

RAYMOND FUNG

21 Ryder Street, London, SW1Y 6PX

BETWEEN BREATHS

www.3812gallery.com



Raymond Fung, Breathing (23), 2020, Ink and colour on paper, 90 x 90cm (x3)

'The art of life between breaths'

3812 Gallery is delighted to present the first ever solo exhibition of Raymond Fung's contemporary ink landscapes in Europe. On show will be his newest series Breathing and Life, debuting in London from 2 November to 7 January 2022.

Raymond Fung Wing Kee is a renowned artist and architect in Hong Kong whose works are included in significant collections such as the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, The National Art Museum of China, Shanghai Art Museum (China Art Museum) and Hong Kong Museum of Art. Despite being extremely well-regarded in Asia, his works have not previously been extensively exhibited in the west. This exhibition presents the unique opportunity for new audiences to experience Fung's original combination of traditional Chinese ink painting with western abstract expressionism influences.

A new and largely unseen series, 'Breathing' gives voice to Fung's environmental concerns. It is a complex and abstract work that actualises the notion of breathing both in process and ideology. It is created through use of cling-film to wrap the ink painted surface, allowing the ink to meditate and breathe under the surface. Fung is troubled by the worsening ecological climate and the impact of the Anthropocene on the beautiful landscapes of Hong Kong and further afield. He has a close personal relationship with nature and his environs, something channeled in his sparse style of architecture. His work seeks to allow the viewer space to contemplate environmental degradation and the beauty of the natural world which requires protection.

"More urgent issues of global concern await Chinese painters' exploration. The Breathing series evaluates the challenges we face in protecting the environment; whereas the Life series, as suggested by its name, calls attention to the critical living conditions of all lives of nature and humans, flora and fauna."

Raymond Fung sees beyond Hong Kong's skyscrapers and dedicates his works to the local landscape of the city and its captivating colours and textures. Deviating from traditional ink methods, Fung experiments with rich coloured pigments and introduces contemporary materials to the surface of his Xuan (Chinese rice) papers. Fung's many layers of water, ink and pigment, and are overlaid with fine plastic films, and over a period of time the ink and pigment are massaged, allowing them to breathe, whilst patiently waiting for the cracks to appear on the surface as they dry. The resulting paintings are textured and multi layered, glimmering and shining with mineral pigments and splashes of colour, over laid upon the underlying ink.

Equipped with an architect's sense of space and composition, and the emotion that exudes from brush and ink, Fung's works often take the form of tall, narrow polyptychs that draw the eye from one end to another- a rhythmic momentum that creates 'windows' in space through which to view his imagined landscapes. He takes considerable time over the curation of his shows, installing them with the same precision as he designs buildings.

"The paintings are a microillustration of the process by which human activity constricts and controls the flow of vital vapours in our natural environment. Breathing is a meditation on the Anthropocene: our current geological period in which human action is the primary agent shaping the physical world." Dr Malcolm McNeill Director of the Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art, SOAS, University of London

Raymond Fung will be in London 25 Oct - 2 Nov and available for interview.

Exhibition Date: 2 November to 7 January 2022

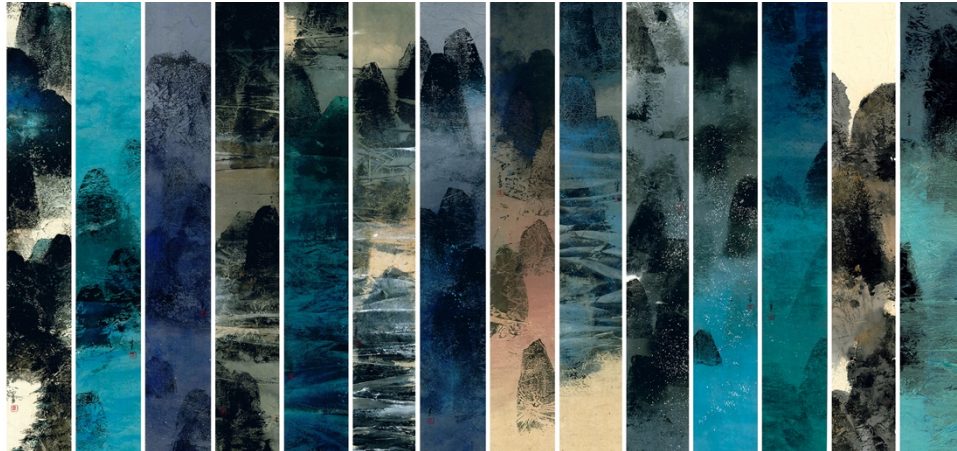
Opening hours: Monday to Friday 10:00 am to 6:30 pm (all other times by appointment)

Gallery Address: 21 Ryder Street, London, SW1Y 6PX

For press enquiries or further information please contact Kate Searles on kate@3812cap.com or 0203 982 1863

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Raymond Fung, 18 Shades in Ink series, 2018, Ink and colour on paper, 136 x 16.5cm (each)



Raymond Fung, Breathing (16), 2020, Ink and colour on paper, 26 x 180cm

About Raymond Fung



Born in 1952, Raymond Fung Wing Kee is a renowned artist and architect in Hong Kong. Fung had his first taste of Chinese ink painting at the age of 15. Inspired by the local landscape with an architect's sensibility, Fung is known for his polyptych works that blend effortlessly into the interior. Former Director of the Shanghai Art Museum Feng Zhengxian described Fung's works to be a "utopia of the spiritual" which aligns with the artist's belief that ink painting should be more than a depiction of the scenery but also an interpretation of space. In 1989, Fung was brought to fame as an ink artist with the Contemporary Chinese Painting 1984-89 exhibition, curated by the art curator Professor Wu Hung, at Harvard University (Boston). He has held solo exhibitions across the globe in New York, Paris, Beijing, Shanghai, Avignon, Taipei, Hangzhou and Hong Kong. His works are widely collected by international corporations and museums including Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, The National Art Museum of China, Shanghai Art Museum (China Art Museum), Hong Kong Museum of Art, The University Museum and Art Gallery (UMAG) of The University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Heritage Museum.