

Musee Guimet Paris hosts “THE COLOURS OF ZEN: Paintings of Hsiao Chin”

solo exhibition for the renowned post-war abstract master Hsiao Chin

From 28th March to 30th April, 3812 Gallery Hong Kong will present

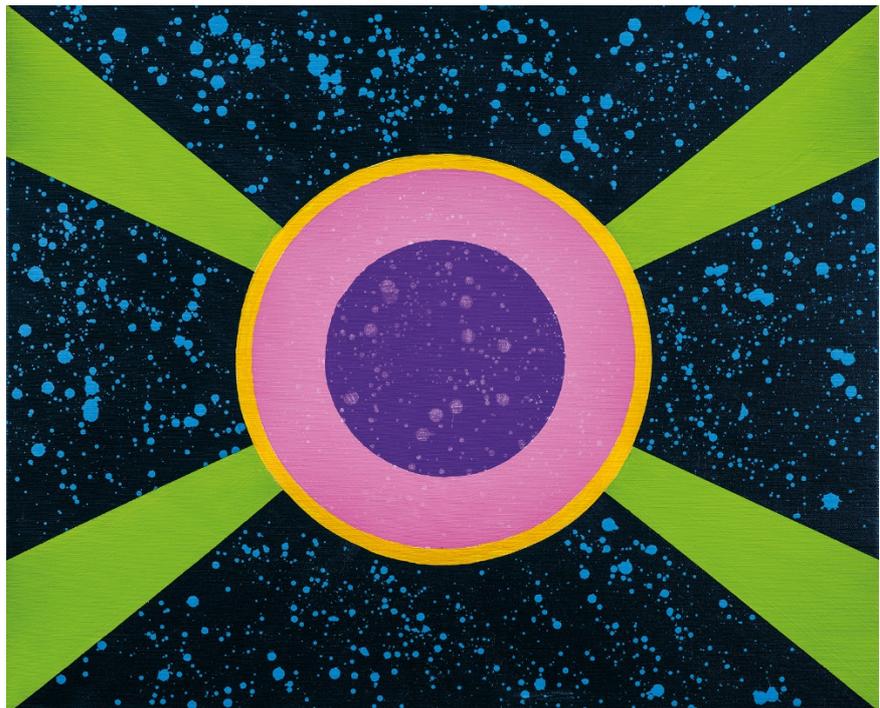
a parallel exhibition for the master

Exhibition dates in Hong Kong: 28 March – 30 April 2019



Grande Chi © Hsiao Chin, 1986

Presented in Guimet Museum



La proiezione © Hsiao Chin, 1965

Presented in 3812 Gallery Hong Kong

Hong Kong – Held by Musée national des arts asiatiques Guimet (Musée Guimet) with the support of Hsiao Chin Art Foundation, ‘Les Couleurs du Zen: Hommage à Hsiao Chin’, the significant solo exhibition of the renowned, post-war abstract master Hsiao Chin, opened on 13th March in Paris. This 3-month exhibition, curated by Dr. Jerome Neutres, not only echoes the ‘Hsiao Chin: Coming Home’ exhibition, China Art Museum, Shanghai, in March last year, but also marks a new milestone for the artist’s first return to Paris since 1964.

To Musée Guimet, this is an exhibition with special meaning because it is the first and only major exhibition for a Chinese artist, 15 years after ‘Sanyu: L’écriture du corps’ in 2004. As a leading Western institution researching Asian art, the Museum shows that its scope of Asian art research is not restricted to ancient artefacts. With Ch’an as the subject, it reviews Hsiao Chin’s contribution to international abstract art. With

uncompromised curatorial depth, the exhibition presents Hsiao Chin's philosophical abstract paintings which express the Eastern spirit of Tao and Chi, Ch'an and Silent Contemplation, conversing with Musée Guimet's permanent collection. Since he initiated and founded the 'Punto International Art Movement' in Milan in 1961, Hsiao Chin's abstract art has succeeded in creating resonances around the world for nearly sixty years. Such a contribution has consolidated his status in the history of art.

The opening ceremony of 'Les Couleurs du Zen' included influential members of French society including the former French Prime Minister, Minister of Culture, Museum President, curators and art critics; collectors from Switzerland, France, England, America, Hong Kong and Southeast Asia. 'Follow', a work Hsiao Chin created in 1962, is also included in Musée Guimet's permanent collection. The exhibition is open to the public from 13th March to 3rd June 2019.

Born in Shanghai in 1935 and moved to Taiwan after the World Wars, Hsiao Chin arrived in Europe in 1957 and settled in Milan. Hsiao Chin was the first Post War, avant-garde artist to voyage Europe and America presenting his abstract art infused with Eastern spirit. It has been a journey abroad of over 60 years which has enriched his art and led to his accomplishment today. Like the energy represented by his renowned symbols – circles and dots, his creative energy is unlimited. During the 1960s, he began to recognize the importance of his cultural origin and started to research about Eastern philosophy such as Ch'an and Taoism and the ideas of Lao Tzu and Chuang Tzu. Drawing artistic nourishment from his study of traditional Chinese culture and Eastern philosophies, he developed his own style of abstract painting that emphasized the dichotomous nature of the world, which would be at once distinguishable from, yet reflective of, Western abstract art at that time. In 1961, Hsiao Chin co-founded the Punto International Art Movement with Italian painter Antonio Calderara and Japanese artist Kengiro Azuma and featured more than 30 avant-garde artists across Europe with 13 exhibitions from 1961-66. The literal meaning of Punto in Italian is 'Point'. From an Eastern philosophical perspective, it is the basic element and the beginning of all things in the Universe, the point from where all possibilities were unfolded.

The Punto International Art Movement was an international avant-garde art movement that was deeply influenced by Ch'an and stressed on Eastern spirit. It promoted the spirit of "calm observation", which was originated from Ch'an philosophy in the Tang and Song Dynasties in China. It advocates intuitive expression through abstract art, and this requires a humanized heart. The movement has represented the continuation of Eastern spirit while outlined Hsiao Chin's artistic practices in the next decades. With the Eastern philosophical basis, the fusion of Western and Eastern techniques, his creative process is rooted in his perpetual exploration of the astrophysics and cosmos, from which he discovers the deepest meanings in man's spiritual world. With the endless adventure of abstract art and self-reflection, 'unlimited energy' has become the motif of his artistic creations and the essence of his life.

This exhibition at Musée Guimet demonstrates Hsiao Chin's openness and exchange regarding the world and its cultures. It also reflects the emphasis that he places on his own cultural root throughout his sixty-year career.

He was one of the first overseas Chinese artists who entered China in the 1980s. In March last year, he was invited by China Art Museum for a major retrospective in his hometown Shanghai and announced the opening of Hsiao Chin Art Research Center. Giving a deeper meaning to the exhibition in Shanghai is his return to the spiritual origin of his art and philosophy. In the post-war era when art production and artistic ideas were blooming across the world, he was the only Chinese artist active in the Western art scene. He filled up the vacancy of Chinese art in the mainstream Western culture at that time and still plays an important role in connecting Chinese and Western cultures today. This return of his masterpieces to Paris thus affirms Hsiao Chin's lifelong artistic pursuit and significant contribution to the international art world.

Musée Guimet in Paris is renowned for its Asian art collection, one of the largest in the world. The museum team have studied Hsiao Chin's philosophical thinking advocated in the 1960s when he settled in Milan and founded the Punto International Art Movement. "Les Couleurs du Zen" showcases the important collections of Hsiao Chin and his foundation with the indispensable works loaned by European and Asian collectors. The early works included ink drawings on canvas and paper. "Dancing Lights", "Universal Projection" and "Energy of Meditation" are the works with the use of acrylic paint when the medium was just introduced to Europe in the 1960s. The colourful ink dots and geometrical shapes enhances the expressivity of the works, transforming the ancient philosophical ideas into modern visual language. In addition, his use of color, shapes and symbols reflects the influence of Chinese and Western myths, Tibetan Buddhism and Western rationalism. These masterpieces are proof of how Hsiao Chin combined the Eastern and Western aesthetics and techniques and reflect his life philosophy and artistic experiences. He fuses these ideas into a fascinating abstract composition, transcending the barriers between cultures and reaching the apex of his artistic career.

'Hsiao Chin's solo exhibition in Musée Guimet has a very special meaning to the artists and even to the Chinese contemporary art development. So far it is one of the most important solo exhibitions of the artist. It is like a history book about the development of Chinese art in the post-war period. Hsiao Chin's works guide the audience to explore world civilization from the perspective of life, contemplate the profound Eastern culture and search for the eternity of life. It is our honour to present a parallel show "The Colour of Ch'an: Hsiao Chin Painting Exhibition", as the highlight programme in the Hong Kong art month. This is the first important exhibition of our Hong Kong gallery since it was moved to the new site in Central at the end of last year. Master Hsiao Chin's works are derived from the philosophical thinking of Taoism and Ch'an, rooted at the Eastern spirit. His fusion of the Eastern and Western cultures and modern art aligns with the philosophy that the 3812 Gallery has been adhering to and implemented for many years.' said Calvin Hui, co-founder of 3812 Gallery.

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Notes to Editor

The Colours of Zen: Paintings of Hsiao Chin

March 13 – June 3, 2019

Guimet Museum, Paris, France

3812 Gallery Hong Kong Parallel Exhibition: The Colours of Zen: Paintings of Hsiao Chin

March 28 – April 30, 2019

3812 Gallery Hong Kong, 16B, Wyndham Place, 40-44 Wyndham Street, Central, Hong Kong

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Download hi-res images at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8iobhg2h4e102sy/AABYVp0r4J95cqmvmf95XNVba?dl=0>

About Hsiao Chin

Hsiao Chin is one of the few artists that actively engage in the art scene since post-war period. Born in 1935 at Shanghai, he migrated to Taiwan in 1949 and learned painting from Mr Li Zhongsheng. In 1955, he founded “Ton-fan Art Group” in Taipei which was the first abstract art group in Chinese-speaking region. In the year 1956, he lived and worked in Barcelona, Milan, New York, London and Germany. After setting his foot in Milan in 1959, he founded “Punto International Art Movement” in Milan and “Surya International Art Movement”. Later in the 70s, he founded “Shakti International Art Movement” in Stockholm. His works have been widely collected by major museums including Museum of Modern Art, New York; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; National Art Museum of China; China Art Museum, Shanghai; Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona; National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts; M+ Museum, Hong Kong.

About Hsiao Chin collaboration with 3812 Gallery

3812 Gallery as the sole representative of Hsiao Chin in non-Taiwan region, has been working closely with Hsiao Chin and his international art foundation and aspires to cultivate the vision of promoting Chinese aesthetic value and cultural tradition in a modern context. In 2018 and over the coming years, 3812 Gallery has set a long-term plan for promoting Hsiao Chin, to reveal his significance and contribution in the abstract art development during the post-war period, with particular focus in Chinese region.

In February 2018, 3812 Gallery initiated Hsiao Chin's solo exhibition Zen • Art, Bright Light – Homage to Ascendence, organised by Tsz Shan Monastery in Hong Kong and sponsored by Li Ka Shing Foundation. In March, Hsiao is returning to his birthplace Shanghai for the large-scale retrospective exhibition that held in China Art Museum Shanghai, followed by a five-year academic and research program that aims to educate the younger generation and promote the art of Hsiao Chin.

Meanwhile, his stunning nine-meter-long work “Dancing Light 2016” was unveiled in Macau, as a part of MGM Cotai Chairman’s Collection and a permanent display at the hotel lobby.

Coinciding with Hong Kong art month in March and The Colours of Zen: Paintings of Hsiao Chin presented by Guimet Museum in Paris, France, 3812 Gallery is pleased to present a parallel exhibition for Hsiao Chin, of the same name in Hong Kong.