

Chloe HO

Unconfined Illumination

13 September - 15 November 2019

3812 Gallery London

G/F, 21 Ryder Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6PX

Opening Hours:

Monday – Friday 10:00 am to 6:30 pm

Saturday 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

'There is beauty and artistic necessity in an unconfined illumination of expression. My vision floats unencumbered, as I present images to entice and engage the viewer.'—Chloe Ho



Summer, Chinese ink and acrylic on cloth
156 x 114 cm, 2019

London, 13 August 2019 – 3812 Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition entitled *Unconfined Illumination* by Hong Kong-based artist **Chloe Ho** on view from 13 September to 15 November 2019, marking the artist's debut solo exhibition in Europe.



Chloe Ho painting in her studio in Hong Kong

Unconfined Illumination features a collection of Ho's important paintings from 2011 to 2019, which demonstrate her use of a diversity of mediums, techniques and subjects. As an emerging artist, born in the 1980s in California and growing up in Hong Kong, Ho flows between ink, acrylic, coffee and charcoal. Influenced by both Eastern aesthetics and Western modern art, she dips Chinese brushes into coffee and ink, connecting the human form and imagery of Shan Shui nature. Ho makes use of charcoal to depict the tonal plurality of classic Shakespeare characters in a contemporary manner, envisioning a connection between past and present. She discloses her love of Klein, Bourgeois, Bacon, and Zhang Daqian with her use of the colour blue. Through dynamic and energetic brush strokes, Ho's work melds Chinese tradition, modernity and bold mediums.

Calvin Hui, Curator of the exhibition and Co-founder of 3812 Gallery writes: 'In general, Western abstract art carries a tension and destruction inherent in Western culture, emphasising visual stimulation and sexual hormones. In comparison, the culture of Chinese ink is implicit, emphasising space, blankness, temperament and spirit, imbued with particular freedom, leisure, space and breath. With ink and mixed media, Chloe Ho creates works pertaining to abstract expressionism which carries both Western beauty as well as China's calmness, elegance, aura and temperament. The artist thus reaches "illumination" by combining features of these two diverse cultures. Led by intuition, Ho is fascinated with the evolution of natural life and man's identity.



Lion Fish, Chinese ink, coffee and acrylic on paper, 97.1 x 187.8 cm, 2014

This guides her directly to spiritual illumination along the light of the soul.' Hui continues: 'Looking back at the achievements of experimental ink in Asian countries for the past five decades, contemporary ink has moved beyond merely referring to Western art and has begun to assume an awareness of features of national culture, further bringing the two aspects together. Such is Eastern countries' adjustment and retrospection of national culture in the context of globalisation. Since 3812 Gallery launched its London Flagship gallery in the St James's arts district last November, we have been continuously presenting the diversity in Chinese contemporary art in line with our core notion Eastern Origin in Contemporary Expression through our program of exhibitions. I believe Chloe Ho's exhibition will bring unique inspiration to London's art scene this autumn.'



Perfect Perception, Chinese ink and acrylic on canvas, 121.9 x 91.4 cm x 2, 2019

From *Under the Surface* (2014, New York), to the milestone show *Ascendence* (2017, Hong Kong), to the upcoming *Unconfined Illumination* (2019, London), Ho's works have gone through a development from figurative to abstract, from past to future, from form to essence and from material to imagery. **The show will present seven pieces of Ho's newest works, such as *Autumn* and *Summer* from *The Four Seasons* series (2019) created with ink and acrylic on cloth.**

Beginning with her *Nature Embodied* series (2013) and *In the Current* series (2014), Ho conducted an abstract transformation of the human figure and blended it with nature and the spirit of Shan Shui through water and ink on xuan paper, thus exploring the relationship between human and nature, human and environment and human and the universe. In *Autumn* and *Summer*, with the colours of red and blue together with the strong black ink, Ho harmoniously creates an atmosphere in which she fuses the human figure with the imagery of Shan Shui.



Nature Embodied #2
Chinese ink and coffee on rice paper
137 x 69 cm, 2013



In the Current 1
Chinese ink, coffee, spray paint, acrylic on paper
2018 x 118 cm, 2014



Autumn
Chinese ink and acrylic on cloth
156 x 96 cm, 2019

For Ho, the seasons are a conceptual metaphor of life – in *Autumn*, the colours of red, brown and black become deeper and more vibrant. With elements of the painting in flux like leaves falling, Ho depicts the beauty and energy of autumn. In *Summer*, the blue paint varies from light to dark, from translucent to opaque. The figure is fully formed and electric with colour and dynamic brush strokes.

Ho believes: 'Fabric can be both painterly and sculptural, so it is a challenging and fascinating medium at the same time. Like paper it is unforgiving. Its movement creates new angles and dimensions. It adds a tactile sensibility to the art. It flows visually and envelops the viewer because of its nature.' - just as Ho's works are fluid and unconfined.



Flower-verse, Chinese ink and acrylic on canvas, 85.5 x 246 cm, 2019

The artist's works will also be showcased in 3812 Gallery Hong Kong from September to November 2019. (Address: 16B, Wyndham Place, 40-44 Wyndham Street, Central, Hong Kong)

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Notes to Editor

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Download hi-res images:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/38yiupe2irudvhs/AADhh53I3-DF5kPHfvouAbL2a?dl=0>

About Chloe Ho

Chloe Ho (b. 1987, California, USA) belongs to a new generation of talented artists born in the 1980s. She completed her studies in studio art at Mills College in California under Liu Hung (Chinese - American contemporary artist) and Moira Roth (Art historian and critic).

The artist explores her multicultural background in her work, combining elements of East and West. Ho always maintains an eye for the unexpected, yet aesthetically familiar as she focuses on the nature of existence, man's relation to nature and his place in the universe. Chloe engages and encourages the viewer to respond, interpret and spiritually connect to her art.

Her art makes a bold, yet personal statement, through the use of both traditional and contemporary mediums that include Chinese ink, coffee, spray paint, blue ink, acrylics and new technologies.

Chloe's many successful solo shows include those at her representing gallery 3812 in London and Hong Kong, at Forbes Gallery in New York, at Joyce Gallery in Shanghai and at the Hong Kong Arts Centre's milestone exhibition Ascendence. She has also been featured in recognised group shows in the San Francisco Bay Area, Beijing and in Taipei at Ink Now Art Expo. Her works are held by private collectors in England, France, Switzerland, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Mainland China and America (including Washington, New York, Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sonoma and Florida).

She has participated in many artistic collaborations. In 2018, Chloe's work was collected as part of the Macau's MGM Cotai Chairman's Collection and is featured at the MGM Cotai Hotel and Villas. Her work was further exhibited at the MGM Collector's Lounge at Art Basel Hong Kong in 2018. In 2019, her signature blue work 'Ocean's Vase' was selected by Rosewood Hong Kong as part of the artistic visual branding for the hotel.

Chloe was given Most Inspiring Woman Award by Marié Claire Magazine in 2014. She was the first Hong Kong artist honoured as Martell Artist of the Year in 2017. Her work 'Fleur' was successfully offered at the Modern Art Sales in Sotheby's Spring Auction in Hong Kong (2019). She has been featured in Christie's Magazine (2019) and many other notable publications.

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 program. We believe that this sharing of cultural identity is essential in the understanding and appreciation of Chinese contemporary art.

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