

Hsiao Chin (1935-2023)



About

Hsiao Chin was born in Shanghai in 1935 and is celebrated as a pioneer of modern abstract art. He is widely recognised in both Eastern and Western art scenes for his major contribution to the development of Chinese modern abstract art. His works can be found in major collections around the world including Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), M+ Museum (Hong Kong), Musée Guimet (Paris), National Galerie (Rome), Long Museum (Shanghai), Song Museum (Beijing) and MGM Chairman's Collection (Macau).

Hsiao Chin drew artistic nourishment from his study of traditional Chinese culture and Eastern philosophies and in the 1950s, started to explore abstract art based on his core concept of 'Eastern Spirit': the quest for Eastern spirituality and modern artistic expression. In 1955, with a group of artists who shared his aesthetic vision, Hsiao Chin co-founded the Ton Fan Art Group, the first post-war Chinese modern art group, which blended techniques from traditional Eastern art with Western modernism, while promoting Chinese modern art overseas. In 1956, Hsiao embarked on a series of travels in America and Europe, moving first to Madrid and finally settling in Milan, where he lived for over half a century.

Like his senior masters Lin Fengmian and Zao Wou-ki who travelled to France, Hsiao Chin was greatly motivated by Western art during his time in Europe, but developed an interest in Zen and Taoism – in particular the ideas of Lao Tzu and Chuang Tzu – around the 1960s. Drawing artistic nourishment from these studies of traditional Chinese culture and Eastern philosophies, he was capable of understanding and capturing the complex dialects between the void and the solid, strength and weakness. Freely transforming them into his abstract visual language, Hsiao showed great ambition to develop his own style of abstract painting that emphasised the dichotomous nature of the world, and which would be at once distinguishable from, yet reflective of, Western abstract art at that time.

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 'calm contemplation'. Whilst living and working in Europe for nearly 60 years, Hsiao Chin strove to integrate his Eastern philosophical thought with his extensive studies of Western aesthetics and his fascination in space science.

His resulting body of work marks key periods in Hsiao Chin's life, including; 1950s Spain and the influence of Eastern philosophy; 1960s Milan, the birth of Punto and the Universal Energy series; Late 60s New York and Hsiao's Hard Edge period; his 1980s return to Asia and experiencing modern China; the 1990s Eternal Garden series after the devastating loss of his daughter Samantha; through to 2000s where Hsiao revisited his cosmic theme, continuing his spiritual exploration into the energy of the universe. Hsiao's oeuvre charts his journey of self-discovery and his spiritual quest for transcendence.

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Since 2016, 3812 Gallery represents Hsiao Chin and becomes the most important partner in his late artistic journey. In recent years, Hsiao Chin has held major solo exhibitions in Daugavpils Mark Rothko Art Centre (Daugavpils), Musée national des arts Guimet (Paris), Song Art Museum (Beijing), and China Art Museum (Shanghai). In 2022, Hsiao Chin and Punto was presented at 3812 Gallery London, which was the artist's first return to the U.K. since 1966. In the summer 2023, a large-scale immersive art exhibition "To Infinity and Beyond: The Art of Hsiao Chin" was staged at MGM Theater as a special exhibition of Art Macao, Macao International Art Biennale 2023.

Hsiao Chin passed away peacefully on 30 June 2023, at the age of 88. On the 100 days of his demise, Gazing at Sirius – Hsiao Chin Memorial Exhibition was held in Taipei to pay the final tribute to the post-war international abstract art master in the 20th century.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2023 *Gazing at Sirius*, Hsiao Chin Memorial Exhibition, Art Gallery Bellavita, Taipei
To Infinity and Beyond: The Art of Hsiao Chin, MGM Cotai Theater, Macao International Art Biennale 2023
Hsiao Chin: His Unexplored History, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2022 *Hsiao Chin and Punto*, 3812 Gallery, London
- 2021 *Hsiao Chin, from Beijing to Paris*, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
The Artist as Astronaut: Hsiao Chin solo exhibition, Song Art Museum, Beijing
- 2020 *In my beginning is my end: the art of Hsiao Chin retrospective exhibition*, Daugavpils Mark Rothko Art Centre, Daugavpils
Hsiao Chin at 85: An Exhibition of Transcendent Art, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kao-hsiung
Hsiao Chin: The Combination of New Energy solo exhibition, Hsiao Chin Art Foundation, Kaohsiung 2019
New Energy. Reunification solo exhibition, Tainan National University of the Arts, Tainan
PUNTO. HSIAO CHIN solo exhibition, ART TAIPEI, Taipei World Trade Centre, Taipei
Hsiao Chin – Infinite Universe selling exhibition, Sotheby's S|2 Hong Kong Gallery, Hong Kong
Hsiao Chin: The Colours of Ch'an parallel exhibition, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
Les Couleurs du Zen: Peintures de Hsiao Chin parallel exhibition, Hsiao Chin Art Foundation, Kaohsiung
Les Couleurs du Zen: Peintures de Hsiao Chin solo exhibition, Guimet National Museum of Asian Arts (Musée national des arts asiatiques-Guimet), Paris
- 2018 *Hsiao Chin. Spiritual Energy solo exhibition*, Lotus Art Gallery, Kaohsiung
To An Infinite Ascendence solo exhibition, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
Hsiao Chin Coming Home retrospective exhibition, China Art Museum, Shanghai
ZEN - ART Bright Light – Homage to Ascendence solo exhibition, Tsz Shan Monastery, Hong Kong 2017
Hsiao Chin Art Archival Exhibition: The Origin, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
Hsiao Chin Salon Show: 1960's, An Important Era, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong 2016
Hsiao Chin Solo Exhibition: Endless Energy, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
Novel Energy: The End is the Beginning, Tina Keng Gallery, Taipei
- 2015 *Eighty Years of Energy: Hsiao Chin's Retrospect & Prospect*, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung
60 Years of Abstraction, Harmony and Form, de Sarthe Gallery, Hong Kong 2014
Infinite Energy, Kuo Mu Sheng Foundation, Taipei
Hsiao Chin Eternal Energy, Lotus Art Gallery, Kaohsiung
- 2013 *Great ALL*, Lin & Lin Gallery, Taipei
- 2010 *Infinity of Chi: Retrospective of Hsiao Chin*, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung 2009
Hsiao Chin. In-finite journey 1955-2008, Bovisa Triennial (Triennale Bovisa), Milan

- 2008 *Retrospective Exhibition*, University of Parma (Università di Parma), Parma 2006
Glory to the Source, Hsiao Chin 1955-2005, National Art Museum of China, Beijing
- 2005 *Hsiao-Chin 1954-2004 – A Journey Back to the Source*, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou
Hsiao-Chin 1954-2004 – A Journey Back to the Source, Zhongshan Museum of Art, Zhongshan
Retrospective Exhibition, Civic Museum of Villa Colloredo Mels (Museo Civico Villa Colloredo Mels), Recanati
Retrospective Exhibition, Acquaviva Palace (Palazzo Acquaviva), Atri
- 2004 *The Journey of Hsiao Chin's Painting 1958-2004*, Shanghai Art Museum (now renamed as China Art Museum), Shanghai
- 2003 *Solo Exhibition*, Leda Fletcher Gallery (Galerie Leda Fletcher), Geneva
March to the New World: 2003 Hsiao Chin Touring Exhibition, Taiwan, presented by National Culture and Arts Foundation, Taiwan
- 2002 *1958-2002: Retrospective Exhibition of Paintings*, Marconi Studio (Studio Marconi), Milan
Exhibition of Large-size Paintings, Mudima Foundation (Fondazione Mudima), Milan
1958-2000: Retrospective Exhibition of Works on Paper, Lattuada Gallery (Galleria Lattuada), Milan
Ceramic Sculpture Artworks, Oberdan Space (Spazio Oberdan), Milan
- 1998 Il Ponte Gallery (Galleria Il Ponte), Florence Di Meo Gallery (Galerie Di Meo), Paris
1958-1998: Retrospective Exhibition, Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt Institute (Institut Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt), Darmstadt
- 1997 *Gathering Force: From Passage through the Great Threshold to Birth of the New World*, Dimensions Art Centre, Taipei 1996
Journey of Life, Dimension Endowment of Art Foundation, Taipei
- 1995 *Hsiao Chin: the Odyssey, 1953-1994*, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei
- 1992 *Retrospective Exhibition*, Taiwan Provincial Museum of Art (now renamed as National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts), Taichung
- 1990 Punto Gallery (Galería Punto), Valencia
A. Peola Gallery (Galleria A. Peola), Turin
University of Macerata (Università di Macerata), Macerata
HSIAO CHIN 30 Retrospective Exhibition, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu
H. Feldmann Gallery (Galerie H. Feldmann), Bern Contemporary Art Gallery, Taichung 1989
La Chiocciola Gallery (Galleria La Chiocciola), Padua Lung Men Art Gallery, Taipei
Contemporary Art Gallery, Taichung
- 1988 *30-year Retrospective Exhibition: 1958-1988*, Marconi Studio (Studio Marconi), Milan 1987
Alisan Fine Arts, Hong Kong
- 1986 Nikolaj Contemporary Art Centre (Nikolaj Kunsthal), Copenhagen Mercato del Sale Gallery (Galleria Mercato del Sale), Milan
AM Niemeyer Gallery (Galería AM Niemeyer), Rio de Janeiro
- 1985 University of Messina (Università degli Studi di Messina), Messina
HSIAO CHIN Solo Exhibition - CHI, The Hong Kong Institute for Promotion of Chinese Culture, Hong Kong Punto Gallery (Galería Punto), Valencia
Waterland Museum (Museum Waterland), Purmerend
HSIAO CHIN - WALASSE TING, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei

- 1984 Marconi Studio (Studio Marconi), Milan
- 1981 Apollo Art Gallery, Taipei
Pancheri Gallery (Galleria Pancheri), Rovereto
- 1980 Ideogram Gallery (Galleria Ideogramma), Turin
HSIAO CHIN Exhibition, Printmakers Art Gallery, Taipei
- 1979 Municipal Gallery of Macerata (Pinacoteca Comunale di Macerata), Macerata
- 1978 National Museum of History, Taipei Lung Men Art Gallery, Taipei
Kandinsky Gallery (Galería Kandinsky), Madrid
- 1977 Palace of Tourism (Palazzo del Turismo), Marconi Studio (Studio Marconi), and Zarathustra Gallery (Galleria Zarathustra), Milan
- 1976 Punto Gallery (Galería Punto), Valencia
- 1975 Municipal Museum of Modern Art (Museo Civico d'Arte Moderna), Modena Palace of Diamond (Palazzo dei Diamanti), Ferrara
- 1974 Beaubourg Gallery (Galerie Beaubourg), Paris
- 1973 Schubert Gallery (Galleria Schubert), Milan
- 1972 T. Brechbuhl Gallery (Galerie T. Brechbühl), Grenchen
- 1971 Gallery of Modern Art (Galleria d'Arte Moderna), Gaeta
- 1970 Orez Gallery (Galerie Orez), The Hague Fonke Gallery (Galerie Fonke), Gent Marconi Studio (Studio Marconi), Milan
Sant'Andrea Gallery (Galleria Sant'Andrea), Milan
- 1969 Marconi Studio (Studio Marconi), Milan Senatore Gallery (Galerie Senatore), Stuttgart
- 1968 The Pollock Gallery, Toronto
L. Stevens Gallery, Detroit
- 1967 T. Brechbuhl Gallery (Galerie T. Brechbühl), Grenchen Wirth Gallery (Galerie Wirth), Berlin
Marconi Studio (Studio Marconi), Milan Rose Fried Gallery, New York
- 1966 Il Canale Gallery (Galleria Il Canale), Venice Falazik Gallery (Galerie Falazik), Bochum
- 1965 Maribor Museum (Muzej Maribor), Maribor
- 1964 International Gallery of Contemporary Art (Galerie Internationale d'Art Contemporain), Paris Ariete Gallery (Galleria Ariete), Milan
- 1962 S. Luca Gallery (Galleria S. Luca), Rome
- 1961 Trastevere Gallery (Galleria Trastevere), Rome
S. Matteo Gallery (Galleria S. Matteo), Genoa HILT Gallery (Galerie HILT), Basel
Salone Annunciata Gallery (Galleria Salone Annunciata), Milan Dorekens Gallery (Galerie Dorekens), Antwerp
- 1960 Senatore Gallery (Galerie Senatore), Stuttgart
- 1959 Numero Gallery (Galleria Numero), Florence
Il Cavallino Gallery (Galleria Il Cavallino), Venice
- 1958 Fernando Fe' Gallery (Galería Fernando Fe'), Madrid
- 1957 Mataró Fine Arts Museum (Museo Municipal de Mataró), Mataró

Group Exhibitions

- 2023 *3812 Gallery Artists*, The Treasure House Fair, London
As Water, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2022 *Parallelism of Tao & Tao of Parallelism*, Qiongliu Gallery, Beijing
Spirit and Landscape, 3812 Gallery, London *Masterpiece London Art Fair*, London *Blessings*, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2018 *Pulse / Thread*, Artists Group Exhibition, 2018 ART TAIPEI, Taipei World Trade Centre, Taipei
HSIA Yan and His Times, Eslite Gallery, Taipei
- 2017 *From China to Taiwan: The First Avant-Garde Abstract 1955-1985 Exhibition*, Museum of Ixelles (Musée d'Ixelles), Brussels
- 2016 *3812 Artists Group Exhibition*, Fine Art Asia 2016, HKCEC, Hong Kong Summer Show
Artists Group Exhibition, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2014 *Abstract/Symbol/Oriental*, Exhibition of Taiwan's Masters of Modern Art, Liang Gallery, Taipei
- 2012 *Abstract art in Taiwan*, Taipei Fine Art Museum, Taipei
- 2007 *V Premio Internazionale Biennale d'Incisione*, Contemporary and 1900s Art Museum (Museo di Arte Contemporanea e del Novecento), Monsummano Terme
- 2005 *Identità e diversità*, Contemporary Art Museum, Moscow
- 2004 *Identità e diversità*, Medici Riccardi Palace (Palazzo Medici Riccardi), Florence
- 2000 *7th Biennale Architettura*, Taiwan Pavilion, Venice Biennial (La Biennale di Venezia), Venice
- 1998 *15th National Art Exhibition of the ROC*, Taipei
98 Shanghai Art Biennial, Shanghai Art Museum (now renamed as China Art Museum) and Liu Haisu Art Museum, Shanghai
1st International Ink Painting Biennial, Guan Shanyue Art Museum, Shenzhen
- 1997 *Memory of Ton-Fan Group*, Taipei
- 1996 *Due secoli di Incisione*, Brera Academy (Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera), Milan
- 1995 *L'informale - Materia-Gesto-Segno*, Municipal Museum of Modern Art (Civica Galleria d'Arte Moderna di Gallarate), Gallarate
Anni 90 - Arte a Milano, Milan
- 1991 *Colore e Segno nella Materia*, Varese
35th Anniversary Joint Exhibition of Ton-Fan & Fifth Moon Groups, Taipei
- 1990 *Italian Contemporary Arts*, Taiwan Provincial Museum of Art (now renamed as National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts), Taichung
1989-1993, 1990-1995, 1991, 1994 & 1988
International Shakti Exhibitions, Copenhagen, Aarhus, Gallarate and Milan Contemporary Italian Artists, Art Palace, Moscow
- 1987 *Contemporary Chinese Painting*, Hong Kong City Hall, Hong Kong
30th International Biennial Print Exhibition, Milan
- 1986 *Itinerari d'arte Contemporanea*, Lisbon and Porto

1985, 1987 & 1989

2nd, 3rd, 4th International Biennial Print Exhibition, Taipei

1985 *XIII Premio Nazionale Arti Visive Città di Gallarate, Gallarate*

1984 *7th Norwegian International Print Biennial, Fredrikstad*

1983 *Italian Art, Berlin*

3rd Biennial of European Graphic Art, Baden-Baden

Rigori Astratti della Ragione e Fantasia del Concreto, Ganna

1982 *Omaggio a P. Matteo Ricci degli artisti cinesi, Macerata*

The Chinese response - Paintings by Leading Overseas Artists, Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong

1981 *25th Anniversary Joint Exhibition of Ton-Fan & Fifth Moon Groups, Taipei*

1980 *Contemporary International Original Prints Exhibition, Taipei*

1978-79 *Ancient Heritage, New Directions, New York*

1978- *Exhibition Surya, Milan and Macerata*

Grafica '78 Internazionale, Messina

1977 *X Quadriennale Nazionale d'arte, Rome*

Grafici Italiani Contemporanei, Ljubljana

1975 *Momenti e Tendenze del Costruttivismo, Milan*

1974 *Asia Oggi - Rassegna di Grafica Contemporanea, Milan*

1971 *Italian Painting, Dublin and Belfast*

1970 *III Salon International de Galeries Pilotes, Lausanne and Paris*

1969 *IX Festival de arte '69', Cali*

1966 *Musische Geometrie, Arts Society of Hannover (Kunstverein Hannover), Hannover*

1965 *VI Mostra Internazionale di Grafica, Ljubljana*

1964 *International Triennial of Colored Graphic Prints, Grenchen*

III° premio Scipione nazionale di pittura, Macerata

1963 *Chinesische Künstler der Gegenwart, Municipal Museum (Städtisches Museum), Leverkusen*

Art Contemporain, Great Palace (Grand Palais), Paris

The 7th São Paulo Art Biennial, Sao Paulo

1961 *The Pittsburgh International Exhibition, Pittsburgh*

Grand Prix de peinture et sculpture, Monte Carlo

1960 *International Malerei 1960-61, Eisenbach*

1957- 59 *The 1st, 2nd and 3rd May Salon, Barcelona*

1957 *Jazz Salon, Barcelona*

Public/Corporate Collections

A. Calderara Foundation (Fondazione A. Calderara), Vacciago Antonio
Mazzotta Foundation (Fondazione Antonio Mazzotta), Milan Art Gallery
of Ontario, Toronto
Art Society of Dusseldorf (Kunstverein Düsseldorf), Dusseldorf Cantonal
Museum of Fine Arts (Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts), Lausanne China Art
Museum, Shanghai
Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit
Dimension Endowment of Art Foundation, Taipei Fogg
Art Museum, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Gallery of Modern Art of San Marino (Galleria d'Arte Moderna di San Mari- no), City of San Marino Guangdong
Museum of Art, Guangzhou
Guimet National Museum of Asian Art (Musée national des arts asiatiques Guimet), Paris Haus Lange
Museum (Museum Haus Lange), Krefeld
Historic Centre of Visual Art of the University of Parma (Centro Storico d'Ar- te Visiva dell' Università di Parma), Parma Hong Kong
Museum of Art, Hong Kong
Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung Long
Museum, Shanghai
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
MGM Cotai Chairman's Collection, Macau M+
Museum, Hong Kong
Municipal Museum and University of Macerata (Galleria Civica e Università di Macerata), Macerata Municipal
Museum of Cagliari (Galleria Civica di Cagliari), Cagliari
Municipal Museum of Gibellina (Galleria Civica di Gibellina), Gibellina
Municipal Museum of Marsala (Galleria Civica di Marsala), Marsala
Municipal Museum of Art (Museo Civico d'Arte), Modena
Municipal Museum (Städtisches Museum), Bochum
Municipal Museum (Städtisches Museum), Leverkusen
Monchengladbach Museum of Brindisi (Museo Brindisi), Brindisi
Museum of Contemporary Art (Museo de Arte Contemporáneo), Vilafames
Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona (Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona), Barcelona Museum of
Contemporary Art, Skopje
Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Museo d'Arte Moderna e Con- temporanea), San Gimigna-no Museum
of Modern Art, New York
National Art Museum of China, Beijing
National Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art (Galleria Nazionale d'Ar- te Moderna e Contempora-nea), Rome National
Library of Wales, Aberystwyth National Museum of History,
Song Museum, Beijing
Taipei National Museum of Wales, Cardiff National
Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung New York Public
Library, New York
Palace of Diamond (Palazzo dei Diamanti), Ferrara
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia Randers
Museum of Art (Randers Kunstmuseum),
Randers Rose Art Museum, Waltham, Massachusetts

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