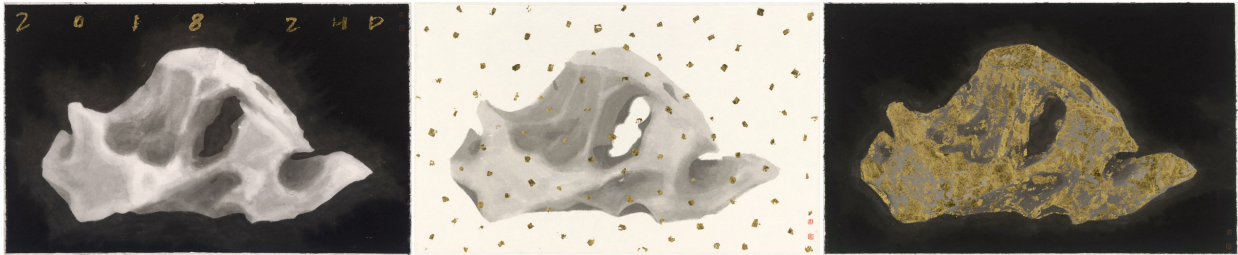


For Immediate Release

GALERIE ORA-ORA PRESENTS *INSPIRATIONS* BY HUANG DAN

Solo exhibition of Chinese painter draws inspiration from French Impressionists

Inspirations as the gallery's first programme as part of Le French May
from 17 May – 16 June



Huang Dan, *Three Rocks*, 2018, Ink, Color and Gold foil on Paper, 75 x 46 cm; 75 x 46 cm; 75 x 45 cm
(Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Ora-Ora.)

Hong Kong – 30 April 2018 – Following the successful solo debut of emerging Chinese painter Huang Dan at Galerie Ora-Ora in 2017, the gallery will present the female artist's most recent works in *Inspirations*. Presented at the gallery's new space in H Queen's, this solo exhibit traces the influences behind Huang Dan's artistic practice, and in particular her affinity with the great French master of impressionism, Claude Monet, and his iconic landscapes. *Inspirations*, which is part of Le French May programme, will be on view at Galerie Ora-Ora from 17 May to 16 June 2018.

Inspirations reflects a journey, which begun several centuries ago in France and continues in contemporary China, through Huang Dan's captivation with the Impressionist movement, inspired by the characteristic of the 19th century art moment of utilising small, thin, yet visible brush strokes, open composition and emphasis on light to depict the subject matter at hand. Paying homage to and expanding the key notions of impressionism, in these new works, the artist is stripping away extraneity and further reducing colour and form to focus on the essential – much akin to her key inspiration and master of impressionism, Claude Monet, who was part of the first major Impressionist exhibition of 1874 with his painting, *Sunrise* (1873). Huang's latest works featured in this solo exhibition affirm her continuous explorations of this formal minimalist approach: "a process from much, to half, to less... to none," reveals **Huang Dan**.

Aligning Huang Dan's oeuvre in the light of Impressionist forerunners frames the artist as an innovator in a path of European innovation, while her reworking of traditional Chinese motifs such as pine needles portrays her ability to apply Monet's ideas within her own cultural background. Working with her signature vibrant orange, cool blue, rich, expansive black and open white, Huang Dan exposes the hues of the warm Mediterranean. The artist extends Monet's love of the twilight into the hours beyond it, a night-time illuminated by the glow of the colours her paintbrush radiates. In this way, she forms her own twilight of nocturnal skies and diurnal nature side by side, a subtle embracing of such familiar paintings as Monet's twilight haystacks or views of the Houses of Parliament.

"We are delighted to exhibit new works by contemporary Chinese artist Huang Dan yet again at Galerie Ora-Ora, showcasing her artistic development, and in particular highlighting her unique relationship to the

French impressionism, on the occasion of Le French May. As a gallery, we accompany our artists on a journey of self-discovery and continuous development, nourishing them all along the way, and we hope that this exhibition further testifies to that strength of Galerie Ora-Ora," says **Henrietta Tsui-Leung, Co-Founder and Director of Galerie Ora-Ora.**

One of the highlight works in the exhibition, *Three Rocks*, displays the artist's exploration of 'the resting point' – the moment when the forward motion is temporarily suspended, and there no longer are any dynamic protagonists dictating events, just the simplicity of the form, shape and focus. *Twin Flames*, one of Huang Dan's most recent works, depicts a tree occupying centre stage, having become more convoluted and twisted in its form. The artist has completely eliminated the human form from her latest works, and in its place trees take on not just a physical force, but also a psychological complexity. They are static, yet active: a coiled spring of energy. The tight focus on tree roots denotes the artist's continued journey towards abstraction, achieving the realization of life, whilst only delivering its partial fragment. As Huang Dan herself says, "Like the growth of pines, as entrenched as rocks, all vitality is converging and surging."

Galerie Ora-Ora has represented Huang Dan since 2014, and the artist's work has already achieved significant acclaim and recognition from both academics and collectors. Since 2006, she has exhibited widely across Greater China, and in particular in Beijing, Shanghai, and Nanjing. Huang's work was exhibited in Hong Kong by Galerie Ora-Ora at *Devotion to Ink* in 2014 and last year in a solo exhibition *Boundary*, as well as the tightly curated group shows at Art Basel Hong Kong, namely *Perceptions* in 2016 and *Leap to Light* in 2018.

In addition to *Inspirations* and in celebration of Le French May's 2018 edition, Galerie Ora-Ora will also host a special concert by the Taka Taka Trio on Saturday, 19th May 2018, at 3pm. The talented trio will present a specially curated musical programme of French music for clarinet, flute and piano. Taka Taka Trio will perform classics by Claude Debussy, Jean-Michel Damase and Darius Milhaud as well as compositions by Bechara El Khoury, which were inspired by Impressionist painters Claude Monet and Paul Cézanne. The performance is free of charge, and complimentary tickets must be booked in advance through the gallery.

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Notes to Editors:

About Galerie Ora-Ora

Ora-Ora began in Hong Kong in 2006, with globally-sourced artists who are thought-driven innovators. Our artists interpret history and philosophy to bring new perspectives to our modern world and the lively dialogue of east and west. Recognized for our support of Asian contemporary art, we have grown to represent artists from Asia, Europe and the US across a variety of media. Ora-Ora was founded by Alfred Leung and Henrietta Tsui-Leung. Henrietta then co-founded the Hong Kong Art Galleries Association, which built connections and possibilities in the growing Hong Kong art industry. The gallery continues to develop alliances and partnerships with institutions globally to enable discovery of our artists in fresh environments. From our base in Hong Kong, we travel regularly to meet our clients at global art fairs and our international exhibitions.

2018 marks a new chapter in the Ora-Ora's story as they enter their new gallery space on the 17th Floor of H Queen's, in Central, Hong Kong. The opening show, *Screaming Books*, on view 1 – 17 May 2018, embodied the spirit of a gallery which is, as ever, both research-based and future-focused.

About Huang Dan

Huang Dan (b.1979) graduated with a BA from the Department of Traditional Chinese Painting at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in 2001. In 2004, she was awarded an MA from the same institution. Marking her official debut into the art world, her first solo

Ora-Ora

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exhibition was the *Scent of a Woman* in Seoul in 2006. This event took place simultaneously with a group show entitled: *The Seventies Ink Exhibition* at the Yanhuang Art Museum, Beijing. Since then she has participated in solo and group exhibitions in China and Hong Kong (*Devotion to Ink* at the Maritime Museum, 2014) and has been part of group shows at Galerie Ora-Ora, including curated booths at Art Basel in Hong Kong since 2016.