

MASSIMODECARLO

LUCIO FONTANA and PABLO PICASSO with YAN PEI-MING

LOOK AT ME

Taking place in the Hong Kong gallery of Massimo De Carlo, from July 8th and through the summer until September 5th, *Look at Me* is a dialogue between the past and the present, the modern and the contemporary.

The vibrant green and yellow of Fontana's *Concetto Spaziale, Attese* from 1959 is juxtaposed by the 1969 work on paper *Nu, homme a la pipe et amour* by Pablo Picasso. The two evocative works are accompanied by large scale portraits of both Lucio Fontana and Pablo Picasso executed by Yan Pei-Ming.

Born in 1960 in Shanghai and raised during the Cultural Revolution in China, since 1982 Yan Pei-Ming lives and works in Dijon, France. The dichotomy of both Western and Oriental experiences has contributed to shape the expressive style of the artist who, in over thirty years of his career, has emerged on the international arena as one of the most recognized figurative painters of our time. In his practice, Ming has paid homage to many great masters in the arts, from Leonardo da Vinci to Jackson Pollock, from Gustave Courbet to Alighiero Boetti, Frida Khalo, Lucian Freud, Lucio Fontana and Pablo Picasso, to name a few. By painting their portraits or personal interpretations of their masterpieces, Ming revisits history, and often evokes the psychological burdens of these individuals and, at times, represents their innocence and vulnerability. In the Hong Kong exhibition, for example, his highly coloured portraits of Fontana and Picasso make a strong case for the visual ties and underlying connections. Juxtaposed to the two large paintings is the exquisite work on paper *Nu, homme a la pipe et amour* by Picasso and Fontana's reverberating *Concetto Spaziale, Attese* with five cuts, both works exhibited for the first time in Asia.

Throughout his career Picasso referred to his painting acting as a diary and that is particularly true for the works he made during the last years of his life (1881-1973). In 1961 he entered his eighth decade; as the acknowledged master of twentieth century art he had nothing to prove and yet he felt that he had less time but more to say (in K. Gallwitz, *Picasso Laureatus, Lausanne & Paris, 1971*, p. 166). This feeling is the driving force behind the creativity and spontaneity of his mature work and his significant recourse to archetypal figures and symbols, as visible in *Nu, homme a la pipe et amour*.

Traversing a century, the exhibition *Look at Me* offers the viewers an encounter with iconic masterpieces that served, and will continue to serve, as sources of endless inspiration (and sometimes of re-creation).

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Hard Facts:

Massimo De Carlo, Hong Kong

3rd Floor Pedder Building, 12 Pedder Street, Central, Hong Kong

From July 8th until September 5th, 2020

Open Monday to Saturday, 10:30am – 7:00pm

Information:

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