

Press Release

Howardena Pindell

Deep Sea, Deep Space

20 November 2024 – 8 January 2025

White Cube Hong Kong

A solo exhibition of new paintings by American artist and curator Howardena Pindell (b.1943, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) will open at White Cube Hong Kong in November 2024, marking Pindell's first solo exhibition in Asia and the gallery's inaugural presentation of the artist since announcing representation in May 2024.

'Howardena Pindell: Deep Sea, Deep Space' debuts a new series of paintings inspired by the artist's fascination with the solar system and the ocean. In these works, Pindell applies her signature spray-painting technique to create hundreds of tiny dots, evoking vast spectrums of existence.

Also featured are recent works from her 'Tesseract' series, which she began in 2022. In these paintings, the artist incorporates spray-painted dots with layers of geometric forms, creating complex, generative compositions of pixelated speckles. In other works, hundreds of tiny, hole-punched discs are meticulously applied to the canvas.

Pindell's groundbreaking personal and politically charged practice comprises painting, collage, drawing and film. Over the past five decades, her work has addressed a wide array of issues, ranging from racism and gender inequality to the Vietnam War, homelessness and the AIDS crisis. The series featured in this exhibition delves into her enduring fascination with the cosmos, exploring realms such as the deep sea, outer space, quantum mechanics, science fiction and microbiology.

Growing up amidst segregation and the civil rights movement, Pindell cites a profound childhood memory of an encounter with Jim Crow law as the impetus behind her use of the circle, one of the most enduring motifs in her work. When she was eight years old, during a family trip to Northern Kentucky, her father stopped the car at a roadside root beer stand. Pindell recalls noticing red circles at the bottom of their cups, later learning that they were used to differentiate the utensils designated for Black customers. This experience manifested in her work through ubiquitous variations of the circular motif – ellipses, perforations, spray-painted dots and hole punches.

Pindell first developed her renowned hole-punching technique in the 1970s while working as a curatorial assistant in the Department of Prints and Drawings at New York's Museum of Modern Art. She used the tool to create stencils, allowing her to spray paint dots onto the

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canvas, while also preserving the delicate circular cutouts to incorporate as primary material in her works.

The exhibition at White Cube Hong Kong (20 November 2024 – 8 January 2025) coincides with 'Howardena Pindell: Inner Space' at Garth Greenan Gallery, New York (24 October – 14 December 2024).

For additional information, interview requests or press images please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

- Howardena Pindell is jointly represented by White Cube (Europe and Asia) and Garth Greenan Gallery (US).
- Howardena Pindell was born in 1943 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and lives and works in New York. She has exhibited extensively, including selected solo exhibitions at Fruitmarket, Edinburgh, UK, touring to Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, UK, Spike Island, Bristol, UK, and Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2022–23); Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland (2022); The Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Texas (2022); The Shed, New York, touring to Oklahoma Contemporary, Oklahoma City (2021–22); Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Illinois (2018); Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, Georgia (2015); Cleveland Institute of Arts, Ohio (1994); Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut (1989); The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York (1986); Birmingham Museum of Art, Alabama (1985); A.I.R Gallery, New York (1983); and Rockefeller Memorial Galleries, Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia (1971). Selected group exhibitions include New Museum, New York (2021); Guggenheim Bilbao, Spain, touring to Centre Pompidou, Paris (2021); Tate Modern, London, touring to Brooklyn Museum, New York and Broad Museum, Los Angeles, California (2017–19); Brooklyn Museum, New York (2017); Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien, Austria, touring to Museum Brandhorst, Munich, Germany (2016); Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, Texas (2013); Seattle Art Museum, Washington (2009); Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California (2007); and The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York (2006).
- White Cube's exhibition programme extends across locations in London, Hong Kong, Paris, New York, Seoul and online. Since its inception in 1993, the gallery has

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exhibited the work of many of the world's most highly acclaimed contemporary artists.

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