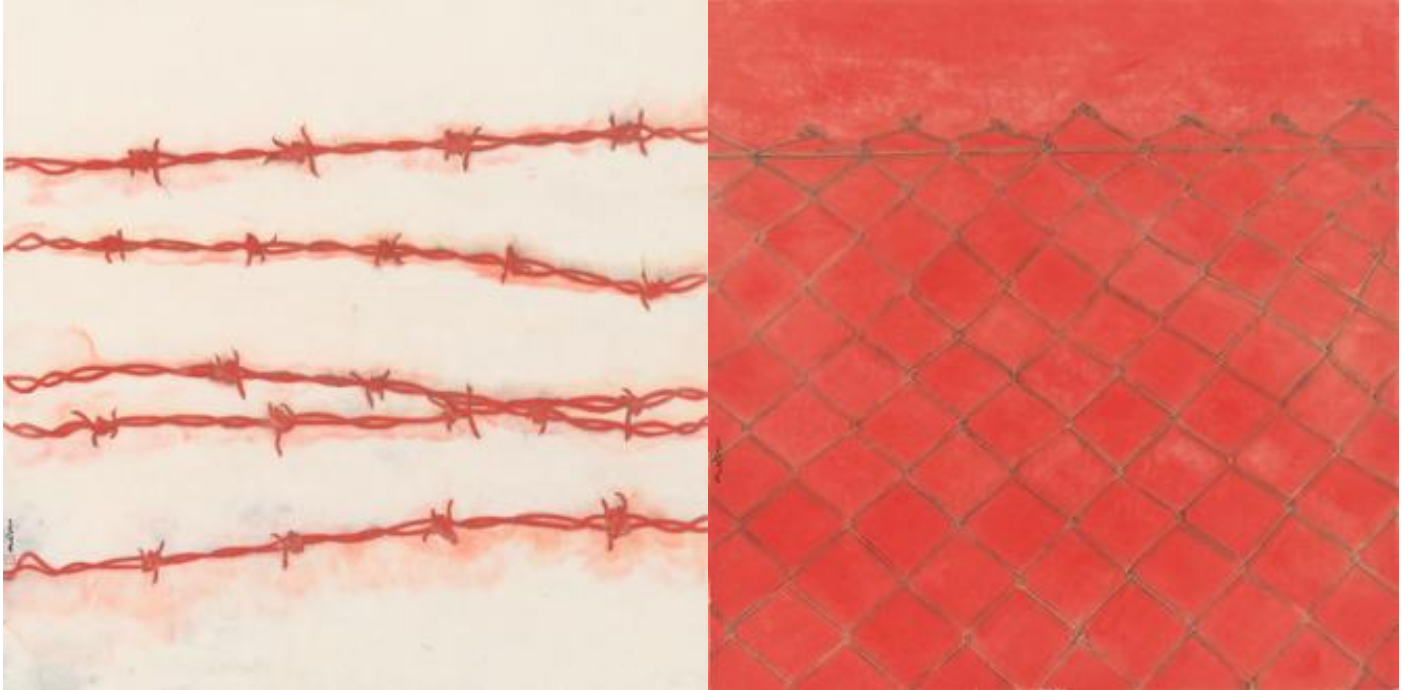


For Immediate Release

## GALERIE ORA-ORA BRINGS BACK BEIJING-BASED ARTIST ZHANG YANZI FOR SOLO EXHIBITION *SECLUSION*

7<sup>th</sup> participation at Art Basel in Hong Kong with curated exhibition *Abstract Intelligence*



Image(left): Zhang Yanzi, Religioso, 2019, Ink on paper, 97 x 97 cm; Image(right): Zhang Yanzi, Risoluto, 2019, Ink on paper, 97 x 97 cm

**HONG KONG – 5 March 2019:** Galerie Ora-Ora is delighted to present Beijing-based artist Zhang Yanzi's solo exhibition *Seclusion* with opening reception to be held from 6 pm to 8 pm on March 25 (Monday) with the artist's presence and the exhibition will run from March 21 to April 20. *Seclusion* will be another serious concept to be presented in Hong Kong after her last exhibition at Hong Kong Medical Museum in 2016.

In recent years, Professor Zhang continues to contemplate the relationship between art and life, explore the versatility of art in society, and push the boundaries of artistic expression. At the same time, Zhang actively teaches "Art Therapy" at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing in hopes to inspire more students to research and develop this subject. From a creative perspective, Zhang presses on to extend on her creative logic using her own life experiences, her incessant reflections on cultural and social outlooks and her Chinese ink artistry. In particular, her recent creations "seclusions" interestingly creates a fresh perspective of beauty against such cruel topic.

The seclusion that Zhang highlights is what can be easily found in our daily lives within the society, and popular culture; It is a form of solidarity and hermitage. In our modern-day world, through advancements in technology and philosophy, people's connectivity has become more effective and our value system more diversified. However, people's presence and interaction within the society has falling behind towards solidarity

and self-gratification within. Phenomena such as Otaku from Japan, addiction to virtual reality, and social ineptness, have all become strange but true depictions of our society.

Zhang's recent creations bring focus to some common objects from daily life that surrounds the themes of anti-burglary and self-preservation - steel fences, barb wires and bamboo privets. As an artistic symbol, barb wires represent the cruel reality in society, and sharp thorns symbolize the cold cutting cruelty; when we walk through these thorns, we would inevitably be pierced and scathed to the flesh. The popular steel fences that can be seen everywhere amalgamate into reels and reels of stifling barricades, barring us to the inside. At the onset, people will naturally find these oppressive and sharp fences distasteful and repulsive. However, through time how did we ultimately get accustomed to their "protection"? Have we in fact been tranquilized by these fences that have been deceptively beautified? Has one ever created his own mesmerizing matrix of fences and become one's own prisoner within? These questions are not only Zhang's exploration of our society, but also questions of introspection. Just as the steel fences camouflaged with rainbow wrappers and colorful pills, Zhang created the "bamboo privets" alongside the "steel fences" to complete the "seclusion" series. Zhang wishes to prod the viewer not only to experience Zhang's self-healing but also on a journey of self-speculation and self-reflection.

"Seclusion is a form of escape, it is also a choice; when one closes the door behind oneself, logic and potential can be fully released and realized to explore and experience the intangible." said Zhang Yanzi

In addition to the exhibition, Galerie Ora-Ora shall be hosting an artist talk with Zhang Yanzi from 10am to 11am 30 March 2019(Sat). Honorary guest speakers include: Dr. William Fan, Chairman of the Hong Kong Autism Awareness Alliance, Prof. Isaac Leung, Assistant Professor at Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Ms. Yan Tung, curator at the Hong Kong Museum of Medical Science as the moderator of the talk. The seminar will be livestreamed on Galerie Ora-Ora's facebook page.

March will also see Galerie Ora-Ora's seventh participation at Art Basel in Hong Kong, running concurrently with Zhang's show. Following the success in the past, Ora-Ora will present a themed exhibition, "A.I. – Abstract Intelligence" (ABHK Booth 1D46). In 1921, Lewis Terman observed that intelligence is "the ability to carry out abstract thinking." Abstract intelligence, he argued, was core to verbal and symbolic reasoning. Psychology affirms that to be abstract is not to disregard structural frameworks, but rather to operate within a framework which we are only now beginning to understand. At Art Basel, our artists shall display their definition of abstract intelligence through their virtuous works and to do so in a way which exhibits not only the practical and technical, but also a wisdom that celebrates the most resolutely human aspects: Xiao Xu turns to the abstraction of the fantastic; the other world with its own rules, as yet uncharted, conjuring elements of that dystopian A.I. vision, in a landscape teeming with his own illusions and generous imagination. Zhang Yanzi will bring her own branch of connectionism, a manifestation of the chain of stimulus and response: forging the interlinking bonds of humanity and universe in all their undiscovered mystery. Huang Dan will channel sometimes melodious, sometimes atonal energies in a rousing rhythm of life, harnessing new colours and materials. She will simultaneously depict structure and abstraction, emptiness and vitality. In Peng Jian's new works, planes, objects, shapes, colours and other modeling elements form a harmonious relationship under the influence of an intangible force. And Juri Markkula amplifies and rejoices in nature, while transporting the forests of Sweden to Hong Kong. His output will unify both branches of A.I. (artificial intelligence and abstract intelligence), fusing machine and individual.

Dr. Henrietta Tsui-Leung, Founder and Owner of Galerie Ora-Ora commented: "We are delighted and proud to be participating in Art Basel Hong Kong for the seventh consecutive year. This year, our artists use

compositional symbolism to express their "abstract intelligence" and hope to bring surprises to our Chinese and overseas collectors. At the gallery, Zhang Yanzi's will take up our H Queen's space and explores the pain and treatment of the body, the spirit and the mind and how one develops means like Seclusion to self-help. Zhang's artistic creation is articulate yet sensitive, symbolic and elegant, and is a perfect bridge between Eastern and Western philosophies."

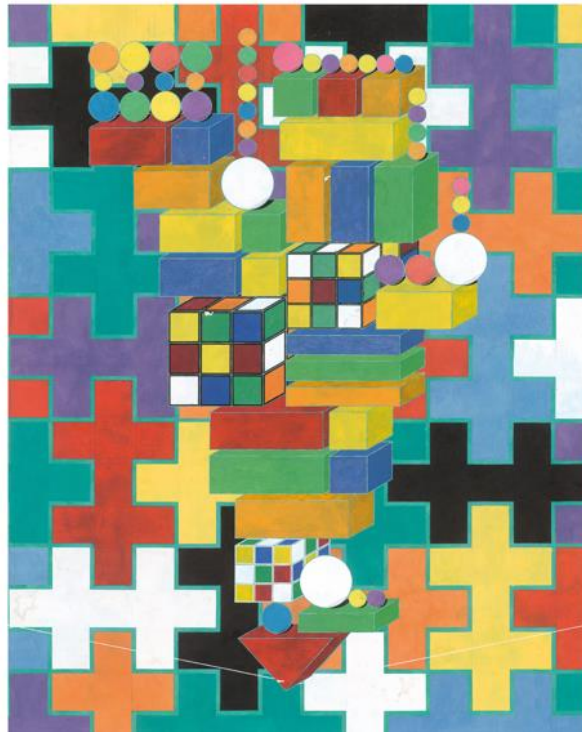


Image: Peng Jian, *Harmony 3*, 2019, Ink on paper, 175 x 139cm. ( image courtesy of Galerie Ora-Ora and the artist. )

- End -

### Media Enquiries:

Odetti Tse | Galerie Ora-Ora | [odetti@ora-ora.com](mailto:odetti@ora-ora.com) | +852 2581 1171

Selway Au-Yeung | Galerie Ora-Ora | [selway@ora-ora.com](mailto:selway@ora-ora.com) | +852 2581 1171

### 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.

Ora-Ora

方 由 美 術

17/F, H Queen's, 80 Queen's Road Central, Central, Hong Kong

Tel: 2851-1171 Email: [info@ora-ora.com](mailto:info@ora-ora.com)

[www.ora-ora.com](http://www.ora-ora.com)