

SUMMER FLAME

19 July - 31 August, 2024

Preview: 18 July (Thursday), 6-8pm

49 Tung Street, Sheung Wan

press@flowersgallery.com
www.flowersgallery.com

Flowers Gallery Hong Kong is pleased to present a group exhibition 'Summer Flame', featuring Birdhead, Movana Chen, Lau Hiu Tung, Joyce Ho, Cary Kwok, John Kirby, Wu Jiaru, Tao Siqu and Tomona Matsukawa. The multidisciplinary presentation unveils a rich tapestry of stories around relationships, storytelling, memory and more through the format of photography, sculpture, painting and video. Through their individual and collective expressions and dialogues formed between the artworks, the artists explore interconnectedness from personal, societal and conceptual perspectives.

The artist duo Birdhead's work explores urban life and personal experiences through capturing fleeting moments and everyday scenes in metropolis cities. The caped humane figurine *Phototheism-birdhead* (2019) is inspired by indigenous totemic sculpture, highlighting the digital era that we live in and how our relationship with daily usage of photography shapes our vision and cognition.

Chen's friendship with artist Tomona Matsukawa in Kansai region of Japan last year initiated her discovery of ancient Japanese maps, which are transformed into the recent woven sculptures, symbolising interconnectedness of information, culture and history.

Placing the dynamics of human interaction, passage of time and emotional at the core of her practice, Ho's works dissect the subtle interactions and routines that shape personal connections while shedding light on the profoundness of everyday life.

Lau's paintings form minimalist compositions and structures, conveying the sea of complex human emotions and delving into themes of memory and personal relationships that shape our understanding of the present. Inspired by ten of swords Tarot card, her new work mirrors the personal painful endings, regeneration and healing of relationships.



Birdhead
Phototheism-birdhead, 2019
Composite material, 70 x 33 x 10 cm / 27 1/2 x 13 x 4 in



Joyce Ho
Artist statement, 2024
 Mixed-media installation
 iPad in metal Pedestal
 23.5 x 30.7 x 1cm
 12 1/8 x 9 1/4 x 3/8 in

Wu's practice skilfully blends painting and installation as a part of her exploration between space, memory and perception. '*Spillovers_vii*' (2024) merges abstraction and figuration discussing the violent tensions between human beings.

Tao spotlights the intimate and emotional dimensions of human relationships through evocative paintings that showcase her fascination with the body and flesh as a medium of sensibility and sexuality. Immersed in the complexities of love and intimacy, her paintings amplify the personal narratives of her subjects and emotional states.

Revealing the complex dynamics of identity formation and expression within different cultural contexts, Kwok's cinematic paintings address the intersections of historical and contemporary cultural narratives. As a part of the show, Kwok's two paintings *Land's End* (2023) and *David* (2023) with the latter portraying an old employee of Flowers Gallery, commemorating the longstanding relationship between David and the gallery.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Birdhead is an artist duo composed of Song Tao (b. 1979, Shanghai) and Ji Weiyu (b. 1980, Shanghai). Birdhead has been internationally exhibited: Birdhead: Yun Yun, UCCA Dune, China (2024); KYOTOGRAPHIE, Kyoto (2024); Diriyah Biennale, Saudi Arabia (2021); Living Cities, Tate Modern, London, U.K. (2017); New Photography 2012, MoMA, New York, U.S.A. (2012) and The 54th Venice Biennale, Italy (2011).

Movana Chen (b.1974) is a Hong Kong-based artist who studied at the London College of Fashion and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University in Hong Kong. Chen's works are recently exhibited at CHAT, Hong Kong and M+, Hong Kong.

Joyce Ho (b.1983, Taipei, Taiwan) currently lives and works in Taipei. Ho has exhibited internationally, including Phantasmapolis: NGV Triennial 2023, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia (2023), Asian Art Biennial, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan (2021); We Do Not Dream Alone: Asia Society Triennial, Asia Society Museum, New York, NY, U.S. (2021); Yokohama Triennale: Afterglow, Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, Japan (2020).

Cary Kwok (b 1975, Hong Kong) is a London based artist well known for his exquisite ball point pen drawings. Cary is represented by Herald St Gallery in London and has exhibited internationally, including at Galerie Emanuel Perrotin, Miami; Attention to Detail curated by Chuck Close at FLAG Art Foundation, New York; Rude Britannia at the Tate Britain, London and Hauser & Wirth, Zurich.

John Kirby (b.1949, Liverpool) trained at Central St Martins and the Royal College of Art in London. He has exhibited extensively in Europe and the United States. His works are in the public collections of Tate, London; Victoria & Albert Museum and Rene Magritte Foundation, Brussels.

Lau HiuTung (b. 1985, Hong Kong) graduated with an MFA in painting from The Royal College of Art, London and a BFA in painting from The School of Visual Arts, New York. Lau has recently exhibited at Art Basel OVR, Hong Kong (2023), Flowers Gallery, Hong Kong (2022); Alice Folker Gallery, Copenhagen (2023 & 2022).

Tao Siqi (b. 1994, Wuhan, China) currently lives and works in Shanghai. Siqi's paintings are rooted in her fascination with the body and flesh as a medium of sensibility and sexuality. Her work has been exhibited at Frieze, New York (2024); Fortnight Institute, New York (2022); Clima, Milan (2022); Capsule Shanghai (2021).

Wu Jiaru (b.1992, Guangdong, China) currently lives and works in Hong Kong. Wu received her dual BA degrees in Fine Arts and English Language from Tsinghua University in 2014, and her MFA from the School of Creative Media at City University of Hong Kong in 2017. She received the New York fellowship grant from the Asian Cultural Council in 2023.

Tomona Matsukawa (b.1987, Aichi, Japan) is currently based in Kyoto. She graduated with B.A. in Oil Painting from Tama Art University in 2011. Her work has been exhibited at the National Art Center, Tokyo (2013); Ohara Museum of Art, Okayama (2016); Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2016); Yuka Tsuruno Gallery, Tokyo (2019); Haku Gallery, Kyoto (2019); N&A Art Site, Tokyo (2022) and Museum of Modern Art, Ibaraki (2022).

Notes to Editors

Image Credits: ©The artist, courtesy of Flowers Gallery

For more information and images please contact:

Echo Guo: echo@flowersgallery.com or Leighanne Murray: leighanne@atelierpublicrelations.com and Kasimiira Kontio: kasimiira@atelierpublicrelations.com

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 12 - 6 pm

X@flowersgallery

Facebook @flowersgalleries

Instagram @flowersgallery