, as well as with varying formats and scales, as his personal mission is to doodle the entire world in hope of crossing over as many different physical and cultural boundaries as possible. His process is fluid, therapeutic, unrestrained, and without hesitation, which brings to mind the practice of meditation that is central to thousands of years of Chinese philosophy and culture. Both are imbued with a sense of harmony, with Mr Doodle’s work serving as a search for alignment between the inside and outside world.

“Sam’s alter ego manifests his worldview through impulsive mark making and the act of visual performance. Poignant humanism lies within each of Mr Doodle’s jovial characters; embodied with unique personalities, they serve as an autobiographical reflection of the artist’s direct response towards his personal reflections and awareness of the surrounding world.” – Dimitri Ozerkov

About the Artist

Mr Doodle began consuming the Earth’s surface with doodles a little time after he was born in 1994. He started out by covering his parents’ furniture with doodles and eventually his whole bedroom until he realised his home wasn’t a big enough canvas and he began doodling on the walls of local fast food restaurants and schools. During his career, Mr Doodle has constructed a whole new visual phenomenon: his DoodleWorld, where he manifests his vision of the world, producing mesmerising and dense clusters of characters, objects, and patterns that grow and multiply relentlessly.

Mr Doodle began to garner recognition in the art world in 2017 and has since seen a meteoric rise in interest in his work. He stands at the forefront of a new art wave, taking the online art community by storm with a mass social media following. Truly a millennial artist, his works provoke discourse on what we consider fine art today.

Mr Doodle’s works transcend beyond the canvas, invading furniture, big surfaces, clothing, and more. Like other artists of his generation, he also explored a number of collaborations with iconic brands, including Fendi, Puma, Samsung and MTV to begin with. But where Mr Doodle separates himself is in his sense of purpose: a deep and obsessive compulsion to expand and share his vision of his DoodleWorld. As a form of release or meditation, his process is fluid, therapeutic, unrestrained, and without hesitation, as if channeling directly from his world into ours with great stamina. He ultimately seeks to spread a sense of wonder, happiness, and love.

“My intention has always been to create a universal doodle language that can relate to and attract people from all over the world.” – Mr Doodle

Recent solo exhibitions include *Doodle Kyoto* (2019), Shimadai Gallery, Kyoto, Japan; *Doodle Tokyo* (2019), Daikanyama Hillside Forum, Tokyo, Japan; and *Doodle World* (2018), ARA Art Center, Seoul, South Korea.

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 heritage architecture in 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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