

PRESS RELEASE

KRISTY M CHAN: *BINGE*

12 OCTOBER – 12 NOVEMBER

PRIVATE VIEW: 11 OCTOBER, 6 – 8 PM

Simon Lee Gallery and The Artist Room are delighted to announce a collaborative solo exhibition of new paintings by Kristy M Chan (b. 1997, Hong Kong). On view from 12 October - 12 November 2022, *Binge* will take place across both galleries' locations.

Born in Hong Kong and now living in London, Kristy M Chan's practice looks at the ways in which environments shape one's identity. Previous series of work have seen the artist explore feelings of disorientation whilst existing between Eastern and Western cultures through kaleidoscopic colour fields and indistinct figures. Created this summer in London, the paintings in *Binge* mark a jump in Chan's practice from the semi-figurative to total abstraction, taking as their point of departure the culture of superfluity and excess that characterises contemporary urban life and behaviour.

Assertive and dynamic, the nine new paintings in this exhibition continue Chan's investigation into the relationship between one's surroundings and selfhood, with a particular focus on overindulgence. Several of the works on view, including *Comedown from wind chimes*, attempt to process the way boundaries can dissolve in intense relationships, often resulting in excessive amounts of time spent with one person. In this work, icy blue and pale pink colour fields open the painting up, yet a cluster of erratic brushstrokes at the top left of the picture plane disrupt this harmony, transforming it into a visceral, dizzying vista that works to visualise an emotional binge. Other works in the exhibition reference everyday excess more literally - *Things left behind can burn so bright* was inspired by and takes its title from a line in *Undone*, an animated comedy drama TV series that the artist binged over the summer.

Whilst previous works saw the artist traverse figuration and abstraction, the works in *Binge* abandon figuration in favour of a raw and deep exploration of depth, light, space and colour. Working predominately with oil and oil stick Chan's painting process, particularly her approach to colour, is deeply instinctive. She compares the process of juxtaposing tones and textures as similar to the Japanese flower-arranging process Ikebana; which promotes the concept of negative space as of equal importance as positive space. These new paintings have also been informed by German Expressionism which placed emphasis on finding inspiration through feelings or ideas over replicating reality, while taking fascination with the conflicted experiences of modern urban life. 'I look at German painters a lot,' Chan notes, with reference to *Comedown from wind chimes* and *Everything is louder when you're looking for silence*, both created in 2022 and featured in the exhibition.

On view across both galleries' locations in Mayfair and Soho, visitors to Chan's exhibition will be presented with paintings that explore emotional extremes and the conceptual and formal dissolution of dividing lines. Whilst the notion of a binge ultimately holds negative connotations, the artist's new works are commendably daring in their surrender to total feeling and fearless examination of overindulgence.

Milo Astaire, Founder of The Artist Room, says:

The Artist Room is delighted to partner with Simon Lee Gallery on our second solo exhibition with Kristy M Chan. In recent years, there has been an acceleration toward collaboration in the creative industries and we hope this exhibition sets a precedent for emerging artists and galleries to work alongside the guidance of established gallerists such as Simon Lee. Chan's unique and energetic approach to abstraction has moved from strength to strength with international solo exhibitions, residencies, and placement in museum collections. This exhibition promises to be an exciting show bridging two important and distinctive art destinations in London: Mayfair and Soho. Bringing together audiences from each gallery's network, this show marks a unique opportunity for visitors to discover Kristy's remarkable work.

Simon Lee says, Founder of Simon Lee Gallery, says:

We are extremely excited to be collaborating with The Artist Room to present new works by Kristy M Chan. Building relationships between long-established and young galleries has proven to be a fruitful way of giving artists an international platform. There is a strong connection between Simon Lee Gallery and Chan, both being based between London and Hong Kong. Chan's bid to 'find home' through her paintings, whilst moving between different geographies feels more relevant in our industry in the 21st century where the art world community is more global than ever.

NOTES TO EDITORS**ABOUT KRISTY M CHAN:**

Kristy M Chan (b.1997, Hong Kong) lives and works between London and Hong Kong. She received her BFA from Slade School of Fine Art in 2019 and her MA from Sotheby's Institute of Art in 2020. Recent solo exhibitions include *Strong Cookie*, Prior Art Space, Berlin (2022) and *Totally Not*, The Artist Room, London, (2021-2). Selected recent group exhibitions include *New Romantics*, Lee Eugean Gallery, Seoul (2022); *The Sky Above the Roof*, Tabula Rasa, Beijing (2022); *Femme-Ate*, Soho Revue, London (2021); *Space Shuffler*, HART HAUS, Hong Kong (2021); *Lichtspiele Des Westen*, Leipzig (2020); *Big Soft Illusion*, Alte Handelsschule, Leipzig (2020); *Cookhouse Gallery*, Chelsea College of Arts, London (2019); and *Haam4 Seoi2 Goeng1*, Hong Kong Visual Art Centre, Hong Kong (2019). Residencies include Del Arco Residency; PILOTENKUECHE, Leipzig (2020) and AiR Frosterus, Finland (2019). In Autumn 2022, Chan will receive a residency at The Cabin, Los Angeles. Chan's work resides in prominent institutional collections such as Yan Lan Art Foundation, Beijing; and X Museum, Beijing.

ABOUT SIMON LEE GALLERY

Founded in London in 2002, Simon Lee Gallery represents artists of diverse generations whose practices explore a wide range of media, from sculpture and painting to video and photography, and who share a broad interest in an exploration of the conceptual. Aiming to provide a significant international audience for its artists, the gallery also regularly punctuates its programme with historical exhibitions and curated group shows, which present shifts in contemporary art practice and thought, whilst broadening the dialogue with artists outside of the gallery's core programme. In addition to its UK activity, in 2012 the gallery opened a space in Hong Kong, which introduced its artists to a wider public in Asia, with a fully independent programme.

ABOUT THE ARTIST ROOM

Founded in 2021, The Artist Room is a gallery and online space specialising in artworks and objects from 20th century and contemporary art. Centred on a commitment to and passion for art, we are guided by the principles of connoisseurship, authenticity and a forward-thinking attitude. Through a series of thoughtful and revealing exhibitions, The Artist Room focuses on offering artworks that reflect our own personal interests and taste. In this way, we aim to provide a space to access and engage with a range of diverse and influential artists.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter: @SimonLeeGallery

www.simonleegallery.com

Image: *Things left behind can burn so bright*, 2022. Oil, oil stick and photochromic pigment on linen. Courtesy The Artist Room and Simon Lee Gallery.

For further press information, images and interview requests please contact: Jennifer@simonleegallery.com