

More than Ink

Wang Huangsheng, Raymond Fung, Yu Yang, Chloe Ho, Victor Wong

23rd January to 15th April 2020

3812 Gallery London, 21 Ryder Street, St James's, London, SW1Y 6PX

Opening hours: Monday – Friday 10am-6:30pm; Saturday 11am-2pm



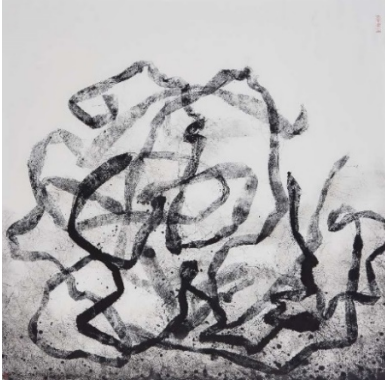
Details shown (left to right): Wang Huangsheng, *Tracing Vision 161015*, 2016, Ink rubbing on paper, 124 x 120cm; Raymond Fung, *Clean Water*, 2011, Ink and colour on paper, 180 x 48 cm; Yu Yang, *Ink Object - Animal Year*, 2015, Ink on paper, wood, 180 x 150cm; Chloe Ho, *Good Vibrations*, 2017, Chinese ink and acrylic on rice paper, 89 x 199 cm; Victor Wong, *Far Side of the Moon 0005*, 2019, A.I. Ink on Paper, 89 x 62cm

London - 3812 Gallery is delighted to announce that our exhibition, *More than Ink*, has been newly expanded to include artworks by **Wang Huangsheng**, **Raymond Fung** and **Yu Yang**, alongside works by **Chloe Ho** and **Victor Wong**. Now open until 15 April 2020, the exhibition demonstrates the diversity and innovation in Chinese contemporary ink, with Wang Huangsheng's abstract lines and gauze rubbing, Raymond Fung's reinterpretation of traditional techniques "Cun" (Chinese: "wrinkles") and blank-leaving, Yu Yang's minimalist abstraction in three-dimensional ink on paper with wood, Chloe Ho's lyrical and expressive use of mixed media and Victor Wong's A.I. landscape paintings.

"More than Ink" was first conceived by Calvin Hui, Co-founder and Artistic Director of 3812 Gallery, in 2018 as part of the inauguration of Ink Now, the multi-faceted platform presenting the development of contemporary ink with the slogan "More than Art Fair, More than Ink". Since 2011, 3812 Gallery has been committed to promoting Chinese contemporary art with a focus on ink. With the expansion from Hong Kong to London's St. James's district, 3812 Gallery is raising the global awareness of Chinese ink art and initiating academic exchange on an international level.

In the late 20th century and early 21st century, China underwent a tremendous transformation in its social, cultural and art history. Despite being the symbol of ancient Chinese culture, ink also had to face the alternation of language and cultural reconstruction, evolving from classical painting, gongbi (fine-line) painting, danqing (use of colour red and green), literati painting, Chinese painting, national painting and realist ink painting to such pursuits as modern ink, experimental ink and conceptual ink etc.

This exhibition *More than Ink* is focused on the investigation of the sociological phenomena in relation to the experimental process of the modernisation of ink, particularly emphasising its diversity and complexity.

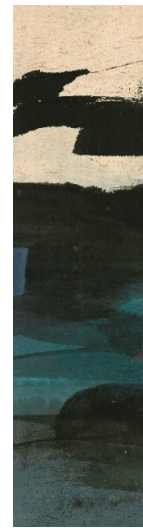


Wang Huangsheng, *Trace Visions Series I*, 2016, Ink on paper, 123 x 123cm

Wang Huangsheng's *Moving Vision* and *Tracing Vision* series are featured in the exhibition. The works in *Moving Vision* series evokes primordial matter, deep in the universe or cosmos, which are executed with apparent ease masking great skill, and the spontaneity of form seems to carry its own force, evolving varied masses of lines floating up across the void. In comparison, in *Tracing Vision* series Wang uses thicker, more rigid and more textured lines which appear to be floating and showing the delicate cloth on which they are imprinted. The print of the thrum of the cotton gauze and ink constitute a metaphor for injury and protection, which reflects the artist's concern for reality and life. The perception of space is also effectively created in a kind of floating perspective, producing a sense of depth in an undefined pictorial enclosure that acts as a vortex into which the eye enters.

The exhibition also presents a selection of Raymond Fung's ink works for the first time at 3812 Gallery London. Raymond Fung is a renowned artist and architect in Hong Kong. Fung's architectural knowledge and experience has greatly influenced his art. He chooses to paint on long and narrow canvases, similar to the shape of a window or a door, as if leading through to beautiful outdoor scenery. Through creating polyptychs, Fung tries to break through the restrictions of a frame, demonstrating his architect's sensibility.

Fung began his career in landscaping, with a specific concern on the countryside of Hong Kong, which reflects his deep attachment and sense of belonging to his hometown. In recent years, he has begun to explore universally shared values, in hope of raising people's awareness for the environmental and global social issues.



Raymond Fung, *Clean Water*, 2011, Ink and colour on paper, 180 x 48 cm



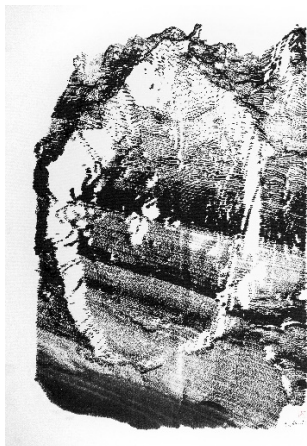
Yu Yang, *50ml ink and 2L Water.A*, 2015, Ink on paper, wood, 88 x 86 cm

Yu Yang, co-founder of the avant-garde Chinese art group "Cold Ink", shows his three-dimensional ink on paper with wood in this exhibition. "Cold Ink" has been experimenting with the concept of ink and furthering the discussion on ink art from a global perspective, while Yu captures the traditional aesthetic vision of ink paintings as well as the relationship between water, ink and paper, and creatively reorders them into minimalist shapes in three dimensions. Yu reorders the relationship between space and plane with the delicate vicissitude of ink and the musicality of alternating Chinese paints. His works combine the elements from cold abstraction in the West and ink art in the East, simplifying and deconstructing the painterly concepts of traditional art, which interprets the essence of ink itself, and also brings out an overlapping sense of depth.

Following Chloe Ho's critically acclaimed first London exhibition, *Unconfined Illumination*, held in autumn 2019 at 3812 Gallery London, we are incredibly proud to announce that the Ashmolean Museum and the New Hall Art Collection both acquired artworks for their permanent collections. To celebrate, we are exhibiting a collection of Ho's lyrical and captivating ink paintings which have never before been shown in the London Gallery. The 1980s-born artist Chloe Ho explores her multicultural background with her skilled employment of mixed ink, combining elements of East and West, melding Chinese tradition, modernity and bold mediums. Ho's works reflect artistic traditions both east and west, but she also looks to create something new with present and future meaning.



Chloe Ho, *On Mount Olympus I*, 2016, Chinese ink and coffee on rice paper, 60 x 85cm



Victor Wong, *Far Side of the Moon* 0006, 2019, A.I. Ink on paper, 89 x 62cm

And Victor Wong's artificial intelligence ink paintings are pushing the boundaries of ink art development. *Escapism*, *Far Side of the Moon* and *Seven Scholars* are the collaboration between the artist and his A.I. partner, Gemini. The robot that Wong has programmed uses the ancient medium of Shui Mo (water and ink) to paint the unique landscapes by learning from how the Earth was formed and human's exploration into the universe, thus heading into uncharted artistic territory and prompting a wider discussion on A.I. artworks and the definition of art. Wong's works are held by numerous important private collectors from Europe, the US, Taiwan and Hong Kong. *Escapism 0001*, Wong's first work of A.I. Ink on paper, was collected by Cathay Pacific.

Calvin Hui said: 'As a medium of painting, "ink" continues to move beyond constraints of traditional ideology. When globalisation has become a universal norm, or more precisely, when ink has become a universal medium, we need to ensure not only the preservation of traditional ink painting but also our constant reflection on Eastern spirituality, to re-examine and reconstruct the knowledge of the East and turn the emblem of Chinese culture into part of the universal culture.'

'Stepping into Spring, we aim to foster the dialogues and discussion over the future development of ink art through *More than Ink*, and to continually explore the boundaries of ink art throughout the year.' Hui continued.

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Notes to Editor

About Wang Huangsheng

Wang Huangsheng (b. 1956, Shantou, Guangdong Province, China) is a distinguished artist and scholar. With a doctorate in the Art History from Nanjing University of the Arts (Nanjing), Wang has held numerous prestigious positions as a museum director and academic leader in the field of fine art and contemporary art. He was the Director of Guangdong Museum of Art (Guangzhou) from 2000 to 2009 and the Director of the Central Academy of Fine Arts Museum (Beijing) from 2009 to 2017. He is currently a Professor, Doctoral Advisor, and a member of the Academic Committee of Central Academy of Fine Arts (Beijing), Chief Director of Guangzhou Academy of Fine Art Museum (Guangzhou), Director of the Center of New Art Museum of Guangzhou Academy of Fine Art Museum (Guangzhou), Deputy Director of the Curatorial Art Committee of the Chinese Artists Association (Beijing) and a specially-appointed professor at the University of Heidelberg (Heidelberg), Nanjing University of the Arts (Nanjing), Central University for Nationalities (Beijing) and City University of Macau (Macau).

In 2004, he was awarded the Knight Medal of Art and Literature by the French Government and in 2006 the Knight Medal by the President of Italy. In 2013 he obtained the Beijing's Best Educator award from the Beijing government. He is founder of Guangzhou Triennial, Guangzhou Photo Biennale, CAFAM Biennale, CAFAM Future Exhibition and Beijing Photo Biennale. He has been a member of the judging panel at the Kwangju Art Biennial (Kwangju), Olympics in Vision (Greece), the Chinese Contemporary Art Award, and the Venice Biennale China Pavilion (Venice).

Wang's works are held in the collection of the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Mantova Museum in Mantua, Hoffmann Collection in Berlin, and have been shown in many galleries in China, Europe, Australia and in the United States.

About Raymond Fung

Raymond Fung Wing Kee (b. 1952, Hong Kong) is a renowned artist and architect in Hong Kong. He has exhibited extensively and has had solo exhibitions in Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Taipei, Hong Kong, Tokyo, New York, Paris and Avignon. His works are widely collected by international corporations and museums including Asian Art Museum of San Francisco (San Francisco), The National Art Museum of China (Beijing), Shanghai Art Museum (now renamed as China Art Museum, Shanghai), Hong Kong Museum of Art (Hong Kong), The University Museum and Art Gallery (UMAG) of The University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong), Hong Kong Heritage Museum (Hong Kong), etc.

Fung was selected as one of the Hong Kong Ten Outstanding Young Persons in 1990, and has received numerous art and design awards throughout the years. In 1997, Fung won the Vermont Artist Village Scholarship. In 2008, he received the Certificate of Commendation from the Hong Kong SAR Home Affairs Bureau for his outstanding achievements in the promotion of arts and culture in Hong Kong. He was awarded Hong Kong Ten Outstanding Designers Awards in 2009 and was appointed Justice of Peace in 2011. He is presently a Board Member of Hong Kong Palace Museum (Hong Kong), an Advisor to the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority Development Committee (Hong Kong), an Honorary Advisor of Hong Kong LCSD Museums (Hong Kong), an Advisor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong Campus Development (Hong Kong), including museum buildings, and a member of the Hong Kong Harbourfront Commission (Hong Kong).

About Yu Yang

Yu Yang (b. 1979, Ulanhot, Inner Mongolia Province, China) is a member of the Cold Ink Art Group, and currently lives and works in Beijing. Cold Ink Art Group is an artistic collective that was established in 2013 by a group of young artists, who were born in the 1970s and 80s and completed their training at the Material Experimentation and Expression Studio of Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA, Beijing). The group aims to explore the concept of ink-wash and further the discussion on contemporary art from a global perspective while continuing to seek innovative ways to express their unique artistic vision.

Yu's works have been shown in various renowned museums and galleries, including National Art Museum of China (Beijing), Long Museum (Shanghai), and Minsheng Art Museum (Beijing). In 2017, his works were featured in the Art in Residence project co-presented by 3812 Gallery and Colourliving and exhibited at the B&B Italia flagship store in Hong Kong alongside the state-of-the-art Italian designer furniture.

About Chloe Ho

Chloe Ho (b. 1987, California, USA) belongs to a new generation of talented artists born in the 1987. She completed her studies in studio art at Mills College in California under Liu Hung (Chinese - American contemporary artist) and Moira Roth (art historian and critic). Ho's many successful solo shows include those at her representing 3812 Gallery in London and Hong Kong, at Forbes Gallery in New York, at Joyce Gallery in Shanghai and at the Hong Kong Arts Centre's milestone exhibition *Ascendence* in 2017. She has also been featured in recognised group shows in the San Francisco Bay Area, Beijing and in Taipei at INK NOW Art Expo. Her works are held by private collectors in England, France, Switzerland, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Mainland China and America (including Washington, New York, Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sonoma and Florida).

In 2018, Ho's work was collected as part of the Macau's MGM Cotai Chairman's Collection and featured at the MGM Cotai Hotel and Villas. Her work was further exhibited at the MGM Collector's Lounge at Art Basel Hong Kong in 2018. In 2019, her signature blue work *Ocean's Vase* was selected by Rosewood Hong Kong as part of the artistic visual branding for the hotel. Following Ho's critically acclaimed first London exhibition, *Unconfined Illumination*, held in autumn 2019 at 3812 Gallery London, Ashmolean Museum and the New Hall Art Collection of University of Cambridge have both acquired her artworks for their permanent collections.

Ho was given the Most Inspiring Woman Award by Marié Claire Magazine in 2014. She was the first Hong Kong artist honoured as Martell Artist of the Year in 2017. Her work *Fleur* was successfully offered at the Modern Art Sales in Sotheby's Spring Auction in Hong Kong (2019). She has been featured in Christie's Magazine (2019) and many other notable publications.

About Victor Wong

Victor Wong (b. 1966, Hong Kong) is an artist and director, best known for his digital work and special effects, and has been widely acclaimed by international collectors and media. Wong graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle in 1989. Wong's visual effects (VFX) production company, vfxNova, has developed visual effects for over 100 feature films recently, some of which have won numerous international design awards including The New York Festival Award, Tokyo JIAA Advertising Award, Hong Kong Film Awards and The Golden Horse Awards.

He is recently focusing on a new form of Chinese ink painting by using state - of - the - art technologies. His creation, A.I. Gemini, is the world's first artificial intelligence "ink artist" which took him three years to build and programme. It gets its name from the astrological sign, Gemini, which is represented by a pair of twins, to refer to the close relation of its A.I. mind and robotic body.

In January 2019, Wong's *Escapism* series was announced at INK NOW Taipei Art Expo, marking the beginning of the "TECH-iNK" era. In April 2019, Wong held his solo exhibition *Far Side of the Moon* at 3812 Gallery London, as his debut show in Europe, followed by his solo exhibition in 3812 Gallery Hong Kong, *TECH-iNK Garden*. In 2019, Wong was awarded the Martell Artist of the Year 2019 for his emphasis on innovation and heritage preservation in his passionate artistic journey, and InnoStars Award 2019 presented by Our Hong Kong Foundation. Wong's works have been exhibited in many cities including London, Hong Kong, Taipei, Shanghai, and Nanjing. His works are held by numerous important private collectors from Europe, the US, Taiwan and Hong Kong. *Escapism 0001*, Wong's first work of A.I. Ink on paper, was collected by Cathay Pacific.

About 3812 Gallery

Established in Hong Kong in 2011, 3812 Gallery is recognised as the city's foremost gallery dealing in Chinese contemporary art.

2018 was an important year for 3812. In November 2018, the gallery established a new space in Wyndham Street, Central, Hong Kong, and in a major step, launching 3812 Gallery firmly onto the international stage, opened the new flagship space, 3812 London Gallery, in the exclusive St James's district.

3812 Gallery is dedicated to fostering cultural understanding of Chinese contemporary art with "Eastern Origin and Contemporary Expression". We strive for establishing international dialogue and exchanges by uniting artists, academics, collectors and the general public through our thoughtfully curated art programme. We believe that this sharing of cultural identity is essential in the understanding and appreciation of Chinese contemporary art.

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