

## MARK ROTHKO ART CENTRE TO PRESENT MAJOR RETROSPECTIVE BY ABSTRACT ARTIST HSIAO CHIN IN HIS 85<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 marked the 85<sup>th</sup> birthday of renowned abstract artist **Hsiao Chin**. A leading figure in Post-War European and Chinese Art, Hsiao Chin spent much of his life in Europe and is celebrated as the only Chinese artist to establish a modern European art movement, the influential **Punto International Art Movement**. He has gained international recognition for his unique paintings, which fuse motifs and techniques from the East and West to create a language of spiritual painting for a commodified world. He was a friend to leading artists such as Lucio Fontana and Antoni Tàpies and his work can be found in major collections around the world, ranging from New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art to M+ in Hong Kong.



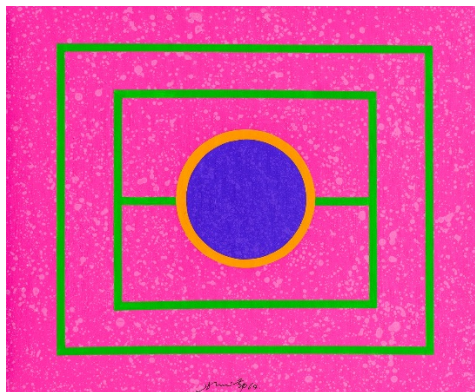
Hsiao Chin, *Painting - AO, 1959*, Oil on canvas, 65 x 55cm

To celebrate the artist's milestone year a major retrospective entitled ***In my beginning is my end: the art of Hsiao Chin*** will open at the Mark Rothko Art Centre in Latvia, running from 31st July until 23rd October 2020. This significant exhibition will present Hsiao Chin alongside the permanent collection of Mark Rothko paintings, exploring for the first time how the two artists' ideas and practices converged throughout the 1960s, both working to forge a language of spiritual abstraction. The Mark Rothko Art Centre is the only place outside North America where Rothko's paintings are on permanent display and are exhibited in the historic arsenal building, located in the artist's hometown, Daugavpils.



Hsiao Chin, *Crouch*, 1961, Acrylic and Ink on canvas, 140 x 110cm

*In my beginning is my end: the art of Hsiao Chin* will showcase Hsiao Chin's six-decade oeuvre, featuring over 30 artworks from 1959 onwards. Highlights will include Hsiao Chin's vibrant large-scale works *Universe Vibration* (1965) and *La Vibrazione del Sole* (1965), examples of the artist's hard-edged paintings created during his time in the US and *Blue Introspection* (2007-2018), a unique abstract, glass mosaic.



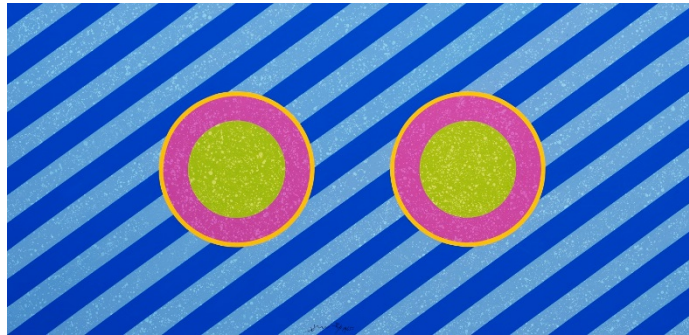
Hsiao Chin, *Latent*, 1964, Acrylic on canvas, 90 x 110cm



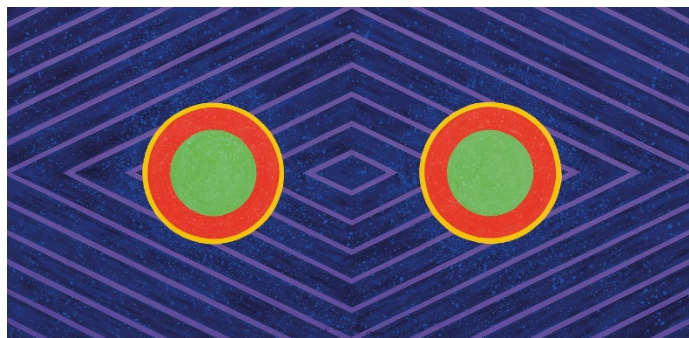
Hsiao Chin, *Heavenly Secret*, 1965, Acrylic on canvas, 60 x 70cm

**Philip Dodd, Curator said** 'A Chinese artist at the heart of the 60s European avant-garde: Hsiao Chin's career and his wildly inventive paintings challenge most categories. His peers may appear to be the Italian Lucio Fontana and the American Kenneth Noland - but in his search for a language of painting that can incarnate spiritual experiences, the only comparable painter of the time is Mark Rothko - which makes holding Hsiao Chin's retrospective in Mark Rothko's hometown museum so compelling. As an interest in spirituality and art surfaces again, Hsiao Chin's practice feels exemplary and his mix of European and Asian art profoundly timely.'

Hsiao Chin was part of a group of Chinese artists that settled in Europe in the 1950s, also including figures such as Zao Wou-ki, who subsequently had a profound impact on the development of an Asian inflected European modernism. Living first in Spain before settling in Milan, Italy, where he resided for half a century, Hsiao Chin travelled extensively throughout Europe and the United States. He was supported by and supported Lucio Fontana and associated with the leading artists of the period including Joan Miró, Antoni Tápies and Piero Manzoni, as well as the American Abstract Expressionists Willem De Kooning, Robert Rauschenberg, Sam Francis and Mark Rothko.



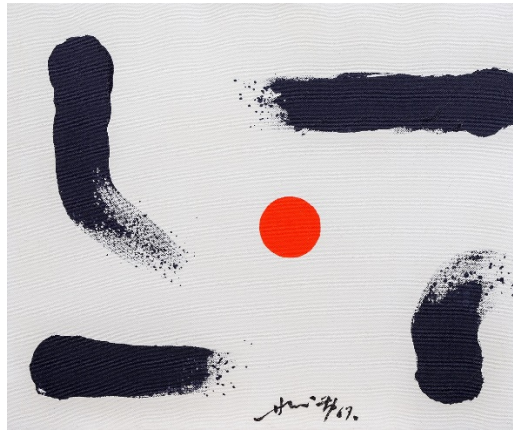
Hsiao Chin, *Universer Vibration*, 1965, Acrylic on canvas, 140 x 290cm



Hsiao Chin, *La Vibrazione del Sole (The Vibration of Sun)*, 1965, Acrylic on canvas, 140 x 290cm

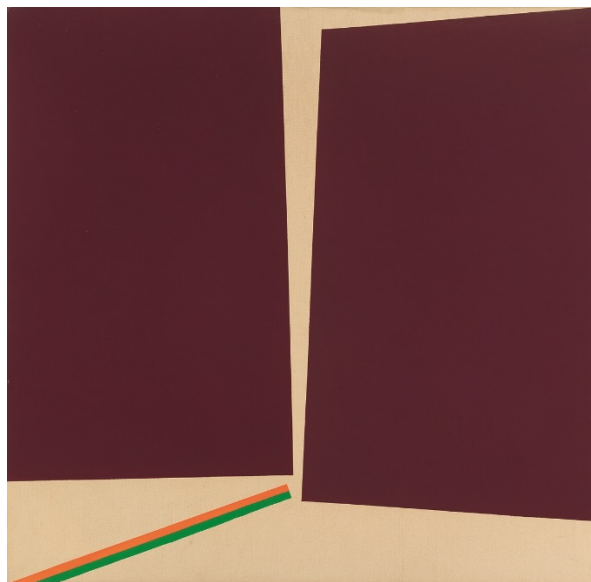
Hsiao Chin is the only Chinese artist to have launched a major international avant-garde movement, the Punto Movement, established in 1961 in Milan with co-founders Antonio Calderara and Azuma Kenjiro. Punto was inspired by an Eastern philosophical worldview and advocated the notion that art should be a means of meditation and introspection. Hsiao Chin organised thirteen Punto exhibitions held across Europe and Asia from 1961 to 1966, which brought together twenty-six artists from eleven countries, including and influencing artists from the Zero Group and Op Art.

Hsiao Chin has been the subject of significant retrospectives at Musée national des arts asiatiques Guimet in Paris and Fondazione Marconi, Italy, among others. His works can be found in international collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art (USA), Museum of Modern Art (USA) Philadelphia Museum of Art (USA), Shanghai Art Museum (China), Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna (Italy), Staatsgalerie Stuttgart (Germany), M+ Museum (Hong Kong) and more.



Hsiao Chin, *Energy of Movement*, 1967, Acrylic on canvas, 50 x 60cm

*In my beginning is my end: the art of Hsiao Chin* is curated by Philip Dodd, writer, broadcaster and former Director of London's ICA. It will be the **latest programme of "Distinguished international abstract artist series"** presented by **Mark Rothko Art Centre**, which has previously included Gillian Ayres and Terry Frost. A catalogue of the exhibition will be available, featuring an introductory essay by **art historian and critic Richard Cork**.

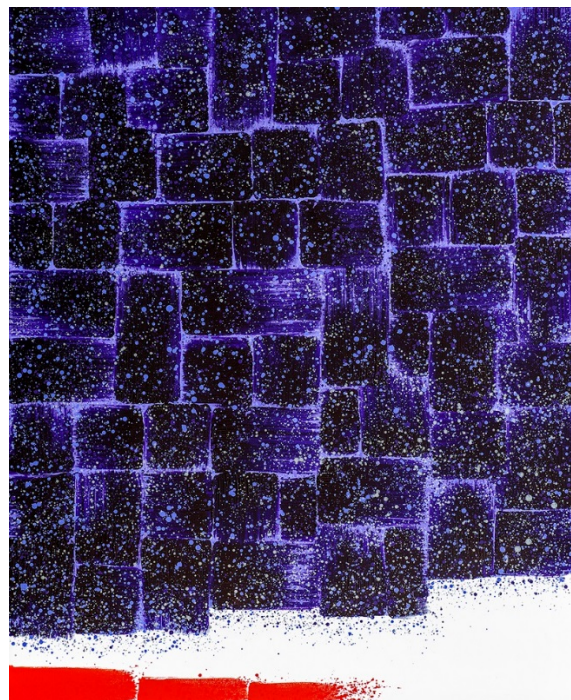


Hsiao Chin, *Tension-VI*, 1968, Acrylic on canvas, 86.5 x 88.5cm

This is the first exhibition in a year-long international programme celebrating Hsiao Chin in his 85<sup>th</sup> year. The programme will also include solo presentations at 3812 Gallery and at the gallery's inaugural display at Masterpiece Art Fair in London, alongside major museum exhibitions in Beijing and Kaohsiung, more details of which will be announced later this year.



Hsiao Chin, *Great Chinese Dragon*, 1985, Acrylic on canvas, 130 x 160cm



Hsiao Chin, *Samadhi-23*, 2000, Acrylic on canvas, 160 x 130.4 cm



Hsiao Chin, *Communion*, 2010, Acrylic on canvas, 160 x 130cm



Hsiao Chin, *Light of Divinity-16*, 2017, Acrylic on canvas, 110 x 180cm

### **Further 2020 Programme Highlights**

**3812 Gallery, London, UK**  
**23rd July – 24th October 2020**

3812, the leading gallery for Chinese contemporary art in London will display a new exhibition of specially selected paintings by Hsiao Chin. This will be Hsiao Chin's first solo exhibition in London since 1966. Set over two levels, visitors to the gallery will be able to explore the breadth of the artist's work, with an overview of his extensive career as a master of abstract art.

**Calvin Hui, Founder, 3812 Gallery said** 'As one of the first Asian artists to advocate the infusion of Eastern spirituality into abstract art in Europe when the art world was very much led by the West, Hsiao's contribution has undoubtedly left an important mark in art history. Following recent market interest in his work including a dedicated private sale at Sotheby's Hong Kong last year, we at 3812 Gallery are delighted to host Hsiao's first exhibition in London since 1966.'



3812 Gallery London

**Masterpiece Online**  
**22 – 28 June 2020**

3812 Gallery will participate at Masterpiece Art Fair in London in 2020 for the first time, with a presentation dedicated to Hsiao Chin. This will showcase influential paintings from throughout the artist's career.

**MASTERPIECE**  
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Masterpiece London

***Hsiao Chin and Punto: Mapping Post-War Avant-Garde* by Unicorn Publishing**

A new monograph, *Hsiao Chin and Punto: Mapping Post-War Avant-Garde* focused on Hsiao Chin and his immense contribution to the development of avant-garde art as a founder of the Punto Movement, will be published in May 2020.



Published by Unicorn Publishing

**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.