

For immediate release

**GALERIE ORA-ORA PRESENTS *ANTICIPATION*, A GROUP EXHIBITION OF 5 ARTISTS:  
CHILAI HOWARD, JIANG JI'AN, LI HONGBO, PENG WEI AND XU HUALING**

**24 January – 02 March 2019**



Peng Wei, *That Time and That Place*, 2011, Photo 15 x 15 cm each (81 pages), video 825mins. Photography and video, Image courtesy of the artists and Galerie Ora-Ora.

**HONG KONG – 19 JANUARY 2019** – Galerie Ora-Ora is delighted to kick start the year of 2019 with *Anticipation*, a dynamic group exhibition that shares the passion of artists who explore, express or investigate the identity of people in contemporary society. This exhibition plans to join the social awareness related to the current most prominent issues on personal, social, and cultural identity like gender, culture and heritage, expressed with empowerment in the form of art. We hope that by anticipating the spirit of openness, the love of art itself, that this exhibition will draw attention to these issues and influence future decisions individuals make.

Almost forty years ago in New York City marked the first official Gay Pride march, the positive stance against discrimination and violence toward LGBT people to promote their self-affirmation, dignity, equality rights and increase their visibility and recognition as a social group and community. Thirty years ago, the Guerrilla Girls distributed their poster *The Advantages of Being a Female Artist*, which listed the following ironic “advantages” for women in the arts: “Working without the pressure of success. Never being in shows with men. Being reassured that whatever kind of art you make it will be labeled feminine.” Art itself has always been central to what has now become one of the most pervasive, all-consuming debates of our times.

In the age of social identity politics world-wide shifting from inclusion to division, from the recent scandal of fashion brand Dolce & Gabbana in China, to the Hollywood #MeToo movement, the need to dismantle discrimination barriers continue to dominate the headlines. The role of an artist and of a gallery is not to enjoy the splendid isolation outside of this mainstream conversation, but to channel, amplify and dissect the issues that drive it. Artists themselves, both male and female, will respond to the debate in their own way. As art synthesizes and distils the news cacophony into its essential note, the result, we believe, will be a message of unity rather than division.

Both Hong Kong based artist Chilai Howard and Beijing based artist Jiang Ji'an prospect for the sense of self-identity and soul-searching through their artworks. Chilai Howard explores speculative affairs using moving images and mixed-media installation, while Jiang applies his concept of "everyday art" to recreate the value of personal objects. Li Hongbo is best known for his paper sculptures made entirely out of paper and glue. By incorporating hidden elements of surprise in his paper sculptures, the static and emotionless state of Li's sculptures transform into unpredictable images that challenge restriction for freedom.

Due to events related to restriction and freedom that occurred in China on April 3, 2010, Peng Wei began to draw wristwatches, one per day, to record and commemorate her thoughts and feelings. 81 watches were drawn in the end, forming a personal yet very relatable artwork "*That Time and That Place*".

Finally, to juxtapose the creative and mixed-media works are two delicate paintings by Xu Hualing who, through her delicate brush strokes, share her own journey of self-manifestation to search for inspiration for life and self-existence.

*Anticipation* asserts the potential of the art world to create a forum which is, as far as possible, embraces identities as they are self-proclaimed or regarded. At Ora-Ora, we like to imagine a stage where an artist's identity is not a defining consideration for judgment, but rather, the art itself, its message (or its silence), its power (or its fragility), is the only mechanism for moving forward. When this point is achieved, true openness and communication in form of the arts will be. Who knows how such freedom would further stimulate and empower all artists?

Just as we believe in our globality, we also believe in our shared humanity. Now is the vital time to celebrate and reaffirm the passion and dynamism of artists, when the art alone speaks, and everyone's rightful place has been secured in the pantheon of artists. Through the power of celebration, we hope we are contributing towards creating a world of true equal opportunity for all individuals.

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**Gallery Opening Hours:**

Monday – Friday from 10am to 7pm;

Saturdays 11am to 7pm

**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 dialogues between 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. Dr. Henrietta Tsui-Leung, co-founder of Ora-Ora, is also co-founder of the Hong Kong Art Gallery Association, which builds connections and opportunities 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 with our new gallery space at H Queen's in Central, Hong Kong. The opening show, "Screaming Books", embodied the spirit of a gallery which is, as ever, both research-based and future-focused. Other acclaimed exhibitions held in 2018 include: "Eventide" – Xiao Xu solo exhibition, and "Inspirations" – Huang Dan latest solo exhibition.

**About Chilai Howard**

Chilai Howard (b.1986) is a Hong Kong mixed-media artist graduated from the School of Creative Media, CityUHK (intermedia art) and HKUST (creative communication), who loves to explore speculative affairs and experience different artistic mediums, including moving images and mixed media installation. Chilai has exhibited in various festivals and galleries internationally, including "Both Sides Now" at Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei (2015), "Video Art in Asia 02-12", ZHM | Media Museum Inkarlsruhe, Germany (2013), and "Experimental Film and Video Art Festival" in Nanjing, China (2012). His works have been well collected, including M+ of Hong Kong. Chilai's passion also extends to two-dimensional and spatial exhibition design. Currently he is working as Creative Director at November Seventeenth (N7 Communication).

**About Jiang Ji'an**

Jiang Ji'an (b.1967) is an inheritor of Claborate-style Painting and also a representative figure in the Neo Claborate-style painting. Not bound by tradition, Jiang's unique approaches highlight the issue of re-presentation through specific examples, generating a cogitative dimension through intuitive visual experience. As the first artist to propose the concept of "readymade painting" in Chinese Contemporary Art, Jiang follows the style of "selflessness" in the classical principle of "seeing from the perspective of object". The artist's early years in researching folk art resulted in his delicate and acute insight. The materials for "readymade painting" all came from daily objects. In passing on the painting traditions, Jiang not only preserved the painting method but also investigated issues as regards paintings in the era of digital technology. In his *Silk* series and *Tea* series, the artist deconstructed the ready-mades and re-presented them in a painterly style. The Eastern aesthetics of "correspondence to object" has reflected in Jiang Ji'an's artworks in the past decade. The aim was to recreate a "system of everyday art" in the traditional sense.

**About Li Hongbo**

Li Hongbo (b.1974) immediately became one of the most popular contemporary Chinese artists after graduating from the Central Academy of Fine Arts with an MFA degree in Experimental Art in 2010. He is the founder and head of the newly established Chinese Paper Art Research Institute, Jilin Normal University. Exploring the malleability of materials, his expandable paper and carved knife sculptures encourage viewers to think out of the box. Li has held important solo exhibitions including "When Sculpture becomes Creature" (Angoulême Museum, France, 2017) and "Irons for Ages, Flowers for Days" (SCAD Museum of Art, USA, 2015). His works were included in the UBS Collection, Central Academy of Fine Arts Museum, Wuhan Art Museum, Hubei Art Museum, Shandong Art Museum in China, Asian Civilizations Museum in

Singapore and White Rabbit Collection in Australia. He was the winner of the Grand Prize of the 2017 Sovereign Asian Art Prize.

#### About Peng Wei

Born in Chengdu, China, and a graduate of Nankai University, Beijing-based Peng Wei is a member of the China Fine Arts Association. Her dexterous, patient wielding of the ink brush and her holistic craftsmanship have won huge acclaim and a devoted collector base. Her treatment of the riddle of time itself lies at the heart of her success. Previous exhibitions include the Venice Biennale (2017), *Coming Full Circle: Peng Wei Solo Exhibition* at National Museum of History in Taipei (2015), *Letters from a Distance: Art Basel Hong Kong* (2014), *START Art Fair* in London (2014) and *Real Life Stories: the Chinese Contemporary Art Exhibition* at The Bergen Art Museum in Norway (2013). 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.

#### About Xu Hualing

Born in Harbin, Heilongjiang province of China in 1975, Xu Hualing graduated with a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Chinese Painting at China Central Academy of Fine Arts in 2000 and 2003 respectively. From 2003 to 2012, she taught at the Beijing University of Technology, Art & Design College. Well-known for her delicate fine brushstrokes, Xu is one of the leading artists of the Chinese painting techniques (gongbi). She has revised and expanded tradition gongbi with other painting techniques, such as watercolours effects. Xu embodies modern aesthetic taste with gongbi painting techniques, which enriched and flourished into her very personal style. Most of her works are in the form of self-manifestation, in order to draw inspiration for life. Past solo exhibitions include: *Featherlight* at Today Art Museum, Beijing in 2016, *Swords Girl* at Kohler Muller Gallery, Amsterdam, Holland in 2008 and *Eternal Beauty* at DF2 Gallery, Los Angeles, USA in 2007. She currently lives in Beijing and teaches at China Central Academy of Fine Arts, School of CAFA.