

Press Release, For Immediate Release
Hong Kong, December 2015

3812 Gallery Grand opening with New exhibition ‘Space matter’

The key to reveal the essence of visual art is a “Matter” of space

3812 Gallery is now located in Sai Ying Pun and becomes an new icon of Queen’s Road West. 3812’s inaugural group exhibition named “Space Matter” is curated by Tang Keyang will be exhibited from 11th Dec, 2015 to 10th Jan, 2016.

Space matters

‘Space’ is perhaps one of the most widely used abstract notions, ranging from a simple daily expression such as ‘I need more space’ to the heavy-loaded, contested concepts used in political science, philosophy and architecture.

We tend to conceive space as a place where things happen, as opposed to a void. Whether imaginary or physical, spatial representations almost always entail a separation of the outside and inside. At first, this might seem like an unproblematic division. However, we soon run into questions regarding the ‘realness’ of space, for we are able to deconstruct them, break them down and return ourselves to the chaotic state of being we started out with. For the curious minds, this is a confusing but nonetheless tantalising subject of enquiry.



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The three spectrums of space

Dr. Tang Keyang has put together a wonderful, thought-provoking show and presented us with the question of 'space' in three separate spectrums of meanings. The first being a 'cultural space', this invisible place entails a contested overarching knowledge structure. When the space of culture encounters the visible, localisable space which we live in, questions of representations are raised. This leads us to a second space, a space of representations as artists reconstitute objects and places in images of the first space.



The third space is implied but it is one that is the most puzzling (and liberating). That space is 'us', or rather, how we construct ourselves based on our understanding of the world around us. Our innate physical limitation dictates that we are only ever present at one place, at one time. This is behind our spatial misconception that we are (relatively) free to move across space, yet our movement is always constrained by the way these spaces were produced.

We are the locality where the consequences or effects of the two aforementioned spaces translate into our living experience and how we understood ourselves - our identities. It is unsettling to understand that our life are determined and structured by forces in abstract places that cannot be 'physically grasped'; and that the very language we use for self-expression is subjugated to the conditioning of these 'invisible' spaces.

Selected artworks

The works chosen here provide us glimpses into these imagery spaces that are otherwise unobtainable via language.

In Lin Guocheng's 'Melancholy Modernity' (see image below), the omission of 'depth' exposes the 'real' nature of the two-dimensional space and remind us that the presumed 'realistic representation' of three-dimensional world, is in fact created via visual deceptions. Whilst this is a difficult notion to grasp, it illustrates the uneasy, intricate relationships between representation, reality and our own perception.



Melancholy Modernity, Lin Guocheng, 24x 32cm · Pen and Chinese ink on Paper

Or in that of Lin Zhuoquan's installations, where familiar objects are bottled and reorganised in an estranged context. Not only do his works raise the serious question as to whether we are consuming objects or rather, symbols. His otherworldly encyclopedic composition of worldly objects challenges our very own socially constructed understanding of the world.

Wei Qingji's whimsical representational ink figures sets him apart from the preoccupation with abstraction amongst other experimental ink artists. However, his message is an equally serious one. As the title ostensibly implies, the viewer's instant recognition of the figure as a horse is in fact, unwarranted. In simpler language, what is being depicted is not horse, but a representational silhouette of a horse. In our recognition of the misleading nature of our interpretation of what we see, we are offered a fleeting glimpse into the invisible spaces that informed our very own understanding of the world. Wei Qingji's subversive ink work shows that the abstraction is never in the 'form' of an object depicted, but in the invisible spaces hidden behind our thought.

3812 gallery

What the artists chosen here have collectively shown is precisely the uneasy relationship amongst the three spaces. In which what we think we see are almost always conditioned by the way these spaces were produced.

We will restrain ourselves from offering any further interpretative spoilers on the works that will be exhibited but to leave the cognitive exercises to the pleasure of our audiences. 3812 is thrilled to be able to conjure a show encompassing works specifically created for this exhibition by Chloe Ho, Liu Zhuoquan, Chen Hongbo, Lin Guocheng, Wei Qingji and Zhang Xiaodi. We invite you to join us this October in our new space to experience a thought-provoking intellectual journey.



A Horse, Wei Qingji, 136 × 70 cm
Ink on rice paper

'Space matter' Exhibition

Exhibition Date: 11 December 2015 to 10 January 2016
Location: 3812 Gallery
Address: G/F, 118 Queen's Road West, Sai Ying Pun, Hong Kong)
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10:30 to 19:30 ; Saturday 11:00-18:00 ;
Sunday 12:00 noon to 17:00

Notes

High resolution images and more information can be downloaded from
<https://www.dropbox.com/home/SpaceMatter>

Log-in ID: contact@ecsquare.net

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