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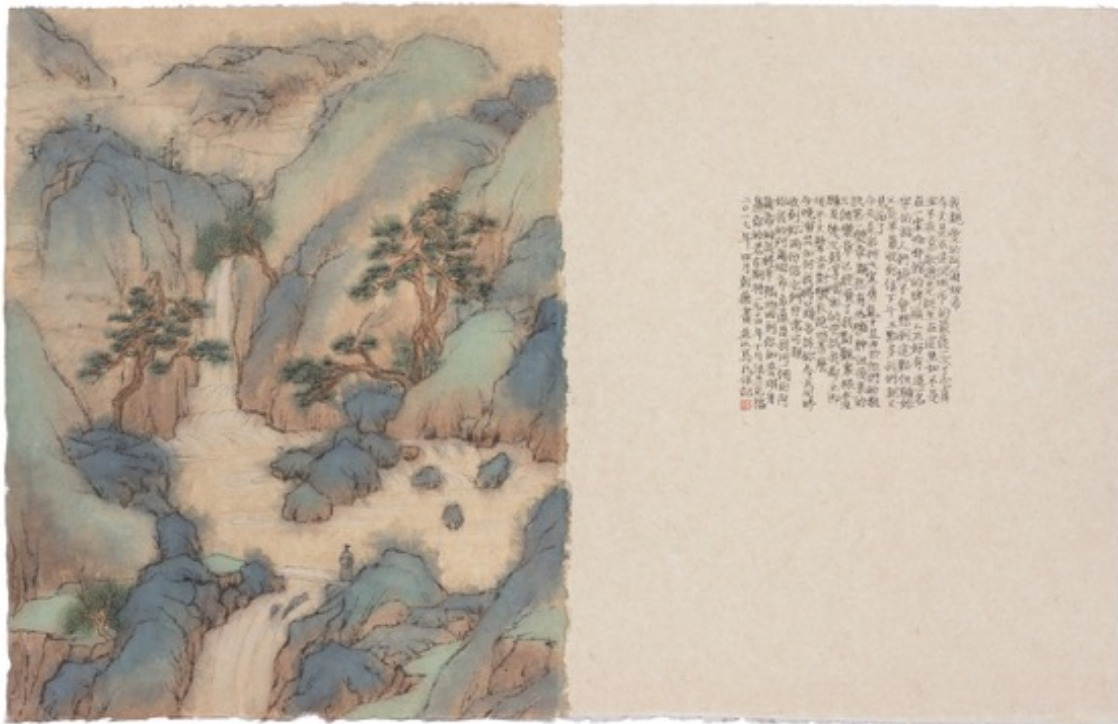
“Migrations of Memory” – Galerie Ora-Ora and Peng Wei at Volta13, Basel, CH

(Hong Kong – May 24, 2017)

Hong Kong-based **Galerie Ora-Ora** presents a collection of new paintings by acclaimed Chinese artist **Peng Wei** for **Volta13** in June 2017. The artist has been the subject of solo shows including Art Basel Hong Kong and the National Museum of History in Taipei.

In this exhibition, Peng Wei creates scenes of delicate harmony and subtle disruption, juxtaposing the private letters of western composers with Chinese landscapes to create works of deep insight, human empathy and wry humour.

With the musical accompaniment of Mongolian melody, “Wild Geese Descending on Sandbars,” the arrangement of letters and paintings on music stands creates an environment in which visitors may contemplate the rift between public appearance and private frailties.



Migrations of Memory No. 5, 2017, Rice paper, plain painting, 60 x 38 cm

From *Migrations of Memory No. 5*:

“I took absolutely no notice of the audience, and when someone timidly attempted to applaud, I muttered something under my breath to the orchestra.”

- Gustav Mahler to Alma Mahler / Frankfurt / December 1903
(From *Gustav Mahler: Letters to His Wife*)

The long flight of the geese becomes a metaphor for the composers' spirit, and for the exiles and reunions of life itself. In Galerie Ora-Ora's booth, Beethoven, Chopin, John Lennon, Gustav Mahler, Mozart, Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky all feature. Each visitor will have cause to re-examine their own sense of time, greatness, and our individual vulnerabilities.

About Galerie Ora-Ora

Galerie Ora-Ora is research-based and future-focused. We discover and develop talent; we are dedicated to building success on wide horizons. Our artists are thoughtful innovators whose passions collide with the world we inhabit. Our artists take us in surprising, sometimes challenging new directions, and we embrace this dynamic momentum. Where possible, we develop alliances and partnerships with institutions globally to enable discovery of our artists in fresh environments.

Galerie Ora-Ora is based in Hong Kong and was established over ten years ago. Henrietta Tsui-Leung, the gallery's co-founder, is also co-founder of the Hong Kong Art Gallery Association. Henrietta has been a prime mover in the story of contemporary ink, and has propelled selected Chinese artists towards an Asian and global audience.



Migrations of Memory No. 2, 2017, Rice paper, plain painting, 60 x 38 cm

From *Migrations of Memory No. 2*:

“My musical and unmusical papers are now almost in order; it was one of the seven labors of Hercules!”

- Ludwig von Beethoven to Frau Nanette Streicher / 1817 (From *Beethoven's Letters*)

About Galerie Ora-Ora at Volta13

Galerie Ora Ora is delighted to be taking part in Volta's "Lucky 13" fair in Basel, Switzerland, concurrent with Art Basel week. Further to Volta's mission to be "a globally conscious fair for artistic discovery," we believe that Volta's solo focus allows for a considered, meaningful encounter between visitor and artist. Representing the only Chinese artist at the fair, we look forward to presenting alternate historical and emotional perspectives to both existing and new collectors.

About Peng Wei

Born in Chengdu in 1974 into a family of painters, Peng Wei's dexterous, patient wielding of the ink brush and her holistic craftsmanship have won huge acclaim internationally and a devoted collector base.

Working with the tradition-rich media of ink and paper, Peng Wei remarks: "I attempt to separate myself from tradition using the most traditional means possible."

Peng Wei embraces past and present as a single entity. Reaching across the ages, as if only the Now exists, she is able to combine classical Chinese motifs with unexpected contexts and historical situations, producing an output which is somehow ancient and timeless. Simultaneously unique, personal and yet amplifying historic philosophies, Peng Wei seeks "to show how the Chinese concepts of time, the past and the present are different from those of the west."

In this exhibition, Peng Wei creates scenes of harmony and subtle disruption, juxtaposing the innermost thoughts of western composers with the Chinese landscape to create works of deep insight, human empathy and wry humour. She surprises, delights and fascinates in equal measure.

Peng Wei has exhibited in many major group exhibitions, including *Cha-Na—Contemporary Ink Show*, Art Basel Hong Kong, Galerie Ora-Ora, *Two Generations: Ink Art by Peng Xiancheng & Peng Wei*, Sotheby's Hong Kong, Gallery, START Art Fair in London and *Real Life Stories: The Chinese Contemporary Art Exhibition* at The Bergen Art Museum in Norway. Other group exhibitions since 2003 took place in cities as diverse as Berlin, Bern, Copenhagen, Guangzhou, Suzhou and Yokahama.

Prior to Volta13, other solo exhibitions included: *I thought of You*, Suzhou Museum, Contemporary Art Gallery in 2016, *Coming Full Circle: Peng Wei Solo Exhibition* at National Museum of History in Taipei (2015), *Letters from a Distance* at Art Basel Hong Kong, Galerie Ora-Ora in 2014. Solo exhibitions in Beijing include: *Peng Wei's Painting Installation Exhibition*, Opposite House, Beijing, China and *Paper Skin*, Artside Gallery, Beijing, China, both in 2009.

Her works have been collected by the National Art Museum of China, the Hong Kong Museum of Art, the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, the Guangdong Art Museum, the He Xiangning Art Museum, the M+ Museum, the Uli Sigg Collection, the DSL Collection and many more.



Migrations of Memory No.3, 2017, Rice paper, plain painting, 60 x 38 cm

From *Migrations of Memory No. 3*:

“How on earth could you think, or even imagine, that I had forgotten you? How could I possibly do so? For even supposing such a thing, you will get on the very first night a thorough spanking on your dear little kissable arse, and this you may count upon.”

- Mozart to his wife / Berlin / May 19, 1789 (From *The Letters of Mozart to His Family*)

Peng Wei at Volta13 – The Concept

The visitor to Galerie Ora-Ora's booth at Volta13 will find an alluring, bi-sensory and emotionally disconcerting endeavour. Peng Wei has constructed a visitor experience which unites art with music.

Private letters rest on music stands around the room. Written confessions of Beethoven, Chopin, John Lennon, Gustav Mahler, Mozart, Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky are exposed to the visitor.

These letters are in Peng Wei's calligraphy, paired with beautifully depicted classical landscapes. Each painting is arranged and executed as a response to the letter it accompanies.

For the visitor, this is the forum to discover the solace that may be found in the shared pain of others. Peng Wei's painting will be the moderator at a meeting of troubled souls, a shared platform of doubts, admissions and confidences.

Immersed in the classic melody of "Wild Geese Descending on Sandbars," the viewer will contemplate the human frailties of these great men: Mozart's anticipation of playing with his wife's hair, Shostakovich's alarm at having offended a friend, Mahler's querulousness before his audience, and John Lennon's annoyance at a begging letter.

The letters raise more questions than they answer – they often highlight confusions, misunderstandings, misapprehensions. Peng Wei's playfulness revels in these interpersonal misfirings.

This juxtaposition of the heroic with the frail creates a void at its centre. This void creates a theatre of movement for the artist and for ourselves; what are our frailties? If our WhatsApp messages and emails were read out loud before our peers, what would the world discover about us?

Here, at Volta13, Galerie Ora-Ora brings the visitor to the edge of the chasm between what we are and what the world expects us to be.

"Migrations of Memory"

The ancient Mongolian melody of "Wild Geese Descending on Sandbars" is the musical accompaniment to the exhibition.

The spirit of these composers may be compared to that of wild geese, their dreams and reputations almost infinite in range and ambition. Wild geese are migratory birds, flying thousands of miles from north to south. The subject of poems in the Wei and Jin dynasties (4th Century AD), ancient literati cited them as spiritual symbols of autumn scenery, denoting long journeys, parting, exile and reunion. In the poem written by Tang dynasty poet Du Fu, wild geese also represent family, friendship, and letters between friends.

Writing his *Mengxi Bitan (Dream Pool Essays)* in the Song dynasty, Shen Kuo chose his eight most picturesque scenes of Xiaoxiang, a region located in modern-day Hunan Province, China. His evocation of wild geese descending on sandbars is the most famous scene among the eight.

Ancient Chinese poets typically practised painting and music alongside writing. Thus, the theme of wild geese descending on sandbars would feature in all three: melody, poetry and art. The theme is not only visually symbolic, but also emotional. Chinese artists regard themselves as birds, of which wild geese are the most wide-ranging and poetic.

Our title “Migrations of Memory” is inspired by remembrance of those whose spirit echoes that of the wild geese.

Galerie Ora-Ora will be at Booth C10 at Volta13, Markthalle, Basel, Switzerland from June 12 to June 17, 2017. For questions for the artist, please contact the gallery.



Migrations of Memory No. 9, 2017, Rice paper, plain painting, 60 x 38 cm

From Migrations of Memory No. 9:

“On 13 April I drank too much, fell asleep and almost missed the train”

- Dmitry Shostakovich to Isaak Glikman / Moscow / April 14, 1963
(From *Story of a Friendship: The Letters of Dmitry Shostakovich to Isaak Glikman*)

Media enquiries, please contact:

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Ora-Ora

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How to Find Us: Galerie Ora-Ora at Volta13 2017

The co-ordinates of Galerie Ora-Ora at Volta13 are as follows:

LOCATION

BOOTH C10
MARKTHALLE, Viaduktstrasse 10, CH-4051, Basel

PREVIEW + PUBLIC OPENING DAY

Monday, June 12
Guest of Honour Preview – 10am to 12pm
VIP / Press Preview – 12pm to 2pm
Public Vernissage – 2pm to 7pm

GENERAL OPENING HOURS

Tuesday, June 13 – 10am to 7pm
Wednesday, June 14 – 10am to 7pm
Thursday, June 15 – 10am to 7pm
Friday, June 16 – 10am to 7pm
Saturday, June 17 – 10am to 7pm

Closed on Sunday

PENG WEI**BIOGRAPHY**

1974	Born in Chengdu, China
1997	Bachelor degree of Chinese Painting major, Oriental Cultural Art, Nankai University
2000	Master degree of Philosophy, People's College of Fine Arts, Nankai University
2000 – 2006	Editor, Art Magazine in Beijing
2006 – Current	Top Rank Professional Artist, Beijing Fine Art Academy Member of the China Fine Arts Association

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2016	"I thought of You," Suzhou Museum, Contemporary Art Gallery
2015	"Coming Full Circle: Peng Wei Solo Exhibition", Tina Keng Gallery, National Museum of History, Taipei
2014	"Letters from a Distance: Art Basel Hong Kong", Galerie Ora-Ora, Hong Kong
2013	"Letters from a Distance", Tina Keng Gallery, Taipei
2011	"Molting", He Xiangning Art Museum, Shenzhen, China
2010	"Body & Robe", Tina Keng Gallery, Taipei "Don't Forget Me: Painting Installation Exhibition", Yintai Center, Beijing, China
2009	"Peng Wei's Painting Installation Exhibition", Opposite House, Beijing, China "Paper Skin", Artside Gallery, Beijing, China
2007	"Woven Clouds", Plum Blossoms Gallery, Hong Kong
2004	"Embroidered", Plum Blossoms Gallery, Hong Kong

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2017	"Memory and Contemporaneity" – Venice 2017
2016	"Cha-Na—Contemporary Ink Show", Art Basel Hong Kong, Galerie Ora-Ora, Hong Kong ART021 Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair 2015, Tina Keng Gallery, China
2015	Fine Art Asia 2015, Galerie Ora-Ora, Hong Kong "Two Generations: Ink Art by Peng Xiancheng & Peng Wei", Sotheby's Hong Kong Gallery, Hong Kong Art 15, Galerie Ora-Ora, London, United Kingdom
2014	START Art Fair, Galerie Ora-Ora, London, United Kingdom "Devotion to Ink – Hong Kong Maritime Museum", Hong Kong "Shui Mo: Chinese Contemporary Ink Paintings 2", S2 Gallery, New York, U.S.A.
2013	"Real Life Stories: the Chinese Contemporary Art Exhibition", The Bergen Art Museum, Denmark

- The 8th Shenzhen International Ink Painting Biennial, Guan Shanyue Art Museum, Shenzhen, China
- The 9th National Exhibition of Chinese Hue Art Paintings – National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China
- “Emergence: Work by Contemporary Chinese Women Artists”, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, U.S.A.
- “Shui Mo - Water Ink: Chinese Contemporary Ink Paintings”, Sotheby’s, New York, U.S.A.
- 2012 “Water & Ink once more: 2000-2012 Chinese Contemporary Water & Ink Art Invitation Exhibition”, Hubei Art Museum & Today Art Museum, Wuhan & Beijing, China
- 2012 “Passing Through Memory: Opening Exhibition”, Suzhou Jin Ji Lake Art Museum, Suzhou, China
- 2012 “Sketching the Heart: about Scenery”, Gallery Beijing Space, Beijing, China
- 2012 On The Top of Fashion: The 1st Female Contemporary Art Exhibition the Yue Art Museum, Beijing, China
- 2012 “Water Stains On The Wall: the Carrier of Formation – Contemporary Art Exhibition”, Zhejiang Art Museum, Hangzhou, China
- 2011 “Pure View: 2011 Chengdu Biennale Contemporary Art Exhibition”, Music Park, Chengdu, China
- 2011 “Reflection: Chinese Contemporary Art Exhibition”, Edgar Frei Private Gallery, Bern, Switzerland
- 2011 “Shan Shui: Landscape in Chinese Contemporary Art”, Luzern Art Museum, Luzern, Switzerland
- 2010 The 7th Shenzhen International Ink Painting Biennale, Shenzhen Art Museum, Shenzhen, China
- 2010 “Reshaping History: China art from 2000 to 2009”, Guangdong, Beijing & Shanghai Art Museum, China
- 2009 “Europalia International Arts Festival: Attitudes-Female Art in China”, The European Centre of Contemporary Art Brussels, Belgium
- 2008 “Ink Not as Ink: The Contemporary Chinese Ink Painting Exhibition”, Shenzhen Museum of Art & Philadelphia Museum of Art, Today Art Museum Beijing, China
- 2008 “Hypallage: The Post-Modern Mode of Chinese Contemporary Art”, the OCT Art & Design Museum, Shenzhen, China
- 2008 “New Scene: The Exhibition of Chinese Contemporary Ink Paintings”, Berlin National Museum & Dresden National Art Collection Museum, Germany
- 2008 “Hidden Life Apartment Diary Exhibition”, Lin & Keng Gallery, Beijing, China
- 2006 “Purity & Innocence: Three Chinese Women Artists Exhibition”, Neuhoff Gallery, New York, U.S.A.

- 2005 “Perspective: Century & Heaven: 2005 Chengdu Biennial”, Chengdu, China
The 2nd Beijing International Art Biennial, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China
“Body Heat: International Celebration of Andersen’s 200th Birthday - Chinese Contemporary Art Invitational Exhibition”, Kunsten Museum of Modern Art, Alborg, Denmark
- 2004 The 10th Asian International Art Exhibition, Fukuoka Asia Art Museum, Yokohama, Japan
“New Form – Round 7”, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
“Dot-Radiation & Far-Reaching-Vision Expression from Paper & Ink”, National Art Museum of Malaysia, Malaysia
- 2003 The Second National Chinese Paintings Exhibition, National Museum of China, Beijing, China
The First Beijing International Art Biennial, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China

COLLECTED BY

- The National Art Museum of China
The Hong Kong Museum of Art
The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco
The Guangdong Art Museum
The He Xiangning Art Museum
The M+ Museum
The Uli Sigg Collection
The DSL Collection
Private Collectors