

# PearlLam Galleries

Beijing

## 'Performance in Paint: Zhu Jinshi'

Solo exhibition at Inside-Out Art Museum



L-R: Zhu Jinshi b. 1954, **Red Tango**, 2015, Oil on canvas, 180 x 160 cm (70 7/8 x 63 in.)

**Violence of the Drowsy Spring**, 2014, Oil on canvas, 180 x 160 cm (70 7/8 x 63 in.)

**Exhibition of Scribbles**, 1985, Oil on canvas, 242 x 180 cm (95 1/4 x 70 7/8 in.)

### Exhibition Dates

14 November 2015–31 January, 2016

Wednesday–Sunday, 10:00am–6pm

Inside-Out Art Museum

Sector-A, Inside-Out Artist Colony, Xingshikou Road, Haidian District, Beijing  
100195

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**Beijing**—Pearl Lam Galleries congratulates its artist Zhu Jinshi on his first solo museum show in China, to take place at Beijing's Inside-Out Art Museum from 14 November, 2015 to 31 January, 2016. The museum invited Melissa Chiu, the director of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C., to curate the exhibition. This three-month solo exhibition will showcase over 20 paintings and installations created by the artist over the past 30 years.

Zhu Jinshi, born in 1954 in Beijing, is one of the pioneers of Chinese abstract and installation art. He began to create abstract paintings in the early 1980s and moved to Berlin in 1986, where he began to experiment with performance, installation, and conceptual art. In 1994, Zhu returned to China, dividing his time between Berlin and Beijing until 2010. Currently, he lives and works in Beijing.

The curator and artist have integrated the museum space in their conception of the exhibition; the three-level space enables Zhu's thick paintings to be recreated in the given space. The third level will feature Zhu Jinshi's representative abstract paintings from the early 80s (1983–86), which have never been shown to the public. Not only are these the earliest testimonies of Zhu's self-expression before he was influenced by Western art, but they are also examples of early Chinese abstract art. The first floor will showcase 10 selected works by Zhu Jinshi from 2005 until the present. The thickness of oil paint, folding of layers, and challenges against gravity are all part of his personal pursuit of and enquiry into the evolution of Chinese contemporary painting in the past decade.

To emphasise the relevance between painting and architecture and to question the traditional viewing experience, curator Melissa Chiu proposed that Zhu only show one work on the second floor. Building on that concept, the artist intends for the installation piece to represent painting and space at the same time—an embodiment of oneness. This redefinition of how audiences view paintings, combined with Zhu's installation work and explorations based on creative thinking all indicate the artist's aptitude for working with space, materials, and media. With a simple but non-minimalist presentation, the exhibition expresses a majestic and vigorous energy from the artworks themselves.

Drawing inspiration from both Chinese and Western cultures, Zhu Jinshi's works are not confined to any particular cultural system or nation; rather, they have taken on a contemporary identity. While the influence of traditional Chinese culture is present in his works, these contemporary abstract paintings and Zhu's continuous exploration of the art form over the past 40 years are a unique and enriching contribution to the history of abstract art.

## About Zhu Jinshi

Zhu Jinshi was born in Beijing in 1954. His selected exhibitions include the special installation project *Boat* (2015), Pearl Lam Galleries in collaboration with Hongkong Land at Exchange Square, Hong Kong, China; *Simplicity* (2014) at Pearl Lam Galleries, Singapore; *Thick Paint: Jean Fautrier, Franz West, Zhu Jinshi* (2014) at Luxembourg & Dayan Gallery, New York, USA; *Zhu Jinshi: The Reality of Paint* (2013) at Pearl Lam Galleries, Hong Kong; *Zhu Jinshi* (2012) at Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, USA; *Power and Territory* (2008) at Arario Gallery, Beijing, China; *Orient/Ation*, 4th International Istanbul Biennial in Turkey (1995); *Fang* (1990) at DAAD gallery, Berlin, Germany; and The 1st Xing Xing (Stars Group) Exhibition (1979) at Gallery in Beihai Park, Beijing, China. His works have been collected internationally by notable public and private collections.

## About Melissa Chiu

Dr. Melissa Chiu is currently Director of the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Previously, she was Director of the Asia Society Museum in New York. As a leading authority on Asian contemporary art, she guided a number of major initiatives at the Asia Society Museum, including the launch of a contemporary art collection to complement the museum's outstanding Rockefeller Collection of traditional Asian art. Chiu has curated more than 30 exhibitions of international art. Chiu has been an executive committee and board member of the Association of Art Museum Directors (2008–2012), a board member of The American Alliance of Museums (2010–2013) and sat on numerous committees, including the Academic Committee for the Shanghai Biennale and Bellagio Creative Arts Fellowship for the Rockefeller Foundation. Chiu has lectured at the Museum of Modern Art, Harvard, Columbia, Yale, and other universities and museums.

## About Inside-Out Art Museum

Inside-Out Art Museum is dedicated to Chinese contemporary art as well as art in a broader international context. The museum is supported through sponsorship by way of the Beijing Cultural Development Foundation and Inside-Out Art Fund.

Inside-Out Art Museum located in the Western portion of Xishan Cultural Innovation Avenue in Beijing's Haidian District. It is officially registered with the Beijing Civil Affairs Bureau in 2011 as a privately operated nonprofit art organization. Ever since its establishment, Inside-Out Art Museum has held to its mission of being a nonprofit art museum, tending to both high professional standard and broad public needs. It holds 6-10 exhibitions and about 60 public education events annually. It established the international artist residency programs in Beijing, China, and Maine, USA to promote extensive communication between artists of different cultural backgrounds. Inside-Out Miniature Museum is another sound and light experiment space. It represents our vision for the forms of exhibition in the future.

Inside-Out Art Museum is dedicated to be the public trusted non-profit institution with high-level academic research abilities. Through The Beijing Cultural Development Foundation--The Inside-Out Art Special Fund and The Inside-Out Art Foundation, a non-public fund, we are looking for financial support. We guarantee the transparency of the usage of all of the public funds by a third party supervision.

## About Pearl Lam Galleries

Founded by Pearl Lam, Pearl Lam Galleries is a driving force within Asia's contemporary art scene. With over 20 years of experience exhibiting Asian and Western art and design, it is one of the leading and most established contemporary art galleries to be launched out of China.

Playing a vital role in stimulating international dialogue on Chinese and Asian contemporary art, the Galleries is dedicated to championing artists who re-evaluate and challenge perceptions of cultural practice from the region. The Galleries in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Singapore collaborate with renowned curators, each presenting distinct programming from major solo exhibitions, special projects, and installations to conceptually rigorous group shows. Based on the philosophy of Chinese Literati where art forms have no hierarchy, Pearl Lam Galleries is dedicated to breaking down boundaries between different disciplines, with a unique gallery model committed to encouraging cross-cultural exchange.

Contemporary Chinese Abstract art is heavily represented in the Galleries roster. Influential Chinese artists Zhu Jinshi and Su Xiaobai, who synthesise Chinese sensibilities with an international visual language, are presented internationally with work now included in major private and public collections worldwide. The Galleries has also introduced leading international artists such as Leonardo Drew, Jenny Holzer, Carlos Rolón/Dzine and Yinka Shonibare MBE (RA) to markets in the region, providing opportunities for new audiences in Asia to encounter their work. Pearl Lam Galleries encourages international artists to create new work which engages specifically with the region, collaborating to produce thought-provoking, culturally relevant work.

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## Press Enquiries

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