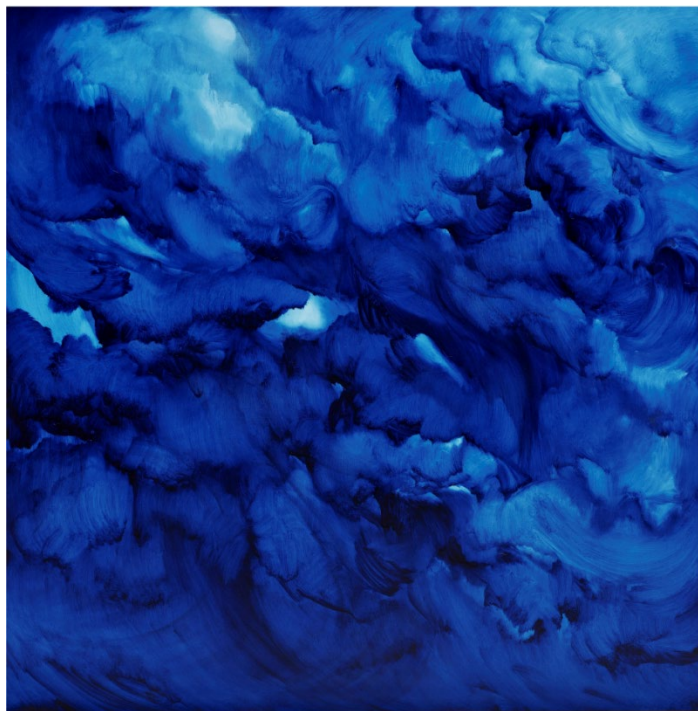


## As Water

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

[www.3812gallery.com](http://www.3812gallery.com)



Zhao Zhao, *Sky 2019-03*, 2019, Oil on canvas, 200 x 200 cm

3812 Gallery is delighted to present **As Water**, a group exhibition featuring engaging works by 8 artists to celebrate growth, life, and nourishment. As 2023 is a water year in the cycle of the five phases, **As Water** is suffused with the various attributes of this element: encompassing reflective equanimity, a dynamic, generative spirit, and offering a promise of prosperity.

**Water is integral to Chinese art and aesthetics. Water manifests a myriad of metaphors in the complex currents of China’s cultural heritage.** Water is an essential ingredient that ink artists must master in their technical training. Water is also an ever-renewing catalyst for conceptual invention. It is found across history, from the classical cannon to the works of contemporary artists in this exhibition at 3812 Gallery.

By responding to this theme in three ways; **Water as Heritage, Water as Material and Water as Concept**, this exhibition invites you to take on some of the properties of water as you experience the exhibition, to seek out more fluid ways of thinking, of looking and of reflecting on these artworks, and to immerse yourself in the complex heritage, rich materiality, and conceptual dynamism of these artists and their work. The exhibition will debut **from 26 January to 28 February 2023** at **3812 Gallery Hong Kong**.

**Featured artists: Hsiao Chin, Liu Guofu, Zhao Zhao, Chloe Ho, Liu Yangwen, Raymond Fung, Yang Yanling, Shang Chengxiang**

**Date:** 26 January – 28 February 2023

**Opening hour:** Monday to Friday, 11am-7pm

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

For press enquiries, high resolution images and further information please contact Marjorie Ding on [Marjorie.ding@3812cap.com](mailto:Marjorie.ding@3812cap.com)



Shang Chengxiang, *Entity No.4*, 2019, Oil on canvas, 120 x 155 cm

Click [here](#) to view the high-res artwork images of the artworks in **As Water**.

## About the artists

### Hsiao Chin

Master artist Hsiao Chin is celebrated as a pioneer of modern abstract art, and is widely recognised in both Eastern and Western art scenes for his major contribution to the development of Chinese modern abstract art. In 1961, Hsiao Chin co-founded the Punto International Art Movement, the first ever international avant-garde art movement initiated by an Asian artist with the aim of promoting Eastern philosophy of ‘contemplation’ .

### Liu Guofu

Liu Guofu lives and works in Nanjing. His oil on canvas paintings meld motions of light with air. While ‘light’ brings out its depth, ‘air’ helps disperse the ‘light’ to every corner of the work. His symbolic blue-greyish colour is fundamental to his works. Up close, the brush strokes are chaotic and fragmented, yet from a distance the brush strokes gather to form a poetic tranquility.

## **Zhao Zhao**

Zhao Zhao lives and works in Beijing. He is regarded a significant figure among the young post-80s generation of contemporary Chinese artists. In his art, he engages with real subjects in multiple mediums and plays with art forms, emphasising an exploration of the relationship between the individual and the rest of society.

## **Chloe Ho**

Chloe Ho lives and works between Hong Kong and USA. 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.

## **Liu Yangwen**

Liu Yangwen lives and works in Nanjing. Liu began to create his series of figurative floral art in 2018-2019 and his oil paintings emphasise solemnness by using cool tones and lines which perfectly develop the bouquet in his mind. His creations often lead audiences to re-examine the conventional perspective of flowers. Since 2020, Liu has gradually turned to present his works in an abstract way. The flowers in the works gradually disappear, and more complicated lines appear instead. He tends to use blue, black and white colours in combination with the reconstruction of lines, giving more power to his works.

## **Raymond Fung**

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Raymond Fung is a leading Hong Kong ink artist and an award-winning municipal architect. His paintings combine technical excellence with an innovative, experimental approach to media and materials. This is shown in his recent *Breathing* series, where Fung manipulates traditional Chinese inks and contemporary pigments to create abstract landscapes that explore his environmental concerns (central to his architectural practice), through an innovative use of evaporation.

## **Yang Yanling**

An emerging Chinese artist who is known for her skillful gongbi technique in traditional ink painting, Yang Yanling has a very focused motif in her art – microscopic view of flowers. Having graduated from the traditional Chinese painting department of Shandong University of Arts, Yang has adopted an exquisite classical style that has its root in the Song dynasty; however, her extremely detailed depiction of isolated flowers, enlarged to fill the picture plane and rendered at various angles, almost makes her works reach

the level of abstraction, merging traditional value with contemporary expression and offering viewers space for their imagination.

### **Shang Chengxiang**

Shang lives and works in Shenyang and has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions at home and abroad. Partially inspired by the Surrealist master René Magritte, Shang's works are influenced by this style yet remain true to his own unique presentation, palette and subject. Shang usually produces several different series of works simultaneously, with dreams and dream states a major source of ideas.

### **About 3812 Gallery**

With gallery spaces in the heart of Hong Kong and London, 3812 has both Europe and China written into its DNA. It represents Hsiao Chin, one of the major postwar painters whose work can be found in M+ and New York's Metropolitan and who lived in Milan for 40 years and some important ink artists, including Raymond Fung from Hong Kong, whose works are in The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco and Hong Kong Palace Museum as well as Nanjing based painter Liu Guofu, whose meticulous works are in Macau's MGM Chairman's Collection and Shanghai Art Museum; and it stages 'fascinating' exhibitions (to quote Colin Gleadell, the art market expert) such as 'Looking East: St Ives Artists and Buddhism' - exploring the debt of British art to Asian philosophy.

Co-founded by Calvin Hui and Mark Peaker, 3812 represents and exhibits both modern and contemporary Chinese and British artists, fostering dialogues between them. The gallery regularly places their work in major public and private collections - and has participated in important art fairs such as Masterpiece. 3812 continues to develop its vision through representing contemporary artists of various genres such as the much-acclaimed Beijing-based Zhao Zhao, the Artist of the Year Award of Art China (AAC) in 2019, whose works were exhibited extensively, including in New York's MoMA PS1 and his one person show at the Long Museum in Shanghai in 2022 and the sensuous porcelains of Li Hongwei, collected by the Art Institute of Chicago and the British Museum among many other museums.



Yang Yanling, *Jia*, 2021, Ink and colour on silk, 110 x 130 cm