PearlLam Galleries

Hong Kong H Queen's

LIU WENTAO solo exhibition

Exhibition Dates	8 June–17 July, 2018 Monday–Saturday, 10am–7pm
Venue	Pearl Lam Galleries HK H Queen's, 9/F
	H Queen's, 80 Queen's Road Central, Central, Hong Kong

Hong Kong—Pearl Lam Galleries is delighted to present the first solo exhibition by Chinese artist Liu Wentao (b. 1973) in Hong Kong, featuring a selection of pencil on canvas works created in recent years. The canvases are composed of meticulous straight lines drawn by rulers and pencils in different degrees of hardness, exploring the space conceived by the distortion from two-dimensionality to three-dimensionality.

As the fundamental tool for drawing, pencil has been utilized by the artist across his oeuvre for over a decade. He is fascinated with the metallic reflection of light by the graphite, which is the key component of pencil. The subtle reflections enhance the perceived space, especially when the works are viewed from various angles.

The notion of time and space are central to Liu's artistic output. There is no doubt that the artist found inspiration from Minimalism, which also has deep associations with Eastern Zen philosophy. He considers his daily practice of drawing as a meditative process of inner self-emptying. Each pencil line is a tracing of time, and repetition is an action of self-cultivation. Zen philosophy and its focus on being present in everyday life is embraced by the artist in creating his works.

Liu is also intrigued with the uncertainty of space. In traditional Eastern landscape painting, the perspective is often more mysterious and unknown, unlike traditional Western painting, which is based on models of perspective drawing. The artist explains, "To me, the uncertain space is more intriguing, just like the experience of looking into water: One does not really know the depth. I'm obsessed with this uncertainty of depth, distance, and space. My work is not about creating physical things; it is more about the investigation of depth within a state of mind. It is more about the mental and contemplative practice in aspiring to an inner empty space of heightened awareness."

About the Artist

Liu Wentao was born in 1973 in Qingdao, Shandong province, China. In 1993, he enrolled at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, China, where he majored in intaglio printmaking. He graduated in 1997 and proceeded to work for Foundation Pillar | Joan Miro in Mallorca, Spain and the University of Massachusetts, USA in 2000 and 2004, respectively. Liu graduated with an MFA from the Department of Fine Arts, University of

Massachusetts in 2005. He worked for the School of Urban Design at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in 2006. Liu currently lives and works in Beijing.

Liu Wentao has held various solo exhibitions such as *Meta* (2018), White Space Beijing, China; *Liu Wentao Works* (2015), ZAN Art Museum, Qingdao, China; *Xuan* (2014), White Space Beijing, China; *Light and Shadow* (2012), Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China; *Liu Wentao Artworks* (2009), The German Embassy in China, Beijing, China; *Time and Writing* (2008), White Space Beijing, China; *Liu Wentao Artworks* (2007), Yun Gallery, Beijing, China; and *Liu Wentao Solo Show* (2001), QW Gallery, New York City, USA. His group shows include *Message from the Ruin* (2016), A+ Contemporary, Taipei, Taiwan; *The world is yours, as well as ours* (2016), White Cube, London, UK; Art Project 24: *Naissance* (2015), Today Art Museum, Beijing, China; The 2nd Chinese Young Artists Selected Printmaking Exhibition (2013), Qingdao, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Beijing, New York City; *Das Ich Im Anderen* (2011), Mercator Foundation, Essen, Germany; *Chen Guangwu | Fang Lijun | Liu Wentao* (2008), Asian Art Museum, Berlin, Germany; Qing Dao International Printmaking Exhibition (2000), Qingdao Art Museum, Qingdao, China; and *New Art from China* (1997), Flanders Contemporary Art, Flanders, USA.

About Pearl Lam Galleries

Founded by Pearl Lam, Pearl Lam Galleries is a driving force within Asia's contemporary art scene. With over 20 years of experience exhibiting Asian and Western art and design, it is one of the leading and most established contemporary art galleries to be launched out of China.

Playing a vital role in stimulating international dialogue on Chinese and Asian contemporary art, the Galleries is dedicated to championing artists who re-evaluate and challenge perceptions of cultural practice from the region. The Galleries in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Singapore collaborate with renowned curators, each presenting distinct programming from major solo exhibitions, special projects and installations to conceptually rigorous group shows. Based on the philosophy of Chinese Literati where art forms have no hierarchy, Pearl Lam Galleries is dedicated to breaking down boundaries between different disciplines, with a unique gallery model committed to encouraging cross-cultural exchange.

Further building on the Galleries' commitment, Pearl Lam Galleries opened its new gallery at H Queen's, Hong Kong's latest art hub, in March 2018. The five gallery spaces of Pearl Lam Galleries in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Singapore represent an increasingly influential roster of contemporary artists. Chinese artists Su Xiaobai and Zhu Jinshi, who synthesize Chinese sensibilities with an international visual language, are presented internationally with work now included in major private and public collections worldwide. The Galleries has also introduced leading international artists, such as Leonardo Drew, Jenny Holzer, Carlos Rolón/Dzine, and Yinka Shonibare MBE, to markets in the region, providing opportunities for new audiences in Asia to encounter their work. Pearl Lam Galleries encourages international artists to create new work which engages specifically with the region, collaborating to produce thought-provoking, culturally relevant work.

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