

Pearl Lam Galleries partners with sketch for a series of exhibitions in 2024 and 2025

Exhibition Dates January 2024–February 2025
Venue sketch, 9 Conduit St, London W1S 2XG

- The trailblazing Asian gallery, spearheaded by Pearl Lam, takes over the iconic London destination for four exhibitions in January, March and May 2024 and the Lunar New Year in January 2025.
- sketch will highlight Chinese, African and British voices from the gallery, playing a crucial role in fostering international dialogue and cross-cultural exchange between the East and West.
- Chinese artists and architects Danful Yang, Zhu Peihong and Lilyo Zhao, Nigerian artist Alimi Adewale and British artist Mr Doodle will be showcased.

London—Pearl Lam Galleries, a driving force in Asia’s contemporary art scene, will collaborate with the eclectic avant-garde destination sketch in Mayfair, London for a series of exhibitions in 2024. The Shanghai and Hong Kong-based gallery’s takeover of sketch kicks off on 11 January and will run until 3 March with *Heaven on Earth*, an exhibition by the Chinese artist Danful Yang. Yang, an emerging artist from Pearl Lam Galleries’ roster of international artists, will transform the reception area with a porcelain wall installation, intricate works with glass perfume bottles, and bespoke handmade embroidery on canvas and foam packing boxes. Yang’s intervention proposes to stage a clash between idealism and consumerism using the Chinese landscape as a visual motif to address appropriation as a strategy for expressing human aspiration.

Devil or Angel will transform the forms of modified porcelain doll figures into visually striking artwork. Delicately balanced within lengthy PVC tubes, these fragmented porcelain figures contrast their typically flawless material, encouraging viewers to appreciate the beauty in imperfection. Yang’s use of these figures prompts contemplation of purity and innocence and the allure of fragmented forms, transcending the somber themes often associated with destruction or violence in busy environments.

sketch will also showcase her *Inside Chic* series, a body of work inspired by her travels and employing the unique technique of reverse painting. Driven by an affinity for collecting exquisite aromas, Yang’s series of works delve into the enduring allure of perfume and beauty bottles. These objects, surpassing their utilitarian purpose, shift from being mere containers to becoming distinctive accessories—intricately crafted sculptures. Miniature landscapes can be seen inside these stylised vessels housed individually inside a reflective box to project a kaleidoscopic vision.

In *Packing Me Softly*, Yang explores the overlooked role of packaging, emphasising the protective significance of the box itself. She parallels this negligence with society's disregard for cleaning personnel despite prioritising city cleanliness. The series involves transforming a taped-up packing box into an object of care and respect through fragile silk hand embroidery.

Nigerian artist Alimi Adewale will present an exploration of African heritage, identity, and the human experience from March to April. The exhibition invites viewers to celebrate the beauty and resilience of the African spirit. Adewale will exhibit sculptures combining traditional craftsmanship with contemporary elements and paintings that capture the essence of African life, offering a deeper understanding of its multifaceted identity.

Acclaimed British artist Mr Doodle, also known as Sam Cox, is set to undertake a creative transformation of the reception area and the iconic bathroom pods at sketch from May to July. Mr Doodle's recognisable and vibrant illustrations, featuring interlocking colourful designs and distinctive characters, will adorn the interiors of these spaces. With his signature doodling style, he has carved out a unique place in the art world. His designs have already brought to life architectural facades and interiors, such as a 12-room mansion in Kent, England and the showroom of Artelli in Macao, China. Through his work, Mr Doodle aims to establish a universal doodling language. He continues his mission by bringing his captivating designs to life on the sketch canvas.

From January to February 2025, aligning with Lunar New Year, sketch will host an exhibition featuring collaborative works by Chinese artist Zhu Peihong and architect Lilyo Zhao. The artists will take over the reception area using Zhu's abstract painting *Ocean 2019-2* as a visual foundation for an abstract installation, while Zhao will deconstruct and reassemble the artwork. Their installation is set to incorporate neon light tubes, bespoke crafted irregular-shaped LED screens, VR technology, stainless-steel painted forms, and ring lamps to create what they describe as sculptures and installations with painting attributes. The essence of their collaborative practice revolves around exploring themes of light and space. Through their abstract artworks, the duo aims to create a space that can be felt, where one can observe the relationship between the artwork and its surrounding space.

Pearl Lam, Founder of Pearl Lam Galleries said, "I am thrilled to begin this exciting collaboration with sketch, uniting and championing Chinese, British and African voices and celebrating the power of cultural exchange. Our gallery continues to stimulate an international dialogue and I'm delighted that sketch is platforming this vision."

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 sketch

sketch

9 Conduit Street

London, W1S 2XG

Opening times: Sunday to Tuesday: 8am–midnight | Wednesday to Saturday: 8am–2am

Telephone reservations: 020 7659 4500

Online reservations: sketch.london/book

sketch's home, 9 Conduit Street, is a Grade II* listed building that was designed by James Wyatt in 1779 and has previously been the headquarters of the Royal Institute of British Architects, before later becoming the London Atelier of Christian Dior. sketch was inaugurated in 2002 by restaurateur, Mourad Mazouz and three-Michelin-starred MasterChef Pierre Gagnaire. As a destination for food, art, and music the Mayfair venue continues to contribute to the building's heritage as a destination for experimentation. sketch consists of the three-Michelin-starred Lecture Room and Library; the Parlour, a whimsical all-day cafe and bar at night; and the Gallery, a vibrant gastro brasserie, which is currently showcasing art by Yinka Shonibare, serving afternoon tea and dinner. sketch also encompasses the Glade, serving a lunch garden menu and cocktails at night, and the East Bar, a small intimate bar for London.

About Danful Yang

Danful Yang, a Chinese artist born in 1980, breathes new life into traditional Chinese art and craft by infusing them with modern Western materials. Her artworks are characterised by a playful and visually dynamic approach. Yang pays homage to the past while embracing the present, skilfully reimagining traditional Chinese craft techniques to produce mesmerising installations that bridge the gap between ancient traditions and contemporary life. In the realm of Chinese art, where a rich history spanning 5,000 years shapes the modern landscape, the boundaries between high art and low art dissolve. The enduring spirit of the literati resonates across time, celebrating the harmonious fusion of craftsmanship.

About Alimi Adewale

Alimi Adewale (b. 1974) was born in Lagos, Nigeria. Although he studied mechanical engineering, he developed an interest in art by going to exhibitions. He furthered his extensive knowledge of art after graduating by attending various art workshops around the world. Adewale uses the mediums of painting, sculpture, and installation to explore urban issues and the lives of everyday people in cities. Some of his work examines the impact of excessive urbanisation, rapid modern development, and the growing global economy on society. His practice combines elements of minimalism and abstraction to evoke the dynamism and intensity of the cosmopolitan environment.

About Mr Doodle





Born in Kent, England, Sam Cox, also known as Mr Doodle, began consuming the Earth's surface with doodles a little time after he was born in 1994. 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 has 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 DoodleLand. As a form of release or meditation, his process is fluid, therapeutic, unrestrained, and without hesitation, as if channelling directly from his world into ours with great stamina. He ultimately seeks to spread a sense of wonder, happiness, and love. Recently, he has performed live at prestigious locations including the M+ Museum, K11 Musea and MTR, enhancing the grandeur of his solo exhibition in Hong Kong. These mesmerising performances showcased Mr Doodle's unique doodling technique, breathing life into canvases and sculptures to captivate audiences.

About Zhu Peihong

Zhu Peihong was born in Shanghai in 1987 and graduated from the printmaking department of the Central Academy of Fine Arts in 2014 with a master's degree. The artist's *My Space* series focuses on the dots, lines, and colour patches that flash in the picture in the process of creation as well as the traces left on the picture due to their convergence and dissolution. In this creative process, the strokes overlap and cover each other, and the paint slowly drips and spreads, solidifies and stops, repeatedly until these fragmented traces, reaching an internal order, organically connect with each other and construct the conscious cyberspace perceived by the artist's mind. The abstract dynamic air dome installation *Space Ouses* uses virtual reality technology to replace brushes with handles and canvas with the sky, releasing the magnificent colour energy existing in the universe. The artist combines art and technology to build a channel between virtuality and reality, connecting it with our world.

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