

3812 Gallery proudly presents *Looking East: St Ives Artists and Buddhism*  
Spotlighting Eastern influences on post war masterpieces

(Rescheduled from March, 2022)



Alan Davie, Transformation of the Serpent No. 3,  
circa 1970, Oil on canvas (Diptych), 152.4 x 243.8cm

3812 Gallery is proud to present *Looking East: St Ives Artists and Buddhism*, the first exhibition to introduce British modern art with reference to eastern philosophy. Once a small fishing village in Cornwall, southwest England, St Ives has long been a hub for artists from all walks since the 1920s. To celebrate the creativity St Ives has nurtured, 3812 Gallery Hong Kong is glad to present works of its post-war abstract artists, with a glance back at the 20s and 30s. Featuring artists from Hong Kong-born Bernard Leach to the great Buddhist scholar D.T. Suzuki, the exhibition displays multi-media works from stoneware to oil paintings to collage. In doing so, it traces the early conversation between the east and the west in a war-stricken world, particularly how the Buddhist principles advocated by early St Ives artists have inspired works that came after. The exhibition also features an audio conversation between Philip Dodd, Director of the Holburne Museum, and Chris Stephens, Director of London's Institute of Contemporary Arts (1997–2004). The show runs from 21 April – 31 May 2022.

“We hope this exhibition reintroduces and rediscovers the attributes of spirituality in art and how eastern influence took place in St Ives and shaped a new facade of post-war British modern art in Asia,” said Calvin Hui, director at 3812 Gallery Hong Kong.

After 1945 there was the dream of a better world and that art could contribute to it. As a global war, World War II has allowed artists to access non-western books and ideas. While nationalistic sentiments rode high, some pacifist artists embraced internationalism and modernism. For forty years and more, avant-garde and modern artists from Hong Kong, Russia, Japan and different parts of Britain, lived and worked, arrived and departed from St. Ives. These






artists were part of a larger movement of artists across Europe who left metropolitan centres to discover different ways of life and experiences.

At St Ives, many of them encountered Buddhism among other eastern influences. For instance, Hong Kong born ceramicist Bernard Leach would show alongside the English Buddhist ceramicist William Staite Murray and modernist painters such as Ben Nicholson, obliterating distinctions between art and craft. *Zen in the Art of Archery* (1953) by the German philosopher Eugen Herrigel who lived in Japan before WWII, enjoyed great influence. Its original foreword was written by D.T. Suzuki, the hugely popular Buddhist scholar who stopped over in St Ives in 1955 at the invitation of Bernard Leach. All these contributed to a remarkable body of works documenting the collision of cultures.

St Ives' importance was marked by the founding of Tate St Ives in 1993. Museums around the world, from New York's MOMA to London's Tate, from the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice to Seoul's National Museum of Contemporary Art, include works of St Ives artists in their Collections.

High-res images:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Be6yCYcG981N4\\_NscpSElxDjza4rlyFP?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Be6yCYcG981N4_NscpSElxDjza4rlyFP?usp=sharing)

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|  <p>A small, circular earthenware plate with a marbled slip design in brown and gold tones, set against a plain white background.</p>   |  <p>An abstract oil painting on canvas featuring bold, expressive brushstrokes in blue, yellow, and black, creating a sense of dynamic movement.</p>                |  <p>A large, abstract gouache painting on paper with a complex composition of dark, swirling lines and vibrant colors like blue, orange, and purple, suggesting a natural, perhaps watery, environment.</p> |
| <p><b>Bernard Leach</b> 伯納德.利奇</p> <p>Plate, 1930<br/>Earthenware, marbled slips beneath a clear glaze, made on a hump mould with crimped rim<br/>19cm</p>  | <p><b>Trevor Bell</b> 特雷弗.貝爾</p> <p>Image with Many Movements, 1959<br/>Oil on canvas<br/>91 x 61cm</p>   | <p><b>Peter Lanyon</b> 彼得.蘭永</p> <p>Headwater, 1962<br/>Gouache on paper<br/>104 x 244cm (Artwork Size)<br/>125.7 x 270.5cm (Framed Size)</p>  |
|  <p>A colorful, abstract oil painting on canvas featuring a central figure that resembles a serpent or a stylized animal, surrounded by various geometric shapes and vibrant colors like green, blue, and red.</p> |  <p>An abstract oil painting on canvas featuring two large, circular forms, one red and one violet, set against a dark background, creating a strong contrast.</p> |  |
| <p><b>Alan Davie</b> 艾倫.戴維</p> <p>Transformation of the Serpent No. 3, circa 1970<br/>Oil on canvas (Diptych)<br/>152.4 x 243.8cm</p>   | <p><b>Wilhelmina Barns-Graham</b> 威廉明娜.巴恩斯-格雷厄姆</p> <p>April 16th 1961 (Red and Violet), 1961<br/>Oil on canvas<br/>123 x 122.3 x 2.5 cm</p>  |  |

## ***Looking East: St Ives Artists and Buddhism***

Date: 21 April – 31 May 2022

Time: 11– 7pm Monday – Friday

Venue: 3812 Gallery, 26/F, Wyndham Place, 40–44 Wyndham Street, Central, Hong Kong

### **About 3812 Gallery**

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

Co-founded by Calvin Hui and Mark Peaker in Hong Kong in 2011, 3812 Gallery is recognized as the city's foremost gallery dealing in Chinese contemporary art and actively promotes contemporary ink art. Launching 3812 Gallery firmly onto the international stage, in 2018 it opened the new flagship space, 3812 Gallery London, in the heart of St James' arts district. Coinciding with the 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 exclusively represents two Modern British artist estates – Sir Terry Frost and Albert Irvin in Asia, and has outstanding Hong Kong contemporary ink artists Raymond Fung, Chloe Ho and Victor Wong.

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.

### **About Collect and the Bespoke Concept**

Co-founded by Calvin Hui and Mark Peaker in 2017, *Collect by 3812* is a leading taste maker dedicated to bringing the breadth and depth of collecting to its full expression. A curated platform with expertise in modern and contemporary art and design collectibles, *Collect* offers professional advice and facilitates insightful dialogues and knowledge exchange through online articles and video channel on a wide range of topics in art and culture. *Collect* cultivates a seasoned community that shares passion and knowledge, interests and experiences in the art of collecting.

On top of its digital presence, *Collect* also proudly presents *Bespoke* to serve as a bridge between collectors, art practitioners, designers and art lovers by facilitating collaborations and exchange. *Bespoke* is also an exclusive space where regular exhibitions, tailored events and talks will be hosted to enrich the collecting experience. Expertly curated by co-founder Calvin Hui, it is home to a collection of rare mid-century modern design and furniture pieces. We are thrilled to announce its reopening on the 16th floor of 40–44 Wyndham street in the same building as 3812 gallery in May 2022. By invitation only.

Follow *Collect*:

Website: <https://www.3812gallery.com/collect/>

Video channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCId6kupV3JaSIZdBGORWXSa/featured>

IG: @collect3812

**About Chris Stephens**

Chris Stephens is Director of the Holburne Museum, Bath. He was Curator, Modern British Art, Tate Britain from 2001 until 2017. He is author and editor of numerous titles including most recently David Hockney (with Andrew Wilson), 2016; Barbara Hepworth: Sculpture for a Modern World (with Penelope Curtis), 2015; Terry Frost, 2015; Modern Art and St Ives, 2014 and St Ives: Art and Artists 2018

**About Philip Dodd**

Philip Dodd was Director of London's Institute of Contemporary Arts (1997–2004), and has curated exhibitions in London, New York, Moscow, Beijing and Singapore with artists such as Sean Scully, Yoko Ono, Damien Hirst, Pat Steir and Hsiao Chin. He is the author and editor of books on art and value, Englishness and women and film.