

**Press Release, For Immediate Release**

Hong Kong · 16<sup>th</sup> October 2016

***Phantom Brushstrokes***  
**Liu Guofu Solo Exhibition 2016 in Hong Kong**

Total: 5 pages

**Exhibition Information**

Exhibition Date: 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016 – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016  
Exhibition Content: Open Space Series, Pervading Series  
Address: 3812 Gallery – G/F, 118, Queen’s Road West, Sai Ying Pun, Hong Kong  
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10:30 am – 7:30 pm  
Saturday 11:00 am – 5:00 pm  
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***Phantom Brushstrokes: Liu Guofu Solo Exhibition***, the first solo exhibition of Liu Guofu in Hong Kong will be unveiled to the public from 20th October to 19th November 2016 at 3812 Gallery. The opening cocktail party will be held at 3812 Gallery on 20th October 2016. Mr. Liu Guofu will be in attendance to discuss his first solo exhibition in Hong Kong.

Liu Guofu was born in Nanjing China in 1964. With *Phantom Brushstrokes* as his unique and perceptual expression, Liu’s artwork represents an outstanding achievement in contemporary Chinese infra-mince art, and shows us the true modern qualities and international potential for a “Chinese-style painting”, defining the artist’s unique and widely regarded technique which makes him to be the one-of-a-kind in the Chinese contemporary art world.

Liu Guofu’s first solo exhibition in Hong Kong will be hosted by 3812 Gallery and exhibits over 20 artworks from the artist’s this time which included ***Open Space*** and ***Pervading*** series, as well as a collection of on paper work. Each series reflecting the artist’s mastery with ***Open Space*** capturing Liu Guofu’s spirituality as the captivating use of light emanates from the canvas in an almost surreal and sensuous wave of sensation. The artist’s ***Pervading*** Series displays a more sombre use of shadowing creating an aura of depth as the artist diffuses light to form feelings of translucent reflection that hold the viewer in trance as they fall into the depth of the painting. The diffusion of light into a smoky haze hides the story of the canvass in a poetic maze of adventure.



**Liu Guofu, *Pervading 1*, Oil on canvas, 137 x 200 cm, 2015**

## **Liu Guofu: Motions of Light and Air**

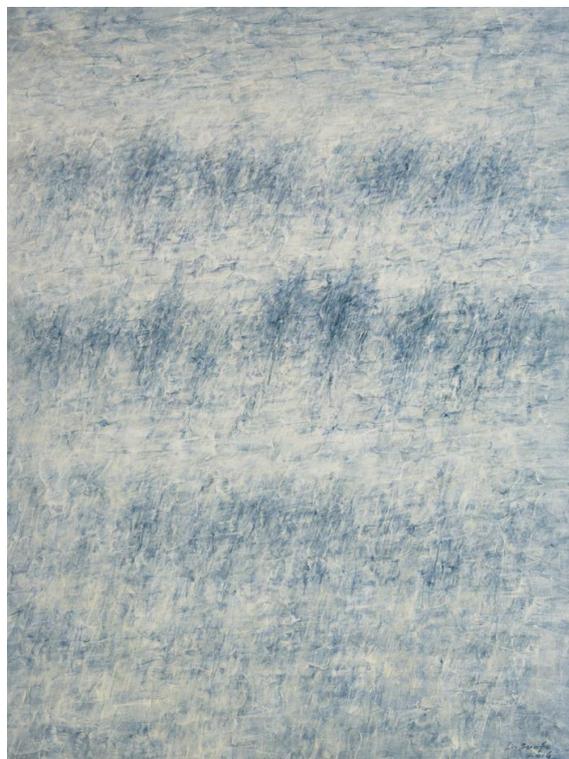
Liu Guofu's artwork melds motions of light with air. While "light" brings out its depth, "air" helps disperse the "light" to every corner of the work. His use of his symbolic blue-greyish colour is fundamental to his works. Up close, the brushstrokes are all chaotic and fragmented, yet from a distance the brushstrokes gather to form a poetic tranquillity, generated from a series of destruction and reconstruction, Liu Guofu creates an opposing tension, a sense of aching. He allows us to see his unique contribution of the purely visual side of modern aesthetics.



**Liu Guofu, *Open Space No. 7*, Oil on canvas, 300 x 120 cm, 2013**

When we approach Liu Guofu's artworks, whether it is the amazing *Open Space* series or the *Pervading* series, when our gaze falls on the brushstrokes in the paintings, we are drawn deeply within: fissures, shards of ice, fragments, non-action, destruction, devastation, fragility, thinness, it all stacks together to form a unique stacked brushwork that forms an aura-like thickness resembling a moss print or a trace of a shadow. It appears so light and diffuse like smoke, transparent and solid like jade. In these shadow traces of the phantom brush, air, light, water and “qi” (air) proliferate throughout, dim shadows creating illusions of distancing, of searching in confusion, the secret anguish of disorientation and boundlessness.

Liu Guofu's painting has changed our perspective of observation and our means of perception. Up close, we see that the brushstrokes are all chaotic, fragmented, disordered, restless, ruin-like, disoriented. From a distance, the brushstrokes accumulate to form an empty tranquility that is permeable, poetic, with the feel of jade, breathing in deep concentration. Such a paradoxical tension—a piercing, torn sense of pain and an empty, transparent feel of jade—is generated from a series of destruction and reconstruction, of repeated painting. These works allow us to see the unique contribution of the purely visual side of modern aesthetics. This is the aura of “reverse reconstruction.” It is generation in destruction.



**Liu Guofu, *Pervading No.14*, Oil on canvas, 120 x 90 cm, 2016**

These brushstrokes appear empty, but each stroke is actually firm, like blocks of ice, cold, fragile, fragmentary. This is conceptuality, a conceptuality richly imbued with a vital sense of touch that embodies the tactile nature of life. Or, perhaps it is like ruins, not graphic representation but dialectical brushwork, a deeper spiritual expression of the inner perceptions of life. The color of the paintings emerges as a dark blue, the most alluring hue in Chinese culture. It is the spiritual tone that lies between the fading of time and the yearning to hold on, between the scattering of the winds, and the odes that hold together, between the simplicity of the void and the beauty of transparency, between the pain of tragedy and the passions of courage. It is a Chinese color in the truest sense. It appears abstract and monochrome, but it harbors countless other tones within, all shrouded in this darkness, rich with enchanting poetry.

## **Martell's recommend artist: Liu Guofu**

In October 2016, Martell joined hands with 3812 Gallery in Fine Art Asia 2016, hosted the VIP preview of the exhibition in Fine Art Asia 2016. The artwork *Open Space No.28* from Liu Guofu was showed to the public in the atrium of Fine Art Asia 2016 as a preview of his first solo Exhibition in Hong Kong. Mr. Antoine Martell, the 8th generation direct descendant of Jean Martell and Monsieur Jacques Menier, Martell's brand and heritage ambassador visited in person to officiate.



**Liu Guofu, *Open Space No. 28*, Oil on canvas, 180 x 150 cm, 2014**

# 3812 gallery

Liu Guofu and Martell share a common passion of “eaux-de-vie”. The celebrated reputation of Martell who for three centuries have recognised the imperative qualities of water in their award winning cognacs flows seamlessly with Liu Guofu’s “endless water”. The use of colour is shared with Martell’s aristocratic blue captured in the brushstrokes of Liu Guofu; a poetic and mystical union of heritage.

## ABOUT 3812 GALLERY



Founded in 2010 by Mr. Calvin Hui and Mr. Mark Peaker, 3812 Gallery is recognised as one of Hong Kong’s leading contemporary Asian art galleries.

3812 Gallery is an ultra-contemporary art space located in a traditional neighbourhood of Sai Ying Pun, Queen’s Road West. Uniquely set back from the road on a slope that was once called *Squirrel Bridge* or 雀仔橋 in Chinese. 3812 Gallery is unique in Hong Kong, with its own garden, terrace, a private salon and a dedicated exhibition space with a ceiling height of more than 4 meters. Aside from gallery exhibitions, 3812 offers a diverse range of cultural programmes and collector’s events.

## Notes

High resolution images and more information can be downloaded from:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/idkcw9lalx4nm9p/AAAOd3kALWYzUmPNEHA2sco9a?dl=0>

[www.3812gallery.com](http://www.3812gallery.com)

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