

## New Philip Colbert exhibition 'The Myth of the Lobster Planet' opens

On June 17<sup>th</sup> 2023, new exhibition *Philip Colbert: The Myth of the Lobster Planet* opens at the Coastal Gallery in the Sea World Culture and Arts Center (SWCAC) . Philip Colbert's first exhibition in South China, which is hosted by SWCAC, co-organized by Pearl Lam Galleries and CE. The exhibition is a systematic display of more than 40 representative works of his creative career, including an array of mediums from painting, sculpture, giant installation, video, and furniture design.

A leading figure in the New Pop Art movement, Colbert draws inspiration from the Pop Art movement of the 1960s, reinvents and revitalizes the genre, and his oeuvre weaves together a vibrant amalgamation of artistic idioms, encompassing elements of pop culture, consumerism, historical references, as well as mythological motifs, culminating in a visually captivating fusion known as *Neo Pop Surrealism*.

At the heart of Colbert's artistic practice is an in-depth discussion of contemporary popular culture and its relationship to art history. His works trace back to the classic works in the history of art and pay tribute to the famous masters of classicism, pop art and surrealism. For example, Van Gogh's famous sunflowers, Duchamp's urinals, and Andy Warhol's iconic flowers all appear in the works of this Colbert exhibition, with each art historical guise, the Lobster is reborn into a different time and setting. In this exhibition, Colbert's classic *Functional Sculpture* series will also be displayed, emphasizing his concept that 'art should be everyday, art should be for everyone'. Trying to break through elitism, Colbert seeks to allow more audiences to participate in and appreciate the expression of contemporary art.

The narrative of the exhibition is co-planned by famous critic and researcher Maurizio Bortolotti and the general manager of SWCAC Amber Zhang, in order to reorganize and systematically interpret the artist's works. The space is designed and carried out by COEXIST. Philosopher Nelson Goodman wrote in his book *Ways of Worldmaking*: 'We are not speaking in terms of multiple possible alternatives to a single possible world but of multiple actual worlds'. Colbert constructs a surreal world through art, responding to Goodman's vision of recreating multiple worlds.

SWCAC is honored to present Philip Colbert's first large-scale solo exhibition in South China, through *Self-Representation: Painters and Painting Tools*, *Reconstruction: Classical Art and the Digital Realm*, *Tribe: Totems and Sculpture* and *Hunting Theater: Classicism and Planet Recreation*. The audience is invited to enter a multi-dimensional and surreal pop art world that transcends the boundaries of traditional art, exploring the artist's creative process through a layered spatial narrative.

The exhibition will be open until October 15th.

## Philip Colbert: The Myth of the Lobster Planet

Dates: June 17<sup>th</sup> 2023 - October 15<sup>th</sup> 2023

Address: No. 1187, Wanghai Road, Shekou, Nanshan District, Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province, China

Venue: L1 Coastal Gallery, Sea World Culture and Arts Center

Tickets: ¥ 88

Guiding unit: China Merchants Shekou Industrial Zone Holdings Co., Ltd.

Host: Sea World Culture and Arts Center

Co-organizers: Pearl Lam Galleries, COEXIST

Media Contact: Li Siyu, SWCAC Brand Manager | E-lisiyu02@cmhk.com | M-18664951213

Media kit: <https://pan.baidu.com/s/19RqbkUlwKrsJjiZsoEe6nw?pwd=7598> Extraction code: 7598

## About the artist: Philip Colbert

Philip Colbert (born 1979)

Born in Scotland but living and working in London, Colbert is often referred to as "Andy Warhol's godson". A graduate of the University of St Andrews with a Master's degree in Philosophy, Colbert has gained a worldwide following for his cartoon lobster images and masterful hyper-pop history paintings, championed by major figures in the art world such as Charles Saatchi and Simon de Pury. His work powerfully explores patterns of contemporary digital culture and its relationship to the deeper dialogue of art history.

Inspired by early pop artists such as Richard Hamilton, Roy Lichtenstein, and James Rosenquist, Colbert interweaves pure art themes from old masterpieces and contemporary art theory with everyday symbols of contemporary mass culture, and narrates through the perspective of Colbert's alter ego, the cartoon lobster. His works have been exhibited in major museums including the Times Museum (Chongqing, China, 2021), the Sejong Art Center (Seoul, Korea, 2021), the Yicang Art Museum (Shanghai, China, 2020), Saatchi Gallery (London, UK), 2020) and the Multimedia Art Museum (Moscow, Russia, 2020). Colbert has also collaborated with internationally renowned brands such as Bentley Motors, Rolex, Montblanc, Christian Louboutin, Comme des Garçons and Adidas.

## About SWCAC

Located in Shekou, Shenzhen, the Sea World Culture and Arts Center (SWCAC) is a hub for culture and commerce launched by China Merchants Shekou, with London's Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) as its founding partner. SWCAC is committed to creating diverse cultural experiences for the public through a variety of hybrid formats such as exhibitions, performing arts, public education, and commerce. As the only building designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Fumihiko Maki in China to date, SWCAC embraces the horizons of the sea, mountains, and city that surround it. Opened in December 2017, SWCAC has become a key cultural landmark in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area. It was listed as Top Gallery in Shenzhen by Lonely Planet in 2019 and one of the World's 100 Greatest Places by Time magazine in 2018. In 2022, SWCAC held 35 exhibitions, 89 performances and over 200 educational events, attracting over 1.4 million visitors.

### 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 Art Cologne, Art Basel, Frieze Masters, and West Bund Art and Design.

### About CE

COEXIST is a creative studio specializing in art integrated solution. The company connects top-level artists internationally and provides integrated art services, especially integrated creative strategy and execution for contemporary pop art. The team has extensive experience on working with top artists. COEXIST has completed many phenomenal cases, covering the design and production of art collections and exhibition planning and implementation in recent years. The latest projects include the cooperation with renowned contemporary artists such as Hajime Sorayama, Daniel Arsham, Edgar Plans, Stickymonger, etc., covering exhibition planning and execution in Greater China, merchandise development and design, digital art production etc. The team aims to connect artists, artworks, art exhibitions and technology, and innovatively explore the value of contemporary art. The team provides viewer-oriented experience and empower business with 'Art+' philosophy.