

# PearlLam Galleries

## Pearl Lam Galleries: Lobsteropolis by Philip Colbert at M5 Gallery in Tokyo, Japan

Private Preview	Saturday, 21 January, 5pm–7pm
Exhibition Dates	24 January–25 February, 2023 Tuesday–Saturday, 12pm–7pm
Venue	1-chome-12-1 Yurakucho, Chiyoda City, Tokyo 100-0006, Japan

Tokyo—Pearl Lam Galleries is pleased to present *Lobsteropolis*, an immersive exhibition by British artist Philip Colbert at M5 Gallery in Toyko, Japan. Colbert's practice establishes a dialogue between contemporary mass culture and an art historical canon through the lens of his iconic lobster persona. His hyper-pop aesthetic intertwines everyday and digital symbolism with painterly compositions and contemporary art theory.

Colbert also follows the works of the early, formative pop-art artists, including Richard Hamilton, Roy Lichtenstein and James Rosenquist, and the techniques of the Old Masters such as Peter Paul Rubens. He works across disciplines, including painting, sculpture, furniture, design and digital art, with lobster iconography acting as a central protagonist.

To challenge the scale of a confined gallery space with kaleidoscopic floor and wall designs, Colbert's diverse lobster personas embrace freedom in an uninhibited manner. By staging an imaginary dwelling of a marine crustacean, audiences can indulge themselves in a hyper-pop world of total fantasy.

With reference to pop symbols, he recycles these icons as a costume for the lobster in the *Collaboration* series, demonstrating art's ability to constantly reinvent canonical works. While the *Self-Portrait* series revisits the classic idea of the artist holding a paintbrush and speaks to the existential angst involved when looking for meaning within the process of painting. The deeper you look, the more difficult it is to find and in turn, the more absurd it becomes.

Through the veneer of pop, colour and humour, *Lobsteropolis* pushes the limits of self-representation in a society of hyper-consumption, uplifting this gruelling activity beyond the ordinary self.

### About the Artist

Born in Scotland and living and working in London, Philip Colbert is often referred to as the "godson of Andy Warhol". Graduating with an MA in Philosophy from the University of St. Andrews, Colbert has garnered a global following for his cartoon lobster persona and his masterful hyper pop history paintings. He has been championed by art world figures such as Charles Saatchi & Simon De Pury. His work powerfully explores the patterns of contemporary digital culture and its relationship with a more profound art historical dialogue.

“I became an artist when I became a Lobster.” —Philip Colbert

## 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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