

GALERIE ORA-ORA PRESENTS LIU QI'S SOLO EXHIBITION *SANCTUARY*

Image: Liu Qi, Tai-an, 2019, Ink and colour on paper, 180x200 cm (image courtesy of Galerie Ora-Ora and the artist.)

HONG KONG – October 10, 2019 Galerie Ora-Ora is pleased to present *Sanctuary*, contemporary ink artist Liu Qi's first show at the gallery. The opening reception will be held from 6 pm to 8 pm on October 22 (Tuesday), and the show will be on view until November 16.

The exhibition name pays homage to Liu Qi's studio name and also references the artist's fondness for traditional tea culture. Inspired by the Buddhist proverb "there is only one sanctuary for me in this complicated world", Liu believes that having one singular pursuit is the best way to pursue one's passion in life. Through this exhibition, visitors will gain a deeper understanding of different figurative styles, as well as eastern aesthetics.

When constantly surrounded by a world of excess, it is easy to become misaligned with one's core values. Maintaining a singular focus may be difficult, but it is an ideology Liu attempts to

express in his paintings. Instead of conforming to the glamorous and bold style of many contemporary ink works, he employs cooler colours and tones. An advocate of minimalism, Liu uses simplified lines to create figures and objects that offer viewers a moment of peaceful contemplation.

His figures are often emotionless, with loosely defined faces, bodies and poses. Instead, the artist focuses on stylistic accents, like the hairstyles and clothing of the figures. In the process, he explores how figures have been represented over time and across different cultures. Wall paintings, reliefs, and sculptures from various past civilisations, such as Ancient Egypt and Han dynasty China, are all incorporated into Liu's unique style, which transforms ancient concepts and systems of figuration into a contemporary cultural icon by depicting scenes of contemporary daily life through Chinese ink.



Image: Liu Qi, *Leisurely*, 2019, Ink and colour on paper, 180x200 cm (image courtesy of Galerie Ora-Ora and the artist.)

For example, in *Leisurely* (2019), a little girl is shown in profile, standing rigidly with her arms by her sides, reminiscent of the treatment of figures on ancient wall reliefs and carvings. Rendered with strong, clean lines and depicted with a blank facial expression, the focus is on her attire: a billowing white shirt with colourful polka dots paired with a crisp bob haircut. Exuding a sense of childlike pureness, the girl's appearance and carefree demeanour express the sentiment of leisure in the work's title.

Liu's works also evoke the zen qualities of 'quietness', 'control' and 'calmness'. He once said, "Life is not tasteful until people use their passion to experience the hidden meaning within. Painting is the same; it requires people to openly feel with their hearts." His most recent work *Tai-an* (2019) conveys these qualities through its depiction of Sen no Rikyū (1522–91), an eminent figure in the tradition of wabi-cha—a style of Japanese tea ceremony that emphasises simplicity and an appreciation for artless and spontaneous natural beauty. Like Rikyū, who favoured simple teawares over the prestigious Tang dynasty ceramics that were treasured at the time, Liu pursues beauty through his simple, minimal use of line and form. In the artist's mind, a painting is similar to a cup of tea. It may look simple to the eye, but the true meaning is hidden within.

The expressiveness of Liu Qi's work is demonstrated through his in-depth understanding and deconstruction of figurative styles, which transforms an ancient language into one that is decipherable in contemporary times. His works are profound and timeless due to the exclusion of personal emotion, which allows viewers to enter the narrative and 'live' the painting themselves. This experience is best explained by the Japanese idiom *ichi-go ichi-e* ('one time, one meeting'), a concept analogous with the phrase 'once in a lifetime' and also commonly associated with Japanese tea culture. This is the same impression Liu brings to his paintings, identifying the rarity of each moment in life and the importance of cherishing what is before one's own eyes.

About Liu Qi

Liu Qi was born in Boshan district in China in 1979. He first studied art education at Shandong University of Arts and graduated in 2001. After his graduation, he participated in various group exhibitions, including at Beijing Yanhuang Art Museum and also China Japan Korea International Ink Exhibition (Tomaya). Liu returned to Shandong University of Arts and in 2005, obtained a Master of Art in Chinese painting. His first publication "Wujing. Collection of Young Contemporary Artists - Liu Qi" was published in 2010. In 2014, he held his first solo exhibition at the Beehive Center for Contemporary Art (Beijing). Liu Qi now teaches Chinese painting at his alma mater.



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

www.ora-ora.com

Media Enquiries:

Odetti Tse | Galerie Ora-Ora | odetti@ora-ora.com | +852 2581 1171

Angela Ng | Galerie Ora-Ora | angela.ng@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.

方由美術 十月 H Queen's 呈獻劉琦個展 「一瓢飲室」



劉琦，《待庵》，2019年，水墨設色紙本，180 x 200 厘米。（圖片由藝術家和方由美術提供）

香港 – 2019年10月7日 – 方由美術榮幸宣布將於2019年10月在H Queen's畫廊空間舉辦劉琦個展「一瓢飲室」。展覽開幕酒會將於10月22日（周二）下午6時到晚上8時在畫廊空間舉行，展期至11月16日，屆時藝術家將會親臨開幕酒會現場。

本次展覽，是當代水墨藝術家劉琦在方由美術舉辦的首個個展，將展出他的十一張新作。劉琦希望帶領觀眾深入作品人物的造型，思源傳統文化，同時領略「樸實無華」的東方美感。我們之所以將本次個展定名為「一瓢飲室」，是因為展覽的主人公劉琦的齋號即為「一瓢飲室」。此齋號因藝術家喜愛飲茶而得名，而其出處卻來自佛典：「弱水三千，吾只取一瓢飲。」原句意思是：在遙遠的河流中，我只取一口來喝。由此引申出的卻是「不貪不取，只專其一」的人生智慧。

人生有很多美好與奢華的事物交織左右，但若能用心只專注一樣事物，足矣——這亦是劉琦所秉承之「初心」——他正是據此描繪其心中的美好。劉琦的創作風格有別於現下當代水墨時而華麗、時而奔放的風格：用色沈靜統一，整體流露著和諧之感；他崇尚極簡主義，樂於用簡潔的線條塑造當代生活中的人和物。如此塑造出的形象，給人一種安然的滿足感。

讀懂劉琦畫中人物的造型內涵，是我們深入解析其藝術面貌的第一層階。劉琦筆下的人和物，表現出鮮明的對比關係：人物往往表情平淡，無論臉孔、身材，抑或動作都沒有太多細致入微的描述，反觀人物的發型和服裝等造型，卻經過細膩的考量，成為作品的中心。他參考了各文明古國的壁畫以及工藝品的造型法則，例如埃及的壁畫或是漢朝的工藝品等。從中抽取古代造型觀和體系，並將其法則轉化成為現代的文化符號，透過水墨畫使現代人的生活躍然紙上。舉例來看，劉琦在作品《御風》裏利用古代壁畫描繪肖象「簡而精」的規律，他所繪的現代小女孩面貌從容，線條簡潔幹淨，人物表情沒有太大的起伏。但是，畫中女孩的造型反而是整張作品的亮點：純淨的白衫與彩色的波點圖案，還有她一頭清爽的短發，一切都滲透著小孩清純的童真模樣。同時，藝術家落筆幹脆地勾勒出揚飛的衣衫，與小女孩的造型一同貫徹了乘風時應有的「乾爽」，使整張作品看起來有著一脈相承的關連。

劉琦曾說：「生活是平淡的，需要有心的人品出其中味道；畫是平淡的，需要讀畫人用心感受。」若往更深一層去挖掘，可進入劉琦創作的第二層階：他的作品滲透著以「安靜」、「克制」以及「沈練」等為表征的東方「禪」學價值觀。



劉琦，《御風》，2019年，水墨設色紙本，140 x 69 厘米。（圖片由藝術家和方由美術提供）

2019年的新作《待庵》是我們解讀劉琦畫內「禪機」的極佳範本。此作所描繪的是日本禪道茶聖千利休於自家的茶室「待庵」沈思的模樣。千利休創出了極簡的美學並影響日本後世的人文風氣，他運用茶道帶出生活的「慢活」禪味與因果哲學。他拼棄了當時華麗的「唐物」（由唐朝傳入的茶具），並堅持沿用樸實的茶具，帶出靜態與反樸歸真的自然美。

《待庵》裏的木槿花或許是劉琦寄語人生的高尚想法：「木槿一日自為榮」，與展覽的中心思想「一瓢飲室」有著微妙的關聯；只開花一日的木槿花看似脆弱，卻朵朵相連，無窮無盡地不停綻放，所以又稱作「無窮花」——這種狀態恰似藝術家專心一致地將「心中的花」畫出來的不急不躁之態。

劉琦一直奉行簡約的藝術主張，他利用水墨作為他的「茶具」，為觀眾展現東方人含蓄的美感，而畫作就如一杯沏好的茶，看似平淡，但內裏的情感卻是真摯的。所以，《待庵》中描繪的並不止於一個古人的生活那樣簡單，更為重要的是，劉琦利用畫中的人和物，帶出了富有象征意義的生活寄想。劉琦對造型的規律及變化掌握入深並運用得宜，他借由造型使古代的語言實現了現代轉化，作品呈現出亦古亦今的面貌。同時，他的作品又多細膩耐看，這主要得益於他將自己的個人情感脫出框外，利用各式各樣的人、物造型，誠實地記錄當下的時刻。他讓觀眾成為主角，真實地感受當中的情感；這就像一位茶道師為飲客制一杯沁人心脾的好茶；人的一生可稱作「一期」，相遇的一刻是「一會」，劉琦希望利用作品與觀眾在「一期一會」的時刻裏，品出人生百味。

- 完 -



藝術家劉琦本人。（圖片由藝術家和方由美術提供）

關於劉琦

劉琦1979年生於山東博山，在2001年畢業於山東藝術學院美術教育系，獲文學學士學位。畢業後參加北京炎黃藝術館舉辦的「傳承與開拓——走進70年代水墨聯展」及日本富山中日韓國際水墨邀請展。隨後在2005年山東藝術學院國畫系，獲文學碩士學位。同年參與山東東方現代藝術館舉辦的啟航——水墨新銳巡迴展。2010年出版《無境》當代青年藝術家叢書——劉琦，並在2014年在北京蜂巢當代藝術中心舉行首個個展《遷想——劉琦個人作品展》。劉琦現任教於山東藝術學院美術學院國畫系意筆人物工作室。

媒體垂詢:

謝穎君 (Odetti Tse) | 方由美術 | odetti@ora-ora.com | +852 2581 1171

吳頌琪 (Angela Ng) | 方由美術 | angela.ng@ora-ora.com | +852 2581 1171

關於方由美術

方由美術於 2006 年由梁徐錦熹博士 (Dr. Henrietta Tsui-Leung) 在香港創立，畫廊匯聚了來自全球各地具創新思維的藝術家。我們的藝術家深入研究歷史與哲學，促進中西文化交流的對話，為現代世界帶來更多新銳藝術觀念與無窮想像力。我們對亞洲當代藝術的貢獻及支持備受各方認可，現今已開拓代理來自亞洲、歐洲和美國等地運用不同媒介的藝術家。隨後，Henrietta 更聯合創辦了香港畫廊協會。在香港藝術行業的迅速發展下，該協會為世界各地藝術社群建立了更緊密的聯繫和機遇。方由美術繼續致力與全球性的機構建立聯盟和夥伴合作關係，發掘不同具潛力的藝術家。方由美術從香港出發，邁向全世界，繼續參與更多國際性的博覽會和展覽，為世界各地的客戶提供更優質緊密的合作和服務。