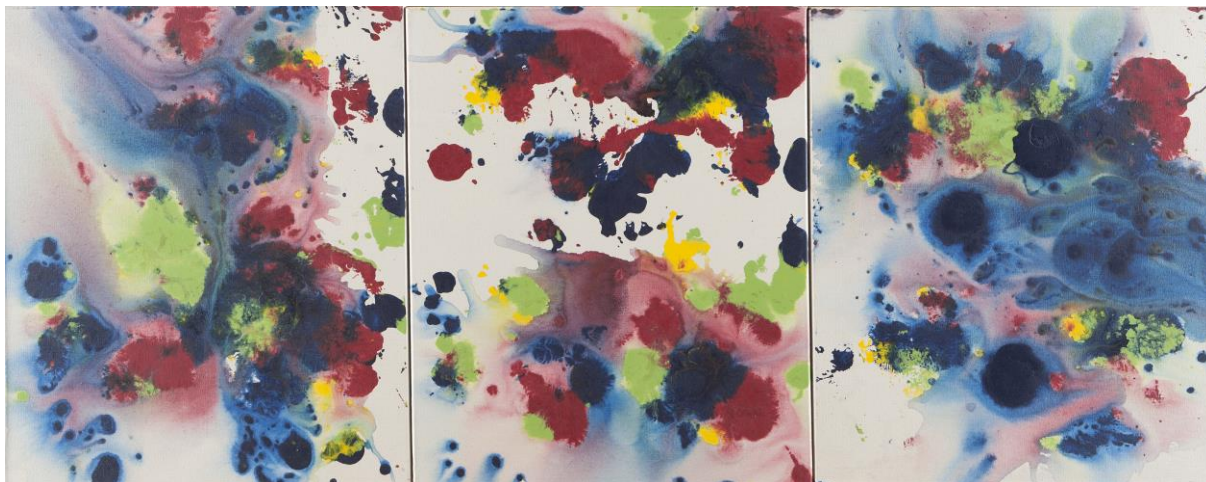


Li Lei

Poetic Abstraction

14th November 2019 – 18th January 2020

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



Blossom in Spring 1, 2, 3
Acrylic on canvas, 70x60cm (3 pieces), 2015

London, 13 November 2019 – 3812 Gallery London presents ***Poetic Abstraction***, a solo exhibition by Shanghai-based artist **Li Lei** on view from 14th November 2019 to 18th January 2020, along with a series of academic forums and talks in collaboration with Royal Drawing School and Unicorn Publishing.

In his poetic abstraction, Li Lei conveys his inner feelings through abstract images; in his paintings, no distinct forms can be identified. His brushstrokes lay out landscapes layer by layer, and, through the building of colour, he allows colour and brush reciprocity to reach a kind of tacit understanding, with no trace of conflict between them.

Li Lei's diptych series ***Calm Contemplation*** is new to the market and will be shown for the first time in the UK. The dualistic presentation of two paintings in a diptych conveys multi-layered meanings: the juxtaposition between the expressionistic composition with boldly contrasted colours and the expanse of meditative colour fields with subtle gradation creates tension between the emotional and the rational, and the material and the spiritual.



Calm Contemplation 29 - Between Clouds and Water 3
Acrylic on canvas, 150x100cm (2 pieces), 2015-2019

"We are thrilled to present Li Lei in our parallel exhibitions in our galleries in London and Hong Kong simultaneously. Our aim is to introduce Eastern aesthetic and cultural understanding to the global audience through contemporary art, and, through our annual art programme. We are committed to fostering a cultural dialogue between the East and West. As an important addition to the roster of artists of 3812 Gallery, Li Lei will feature his masterpieces 'Eastern Origin with Contemporary Expression' in his London exhibition."

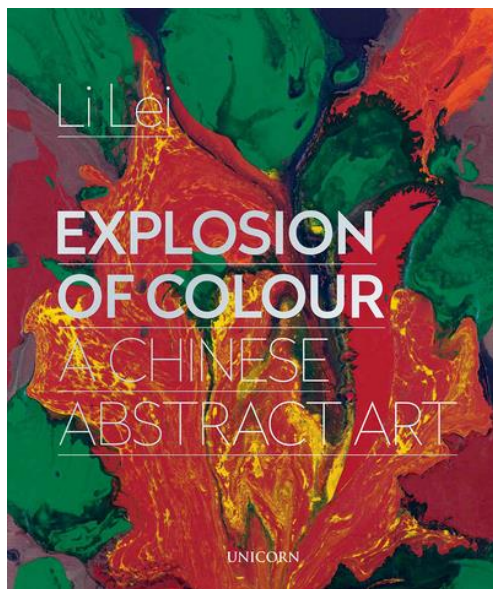
"We are also honoured to collaborate with Royal Drawing School and Unicorn Publishing* through an artist fellowship program and academic talk. 3812 Gallery will also co-host with Royal Drawing School an evening of painting, poetry, music, wine tasting and menu paring inspired by Li Lei's Poetic Abstraction in London to celebrate Li Lei's first solo exhibition in the U.K. opening on 14th November."

-Calvin Hui, Co-founder and Artistic Director of 3812 Gallery

Sir Charles Saumarez Smith, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Drawing School said, "We are proud to invite Li Lei to the Royal Drawing School in London and to participate in a fellowship program which will foster the artistic exchange between China and the U.K. through the medium of drawing. From his sketches and drawings to the latest release of the Poetic Abstraction paintings, the fellowship program may offer a unique occasion for our U.K. students and artists to gain a brand-new perspective on Chinese contemporary art."

**Explosion of Colour (Unicorn Chinese Arts Series)*

Li Lei



"Since 1996, Li Lei has been mainly engaged in the creation of and research into Chinese abstract art, and has endeavoured to combine the core concepts of Chinese culture with the international Language of mature abstract art, to create a path for abstract art in China."

- Unicorn Chinese Arts Series

Last year, Li Lei became one of the first Chinese artists in the Unicorn Chinese Artists Series. In November 2019, Li Lei will be in London attending an Unicorn book launch event and also an artist talk co-organised by Unicorn Publishing in association of his first solo exhibition in London.



Autumn Water 9, 8, 10
Acrylic on canvas, 70x60cm (3 pieces), 2015



Etude1-Blossom in Spring 5-Etude2
Acrylic on canvas
70x60cm (3 pieces)
2018



Recuperating Tranquility-11
Acrylic on canvas
150x100cm (3 pieces)
2019

Notes to Editor

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Download high-res images and artist statement:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/71o5uaxefhwnh43/AAAKasAA1BHn8I_hERw9de2Ma?dl=0

About Li Lei

Li Lei, born in 1965 in Shanghai. He lives and works in Shanghai. He is the former Deputy Director of China Art Museum and a Professor at Tongji University.

For over 20 years, Li Lei has been engaged in the creation of, and research into Chinese abstract art. He has endeavoured to combine the core concepts of Chinese culture with the international language of mature abstract art and to create a path for abstract art in China. His painting series include Zen Flowers, Drunken Lake, Shanghai Flowers, Memories of South and Flames at Pompeii. In 2014, he began to experiment with space integration art, taking spatial narrative, spatial expression and spatial analysis as objectives of his dramatic visual practice. The development in Li Lei's painting has been described, and his style identified as "philosophically eclectic and 'moderate', a distinctively Chinese kind of poetic abstraction". Li Lei has had solo exhibitions in Beijing, Shanghai, New York, Frankfurt, Linz, Boxmeer, Amsterdam and Brussels.

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, 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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