

即時發佈

斯蒂芬·索普個展:「森處一角」



斯蒂芬·索普，《The Light Needs the Shadow》，2022

布面油畫

152.4 x 132 cm

(圖片由藝術家和 Ora-Ora 提供)

香港——2022 年 11 月 9 日，Ora-Ora 非常榮幸地宣佈為出生於英國及駐美國的藝術家斯蒂芬·索普（Stephen Thorpe）舉辦全新個展，展覽主題為「森處一角」（Enter the Forest at the Darkest Point）。展覽主題來源於美國神話學家兼作家約瑟夫·坎伯（Joseph Campbell）的一句話，他敦促我們「在最黑暗的地方進入森林，那裡無路可走。」通過這樣做，我們領悟到美籍詩人羅伯特·佛洛斯特（Robert Frost）所說的「很少有人走過的路，我們學會通過不斷的內在死亡和重生的過程來找到最真實的自己」這句話的意義。這次展覽將於 2022 年 11 月 24 日至 2023 年 1 月 8 日期間，展示藝術家在今年夏天的全新創作。

斯蒂芬曾在薩凡納藝術設計學院（Savannah College of Art and Design）香港分校擔任藝術教授多年，是次他帶著新作中廣受好評的「角落」繪畫回到香港展出。這將是藝術家首次以整體的、沉浸式的方法去呈現他的創作成果。在色彩豐富的牆壁和藝術家獨家設計的壁紙圖案包圍下，這些「角畫」像是在質疑我們自己的內在和我們自己的精神空間。

用 Ora-Ora 聯合創辦人及行政總裁梁徐錦熹博士的話來說：「斯蒂芬·索普的室內創作是探索我們真實自我的史詩之旅。展覽『森處一角』將冒險精神與未知探索進一步提高，上演一部森林的原始戲劇。」梁徐錦熹博士還表示：「斯蒂芬·索普是一位令人興奮的人才，他的作品在我們的收藏家中非常受歡迎。雖然我們今年已經在香港巴塞爾藝術展和首爾國際藝術博覽會上兩

次展出過斯蒂芬的作品，但我們依然很高興能在我們位於香港中環大館的 Ora-Ora 畫廊空間首次展出他的作品。」

斯蒂芬·索普因其富麗堂皇的室內裝飾而贏得廣泛的讚譽，他創造出一種奇特的景觀並營造出獨特的氛圍感。他不認為角落是一個死胡同，恰恰相反，他認為角落是一種誠實的精神敘事的主要催化劑。在這次展覽中，他參考了歐洲掛毯的高貴傳統，通過大量的細節描繪了哥白林世界（Gobelin world，一個在 15 世紀中製作特色掛毯的法國家庭）所展現出的精緻、繁複的奢華之感，並創造性地將編織圖像從線轉移到繪畫、從牆壁轉移到地板。



斯蒂芬·索普，〈*Primitive Forest Sanctuary of Trial And Initiation*〉（局部），2022

布面油畫

122 x 102 cm

（圖片由藝術家和 Ora-Ora 提供）

斯蒂芬的室內裝飾可以被當作是我們心靈劇場裡的戲劇舞台。然而，在這次展覽中，斯蒂芬借鑒了森林的戲劇性和魅力——無論是想像還是其他方式，這個地方長期以來都是我們需要克服和戰勝對抗力量的一個代名詞。我們面臨的挑戰是控制我們自己，打敗我們內心的邪惡力量。通過這樣做法，我們才能抓住成為真實自我的機會。

在這些作品中，藝術家想起了來自古代的美索不達米亞的傳說，大約在公元前 2700 年的《吉爾伽美什史詩》（*The Epic of Gilgamesh*），這是一部關於英雄傳奇傳統的開創性作品。烏魯克國王吉爾伽美什（Gilgamesh, King of Uruk）第一次與恩奇杜（Enkidu）發生衝突——恩奇杜是眾神為了阻止吉爾伽美什壓迫烏魯克人民而創造的一個野人——吉爾伽美什和恩奇杜經過一場戰鬥之後，兩人成為朋友，並結伴前往傳說中的雪松森林進行了六天旅程，他們計劃在那裡殺死一隻怪物並砍伐一棵神聖的雪松。當恩奇杜被殺後，吉爾伽美什開始了一段漫長且危險的旅程，用以發現永生的秘密。就像斯蒂芬的畫作一樣，這些旅程——無論是進入森林殺死怪物，還是英雄的不朽使命——都是自我發現的故事。

斯蒂芬·索普讓創造性的故事敘述與獨特的繪畫詞彙相匹配，並通過三種顯著的技術表現出來：精細紡織、幹刷地毯；抽象和粘性的色彩平面（呈現為牆壁）；精緻的造型，通過引人入勝的圖形得以展現。其中，乾刷技術的使用效果非常好，它不僅將帆布織物用作繪畫的基礎，還將其作為地毯本身的實際編織物。索普通過使用厚塗顏料的方式來建構自己的「角落」，向包括弗蘭克·奧爾巴赫（Frank Auerbach）、葛哈·李希特（Gerhard Richter）、萊昂·科索夫（Leon Kossoff）等在內的著名藝術家致敬，而這些圖形組件恰好是作品中最具代表性的元素，通常被視為作品的「入口」。

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關於斯蒂芬·索普

斯蒂芬·索普 1981 年出生於英國英格蘭他內區的一個小鎮馬蓋特。他畢業於倫敦皇家藝術學院，獲得繪畫碩士學位，現在是美國薩凡納藝術與設計學院（Savannah College of Art and Design）的繪畫教授，他工作和生活在美國佐治亞州的亞特蘭大市。斯蒂芬·索普以色彩豐富的室內繪畫而聞名，這些繪畫通常包括 20 世紀 80 年代或 90 年代的日常物品。索普的作品是一種對個人和集體潛意識持續且深入的自我分析的視覺表現——卡爾·榮格稱之為「個性化」。簡而言之，房間就是人的心靈。索普的作品呈現出一幅豐富多彩的圖景。正如他所指出的，「這兩個過程——個性化的過程和繪畫的過程——其宗旨都在揭示更深層次的真相和對自己的理解。」斯蒂芬·索普獲得了許多獎項，包括 Basil H. Alkazzi 基金會獎學金、Saatchi's Showdown 獎、蘇格蘭皇家學院的 The Skinny 獎。他的作品被著名的私人藏家和博物館所收藏，並在世界各地舉辦個展和群展，其中包括在紐約的丹尼迪明畫廊、波蘭的格但斯克國家博物館、倫敦的薩奇畫廊、倫敦的科普蘭畫廊、愛丁堡的夏廳藝術博物館、愛丁堡蘇格蘭皇家學院和亞伯丁藝術畫廊等機構舉辦的展覽，以及在 Ora-Ora 2022 年的香港巴塞爾藝術博覽會和 2022 年在首爾舉辦的韓國國際藝術博覽會上亦有作品展出。另外，斯蒂芬·索普的作品也將在今年的邁阿密藝術週（2022 年 12 月）由丹尼迪明畫廊展出。

關於 Ora-Ora

Ora-Ora 2006 年於香港成立，並迅速成為推動創新和開放表達的促進者。我們的藝術家不僅具備嚴謹的學術態度和哲學思維，還富於持久的探索精神。藝術家通過闡釋和重新檢視已有的思想框架，力求以非同尋常的視角觀察周遭世界。Ora-Ora 相信跨界的力量，既尊重古老的傳統，又懷有對最當代、最新穎的藝術媒介的熱情。我們長期培養亞洲創意人才，飽受讚譽，並逐漸發展壯大，代理藝術家來自亞洲、歐洲和美國。我們不斷拓寬視野，與世界各地的機構建立聯盟和夥伴關係，將我們的藝術家推廣至全球各地。

梁徐錦熹博士為 Ora-Ora 創始人，也是香港畫廊協會聯合創始人，該協會在培育香港多元繁榮的藝術生態系統方面發揮了主導作用。

「森處一角」

斯蒂芬·索普個展

2022 年 11 月 24 日至 2023 年 1 月 8 日

Ora-Ora · 香港中環荷李活道 10 號大館 3 座 105-107 室

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For Immediate Release

STEPHEN THORPE: ENTER THE FOREST AT THE DARKEST POINT



Stephen Thorpe
The Light Needs the Shadow, 2022
Oil on canvas
152.4 x 132 cm
Courtesy of artist and Ora-Ora

HONG KONG – November 24, 2022: Ora-Ora is pleased to announce a **new solo exhibition** by UK-born, US-based artist Stephen Thorpe titled ***Enter The Forest at The Darkest Point***.

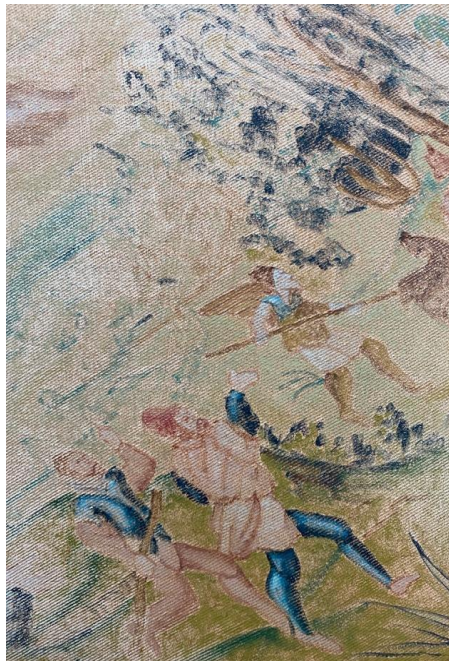
Thorpe's debut US exhibition, *Boundaries of the Soul* (2022), was **hailed by *The New Yorker* for its "clamorously beautiful depictions of interiors."** He now returns to Hong Kong, a city where he taught at Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) as a Professor of Painting for several years, with a new body of work – this time featuring solely his acclaimed "corner" paintings. Thorpe laboured over them in the summer of 2022, immediately following his **sell-out New York show**. This will be the first time the artist presents this aspect of his practice in a holistic, immersive manner. Surrounded by richly-coloured walls and an enticing wall graphic motif designed exclusively by the artist, the corner paintings question the concept of our own interiority, our own psychic space.

The title of the exhibition is drawn from a quote by US mythologist and writer Joseph Campbell, who urges us to "enter the forest at the darkest point, where there is no path." In so doing, we find what Robert Frost termed the road "less travelled." We learn to find our truest selves through a constant process of internal death and rebirth.

In the words of Ora-Ora co-founder and CEO, **Henrietta Tsui-Leung**, "**Stephen Thorpe's interiors are epic journeys into our real selves.** *Enter The Forest at The Darkest Point* raises the stakes still further,

enacting the primeval drama of the forest.” Dr Tsui-Leung continued: “Stephen Thorpe is an exciting talent whose work is tremendously popular with our collectors. Although we have shown Stephen’s paintings twice this year, at Art Basel Hong Kong, and at KIAF in Seoul, we are delighted to be presenting him for the **first time in our new Tai Kwun gallery.**”

Stephen Thorpe has **won acclaim for the exuberance of his opulently furnished interiors**, creating a landscape and mood which sees the corner not as a dead end but the primary catalyst for an honest mental narrative. In this exhibition, he references the noble **tradition of European tapestries**, depicting with lavish detail the finely detailed, sinuous luxury of the Gobelin world, creatively transferring woven imagery from thread to paint, and from wall to floor.



Stephen Thorpe
Primitive Forest Sanctuary of Trial And Initiation (Detail view), 2022
Oil on canvas
122 x 102 cm
Courtesy of artist and Ora-Ora

Thorpe’s domestic interiors may be considered a stage for drama in the theatre of our minds. In this exhibition, however, Thorpe draws upon the drama and enchantment of the forest, a place long synonymous with our need to overcome and to prevail in the face of opposing forces, imagined or otherwise. The challenge is to master ourselves and defeat the malevolent forces within us. In so doing, we seize the chance to become who we really are.

In these works, the artist is reminded of the legend from ancient Mesopotamia, the *Epic of Gilgamesh* (circa 2700 BC), a seminal work in the tradition of heroic sagas. Gilgamesh (King of Uruk) first clashes with Enkidu, a wild man created by the gods to stop Gilgamesh from oppressing the people of Uruk. Following a battle, the two become friends and make a six-day journey to the fabled Cedar Forest, where they plan to slay a monster and cut down a sacred cedar. When Enkidu is killed, Gilgamesh undertakes a long and perilous journey to discover the secret of eternal life. Like Thorpe’s paintings, the journeys – both entering the forest to slay the monster and the hero’s mission for immortality – are stories of self-discovery.

Creative storytelling matches a unique painterly vocabulary, demonstrated through three notable techniques: finespun, dry-brushed rugs; abstract and viscous planes of colour (rendered as walls); and delicate figuration, represented through spellbinding graphics. The dry brush technique is used to great effect by using the canvas weave not only as a ground for the painting but as the actual weave of the rug itself. His use of impasto to construct his “corners” nod to celebrated artists including Frank Auerbach, Gerhard Richter, Leon Kossoff and others – and the graphic elements are the most representational of all in the works and often act as the “way in.”

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About Stephen Thorpe

Stephen Thorpe was born in Margate, England in 1981. He graduated with an MA in Painting from the Royal College of Art in London and is currently a Professor of Painting at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) in Georgia, USA. Stephen Thorpe is known for his colourful, interior-based paintings, in which he considers the room as the mind. The works are a visual manifestation of an ongoing and in-depth self-analysis of the personal and collective unconscious mind – what Carl Jung termed “individuation.” Thorpe’s work presents a rich tapestry of fragmented imagery, drawing on symbolism and cultural histories. As he notes, “both processes – the process of individuation and the process of painting – are aimed at unveiling a deeper truth and understanding of oneself.” He has been the recipient of numerous prizes, including the Basil H. Alkazzi Foundation Scholarship, Saatchi’s Showdown Prize and the Royal Scottish Academy’s The Skinny Award. His work is included in prominent private and museum collections and has been featured in solo and group exhibitions at Saatchi Gallery, London, Denny Dimin Gallery, New York, Copeland Gallery, London, Summerhall, Edinburgh, the Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, as well as with Ora-Ora at Art Basel Hong Kong 2022 and KIAF Art Seoul 2022. His work will be shown by Denny Dimin Gallery at this year’s Miami Art Week (December 2022).

About Ora-Ora

Ora-Ora began in Hong Kong in 2006 and quickly established itself as a force and catalyst for innovation and openness of expression. Academically rigorous and philosophically-minded, our artists embody a fresh spirit of curiosity and enquiry. By interpreting and re-evaluating established frameworks of thought, they pursue unforeseen perspectives on the world around us. Ora-Ora believes in the power of eschewing boundaries and limitations, and combines an esteem for ancient traditions with a passion for the most contemporary and ground-breaking artistic media. Long recognized for our successful development of Asian creative talent, we have grown to represent artists from Asia, Europe and the US. Restlessly broadening our horizons, we continue to develop alliances and partnerships with institutions worldwide to enable discovery of our artists in new environments.

Dr. Henrietta Tsui-Leung, co-founder of Ora-Ora, is also co-founder of the Hong Kong Art Gallery Association, which has played a lead role in nurturing the diverse and thriving art ecosystem in the city.

Stephen Thorpe Solo: Enter the Forest at the Darkest Point

Show Date: 24 November 2022 to 8 January, 2023

Show Venue: Ora-Ora, 105-107, Barrack Block, Tai Kwun, 10 Hollywood Rd, Central, Hong Kong

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