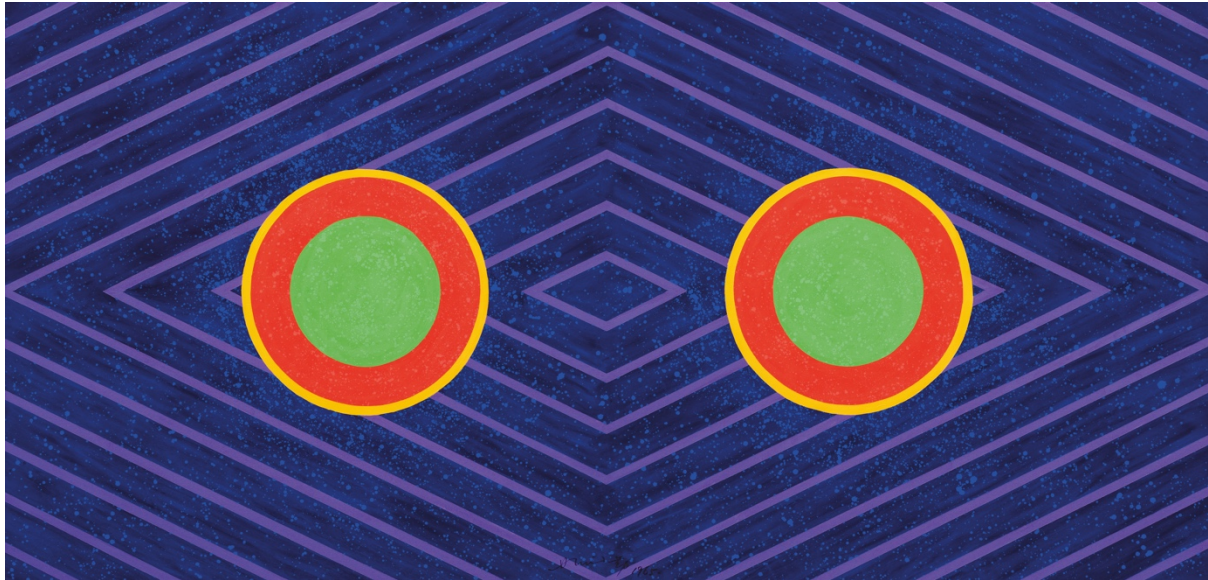


**Mark Rothko Art Centre to present major retrospective by abstract artist
Hsiao Chin in his 85th year**

****New exhibition dates announced: 31 July – 23 October 2020****



Hsiao Chin, *La Vibrazione del Sole*, 1965, acrylic on canvas, 140 x 290cm, courtesy of 3812 Gallery

30th January 2020 marked the 85th birthday of renowned abstract artist Hsiao Chin. A leading figure in Post-War European and Chinese Art, Hsiao Chin spent much of his life in Europe and is celebrated as the only Chinese artist to establish a modern European art movement, the influential Punto Movement. He has gained international recognition for his unique paintings, which fuse motifs and techniques from the East and West to create a language of spiritual painting for a commodified world. He was a friend to leading artists such as Lucio Fontana and Antoni Tàpies and his work can be found in major collections around the world, ranging from New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art to M+ in Hong Kong.

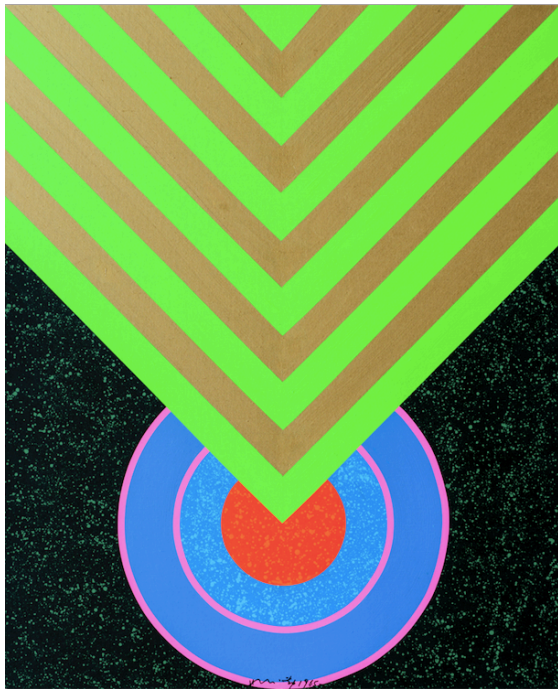
To celebrate the artist's milestone year a major retrospective entitled *In my beginning is my end: the art of Hsiao Chin* will open at the Mark Rothko Art Centre in Latvia, running from 31 July until 23 October 2020. This significant exhibition will present Hsiao Chin alongside the permanent collection of Mark Rothko paintings, exploring for the first time how the two artists' ideas and practices converged throughout the 1960s, both working to forge a language of spiritual abstraction. The Mark Rothko Art Centre is the only place outside North America where Rothko's paintings are on permanent display and are exhibited in the historic arsenal building, located in the artist's hometown, Daugavpils.

In my beginning is my end: the art of Hsiao Chin will showcase Hsiao Chin's six-decade oeuvre, featuring over 30 artworks from 1959 onwards. Highlights will include Hsiao Chin's vibrant large-scale works *La Vibrazione del Sole* (1965) and *Power of the Light* (1965), examples of the artist's hard-edged paintings created during his time in the US and *Blue Introspection* (2007-2018), which is a unique abstract, glass mosaic.

Philip Dodd, Curator said 'A Chinese artist at the heart of the 60s European avant-garde: Hsiao Chin's career and his wildly inventive paintings challenge most categories. His peers may appear to be the Italian Lucio Fontana and the American Kenneth Noland - but in his

search for a language of painting that can incarnate spiritual experiences, the only comparable painter of the time is Mark Rothko - which makes holding Hsiao Chin's retrospective in Mark Rothko's hometown museum so compelling. As an interest in spirituality and art surfaces again, Hsiao Chin's practice feels exemplary and his mix of European and Asian art profoundly timely.'

Hsiao Chin was part of a group of Chinese artists that settled in Europe in the 1950s, also including figures such as Zao Wou-ki, who subsequently had a profound impact on the development of an Asian inflected European modernism. Hsiao Chin relocated first to Spain, before settling in Milan, Italy in 1960, where he resided for half a century. In 1964, Hsiao Chin became the only Chinese artist after Zao Wou-ki, to have a solo exhibition in Paris, presented by the eminent Galerie Internationale d'Art Contemporain, who represented the artist from 1963-1966. He travelled extensively throughout Europe and the United States, forging close relationships with leading artists of the period. He was supported by and supported Lucio Fontana and associated with Joan Miró, Antoni Tàpies and Piero Manzoni, as well as the American Abstract Expressionists Willem De Kooning, Robert Rauschenberg, Sam Francis and Mark Rothko.



Hsiao Chin, *Power of the light*, 1965, Acrylic and ink on canvas, 160x130cm, courtesy of 3812 Gallery

Hsiao Chin is the only Chinese artist to have launched a major international avant-garde movement, the Punto Movement, established in 1961 in Milan with co-founders Antonio Calderara and Azuma Kenjiro. Punto was inspired by an Eastern philosophical worldview and advanced the notion that art should be a means of meditation and introspection. Advocates of Punto included Lucio Fontana, whose reputation helped popularise the movement, as well as members of the Zero Group and Op Art. Hsiao Chin organised thirteen Punto exhibitions held across Europe and Asia from 1961 to 1966, which brought together twenty-six artists from eleven countries and can be regarded as one of the first large scale collaborations uniting artists from the East and West.

Raising the profile of Chinese artists was an important focus for Hsiao Chin. In 1964 he curated *Chinesische Künstler der Gegenwart*, an exhibition in Leverkusen (West Germany), which is considered the first group exhibition of Chinese contemporary art in the West in the post war era. This presented artists from Asia and its diaspora, including Zao Wou-ki, Chu Teh-chun, Wallace Ting, I.M. Pei and Richard Lin.

Hsiao Chin has been the subject of significant retrospectives at Musée national des arts asiatiques Guimet in Paris and Fondazione Marconi, Italy, among others. His works can be found in international collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art (USA), Museum of Modern Art (USA) Philadelphia Museum of Art (USA), Shanghai Art Museum (China), Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna (Italy), Staatsgalerie Stuttgart (Germany), M+ Museum (Hong Kong) and more.

In my beginning is my end: the art of Hsiao Chin is curated by Philip Dodd, writer, broadcaster and former Director of London's ICA. It will be the latest exhibition in a distinguished programme of international abstract artists shown at Mark Rothko Art Centre, which has previously included Gillian Ayres and Terry Frost. A catalogue of the exhibition will be available, featuring an introductory essay by art historian and critic Richard Cork.

This exhibition will be part of a year-long international programme celebrating Hsiao Chin in his 85th year. The programme will also include solo presentations at 3812 Gallery and at the gallery's inaugural display at Masterpiece Art Fair in London (now taking place online), alongside major museum exhibitions in Beijing and Kaohsiung, more details of which will be announced later this year.

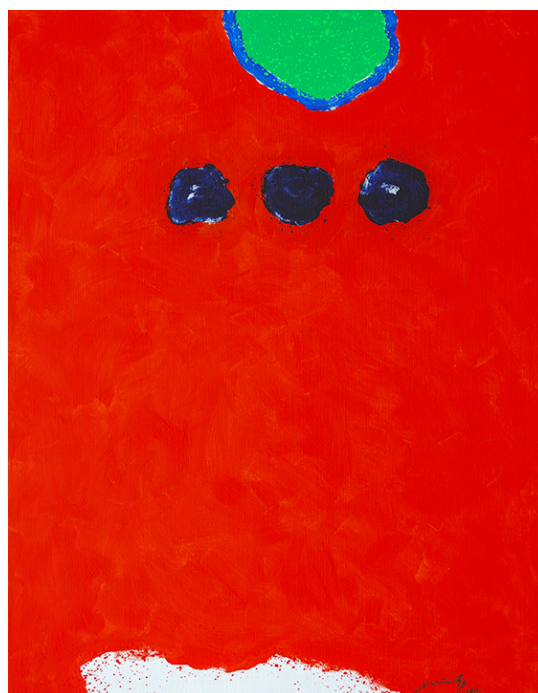
Further 2020 Programme Highlights

3812 Gallery, London, UK

23 July – 24 October 2020

3812, the leading gallery for Chinese contemporary art in London will display a new exhibition of specially selected paintings by Hsiao Chin. This will be Hsiao Chin's first solo exhibition in London since 1966. Set over two levels, visitors to the gallery will be able to explore the breadth of the artist's work, with an overview of his extensive career as a master of abstract art.

Calvin Hui, Founder, 3812 Gallery said *'As one of the first Asian artists to advocate the infusion of Eastern spirituality into abstract art in Europe when the art world was very much led by the West, Hsiao's contribution has undoubtedly left an important mark in art history. Following recent market interest in his work including a dedicated private sale at Sotheby's Hong Kong last year, we at 3812 Gallery are delighted to host Hsiao's first exhibition in London since 1966.'*



Hsiao Chin, *Crouch*, 1961, Acrylic and ink on canvas, 140x110cm, courtesy of 3812 Gallery

Masterpiece online

24 – 30 June 2020

3812 Gallery will participate at Masterpiece Art Fair in London in 2020 for the first time, with a presentation dedicated to Hsiao Chin. Now taking place online, this will showcase influential paintings from throughout the artist's career.

***Mapping Post-War Avant-Garde: Hsiao Chin and Punto International* by Unicorn Publishing**

A new monograph, *Mapping Post-War Avant-Garde: Hsiao Chin and Punto International* focused on Hsiao Chin and his immense contribution to the development of avant-garde art as a founder of the Punto Movement, was published in June 2020.

Notes to Editors

About Mark Rothko Art Centre

Mark Rothko Art Centre is a multi-functional contemporary art and culture centre located in the Artillery Arsenal building of the Daugavpils Fortress. This is a place where history goes hand in hand with the contemporary and creates a unique and inspiring place for creative

expression and experience. The Art Centre offers exhibitions dedicated to Mark Rothko's artwork and biography, and other exhibitions, including artwork of international, national artists and cultural history.

About Philip Dodd, curator of *In my beginning is my end: the art of Hsiao Chin*

Philip Dodd is an award-winning broadcaster, writer, curator and cultural entrepreneur. He was named one of the 100 art innovators by *Art + Auction* and has curated major exhibitions in China, including five-city retrospective of Sean Scully. His company Made in China was honoured by the Hurun Report in 2019 for its exemplary cross-cultural work between China and UK. Dodd was Director of the ICA in London (1997- 2004), he has written numerous books and served as the executive director of an art film by Steve McQueen and as executive producer of a film with Edward Said.

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