

**CONVERSATIONS: 'AFTER NATURE'**

**3812 GALLERY CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY WITH A  
THREE-PART EXHIBITION**

Encounters between major Chinese and British artists are at the heart of the three After Nature exhibitions, which ask profound questions about the relationship of nature and abstract art, from the 1970s to the present day.



Left: Albert Irvin, Beacon, Acrylic on canvas, 1994, 184 x 156 cm (Courtesy of Albert Irvin Estate)

Right: Li Lei, Mad Water-20, Acrylic on canvas, 2017, 180 x 150cm (Courtesy of Li Lei)

In celebration of its 10th anniversary, 3812 Gallery is pleased to present a three-part exhibition titled 'After Nature', opening in Hong Kong in May, June and July 2021. These three exhibitions will place work by leading Chinese and British artists alongside one another, as well as Hong Kong ink works by our 3812 artists, aiming to explore what unites them and makes them distinctive, to create a conversation between the East and West.

The first part, opening in May, will present renowned artist and architect Raymond Fung Wing Kee, major British Abstract Expressionist painter Albert Irvin and Chinese abstract artist Li Lei. Fung was born and raised in Hong Kong. His inspiration comes from the beautiful landscapes of Hong Kong. Fung is skilled at using abstract brushstrokes together with neutral colours to create various layers and give depth to his artwork. Irvin's great abstract paintings are celebrations of paint and cityscapes, while Li's Poetic Abstraction painting is a reflection of the artist's "mindscape", demonstrating his profound cultural understanding of Chinese aesthetics and thoughts, whilst drawing upon dynamic features of western abstract expressionism.

The second part, opening in June, will feature renowned British artist Francis Davison together with Chinese ink artist Yu Yang. In Davison's paper collages, which are elegant and sophisticated, the artist has never used a straight line, as English art critic John Ruskin once said: "there are no straight lines in nature". This is the first time the artist's collages will be shown in Asia. Yu Yang's works on ink and paper on wood, combine the notion of 'cold ink' and ink art from the East, striving to construct a new artistic language to renew perceptions on the aesthetic tradition of ink art.

The third part, opening in July, will present four outstanding Hong Kong contemporary ink artists – Chui Pui Chee, Chloe Ho, Kassia Ko and Victor Wong. To coincide with the gallery's 10th anniversary in 2021, 3812 Gallery opened a brand-new space to expand into a new cultural and artistic landscape as a pioneering international gallery in Hong Kong. Meanwhile, 3812 Gallery London continues to actively promote outstanding Chinese Modern and Contemporary art as well as Contemporary Ink art and Hong Kong ink art in the British and European markets. Hong Kong's Ink Art is a unique creation of the city's cultural and physical ecology, encapsulating its people, landscape, a liminal point between cultures. This exhibition explores the past, present and future of Hong Kong Ink Art, framed in this pivotal moment of the city's post pandemic era. Experiencing the historic impact of our post-colonial era, towards an unknown future within the digital age, we will examine how this distinctively East Asian artistic medium is used to both express local identities and to question global concerns.

Together, these two exhibitions, staged during a time when COVID-19 is increasingly seen as an endemic, ask questions about the relationship between painting and nature. Are abstract paintings 'after nature' in the sense that these are ghosts of landscape paintings in all abstraction? Or are these abstract paintings 'after nature' in the sense that they have freed themselves from nature and are objects with no reference beyond themselves?

With the opening of its sister gallery in London in 2018, 3812 Gallery aims to create conversations between the 'East' and 'West'. Most recently, the gallery has taken major Chinese artists to Europe, for example Hsiao Chin's 2020 exhibition at the Mark Rothko Art Centre, in Rothko's hometown in Latvia. Now, the gallery is delighted to bring two major Modern British artists to Hong Kong, whose work can be found in museum collections from Australia to the UK. Moreover, both are artists greatly admired by renowned contemporary artist Damien Hirst, demonstrating their influence on the artists of today. Hirst saw Davison's work in the 1980s and commented that "it blew my mind away", and more recently, Hirst has collected works by Albert Irvin for his own collection.

Through 'After Nature', 3812 demonstrates its unique positioning with international presence both in Hong Kong and London. The gallery strikes to stretch boundaries to new frontiers through art curation and cross-disciplinary approach. During the Media Preview on 13 May, an exclusive dance performance will be staged to celebrate the launch of 'After Nature' in 3812 Gallery's new space in Hong Kong, featuring acclaimed Chinese Contemporary dancer Yan Xiaoqiang who will present a 15-minute modern dance performance, resonating with dynamic brushstrokes and colours of the exhibited artworks.

"'After Nature', split between May, June and July, marks our milestone celebrating the tenth anniversary of 3812 Gallery. By presenting both Eastern and Western artists together in each exhibition, we aim to strengthen the connection between both worlds," says **Calvin Hui, co-founder of 3812 Gallery** and curator of this exhibition. "At a time when we are all experiencing the great consequences of nature, the connection between human and nature are seen as

inseparable. 'After Nature' presents a conversation, inviting viewers to appreciate and wonder at how the artists are inspired by nature."

**Exhibition Dates:**

After Nature Part I: 14 May to 16 June 2021

After Nature Part II: 18 June to 23 July 2021

After Nature Part III: 29 July to 31 August 2021

Opening hours: 11 am to 7 pm (Appointment is required: [hongkong@3812cap.com](mailto:hongkong@3812cap.com))

Address: 26/F, Wyndham Place, 40-44 Wyndham Street, Central, Hong Kong

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**About 3812 Gallery**

3812 Gallery was named after the co-founders were inspired by the infamous La Vallée Blanche at an altitude of 3812 meters while skiing in Chamonix in the Alps. Looking back at the past ten years, 3812 Gallery has been deeply rooted in Hong Kong. It always adhered to courage and perseverance to take on different challenges.

Co-founded by Calvin Hui and Mark Peaker in Hong Kong in 2011, 3812 Gallery is recognised as the city's foremost gallery dealing in Chinese contemporary art as well as an agent for the Post-war Chinese Abstract Art master Hsiao Chin. The gallery actively promotes contemporary ink art in the international market.

Launching 3812 Gallery firmly onto the international stage, in 2018 it opened the new flagship space, 3812 Gallery London, in the exclusive St James' arts district. Coinciding with the 3812 Gallery's 10th anniversary in 2021, it opened a brand new 3,600 square feet space to expand into a new cultural and artistic landscape as the foremost international gallery in Hong Kong. The gallery will also exclusively represent three Modern British artist estates – Francis Davison, Terry Frost and Albert Irvin - in Asia, and has five outstanding Hong Kong contemporary ink artists on the roster – Chui Pui Chee, Chloe Ho, Kassia Ko, Raymond Fung and Victor Wong - establishing the gallery's vision to develop into an international gallery.

3812 Gallery is dedicated to fostering cultural understanding of Chinese contemporary art with "Eastern Origin and Contemporary Expression". We strive to establish 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 identities is essential in the understanding and appreciation of Chinese contemporary art.

**Note to Editors**

Appendix A: Biographies of Albert Irvin, Li Lei, Francis Davison, Yu Yang, Yan Xiaoqiang and Paul Yip