

**Contemporary by Angela Li presents *Simulacra* by Chinese artist Lv Shanchuan,  
marking his fourth solo exhibition in Hong Kong**

Lv Shanchuan is recognized by reinterpreting past and present events with daring impasto gestures,  
this exhibition opens on Sept 19<sup>th</sup>



*Simulacra No. 1*, mixed media on canvas, 95 x 118 cm, 2019

“It is more difficult for us to imagine the real, history, the depth of time, or three-dimensional space, just as before it was difficult from our real-world perspective to imagine a virtual universe or the fourth-dimension. The simulacra will be ahead of us everywhere.” - Jean Baudrillard, French philosopher and sociologist

**[Hong Kong, August 20, 2019]** Contemporary by Angela Li is proud to present *Simulacra*, the fourth Hong Kong solo exhibition of Chinese artist Lv Shanchuan. The word *Simulacra* carries a meaning of something that replaces reality with its representation. Ancient philosopher Plato speaks of imitation in his later dialogue *Sophist*, he states that “representative” is not real, it is the intention of the creator to distort and obscure the real being. These thoughts of philosopher precisely echo the creative thinking of Lv. The artist’s ongoing series is inspired by the pictures of news media; Lv throws multiple layers of thick oil paint directly onto the canvas, creating highly textured work that responds to the philosopher’s ideology of representation; Lv’s paintings are infused with his personal interpretation rather than an objective depiction of the subject matter. The artist’s latest works are an extension of the series he has been painting for the last decade. In addition, new works such as *Simulacra No. 1* shows a continuation of Lv’s investigation in the relationship between reality and representation, further entering a state of almost pure abstraction; the original image is utterly distorted that is barely discernible, retaining only his

feelings towards the original image.

Looking back at Lv's previous works, they focus on the theme of public squares. The elements captured are processed through the artist's inner mind and emotion, the work becomes its own microworld that exists in a parallel reality. In his latest works, the artist goes beyond his imagination, the paint layers are thicker, and the subject matters depicted are even more obscured. "History is always a reconstruction of fragments from the reality. We as humans have a tendency to claim absolute truth based on our experience and observation. We can receive all kinds of information from the internet today, but what are truths and fallacies?" said Lv Shanchuan. Photographs can bear witness to history, but what is documented has already filtered through the photographer's lens. It is impossible for the viewers to explore the authentic truth behind the images, but they can experience the essence and soul captured in Lv's paintings.

In 1981, French philosopher and sociologist Jean Baudrillard published a book called "Simulacra and Simulation", Baudrillard argues for the idea that people no longer distinguish between reality and a constructed representation of reality or a simulacrum. A featured painting titled *Simulacra No. 1*, this work is Lv's reinterpretation of an early 90s painting by American painter Eric Fischl, who is known for depicting scenes of white upper-middle-class suburbia. Lv found an image of Fischl's painting from the internet, and then the work is painted from his memory. *Simulacra* is a composite of remembered elements; fragments of Lv's memory in a single image. From Fischl, to Lv and the viewers, each of the interpretation further deviates from the real truth. Both Fischl's and Lv's paintings are merely the creators' perception of reality, this concept of simulacra refers back to what Baudrillard describes "a constructed representation of reality".

Lv will present 9 new works in this exhibition. *Simulacra* will open on 19 September 2019 from 6pm to 8pm and artist will be in attendance. *Simulacra* will be on view until 26 October.

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**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

Exhibition : *Simulacra*

Opening Reception : 19 September 2019, 6pm – 8pm

Duration : 19 September – 26 October, 2019

**About the artist**

Lv Shanchuan (b.1969, Fujian, China) graduated from the department of Fine Art at the Fujian Normal University in 1992 and completed his postgraduate studies at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in 1997. He taught at the Fujian Normal University from 1992 to 2009, and went to Germany on the Sino-German Cultural Exchange Scholarship for further studies in 2005. He currently lives and works in Beijing.

Lv has held solo exhibitions and participated in group shows throughout China, Asia, Europe and the USA. Previous important exhibitions include: "Landmark – Mapping Contemporary Chinese Art" (Beijing, 2017), "The Land is So Rich in Beauty" (Hong Kong, 2017), "Spectacle" (Hong Kong, 2016), "China 8 – Chinese Contemporary Art Exhibition" (Germany, 2015), "Epoch Writing: Chinese Contemporary Art Invitation Exhibition / The First Round" (Epoch Art Museum, Wenzhou, 2015), "The Unknown State" (Beijing, 2015), "Events 2008 — with China" (Today Art Museum, Beijing, 2014), "The 9th Florence Biannual Exhibition — Ethics as the DNA of Art" (Italy, 2013), "In Contemporary — China Fine Arts Biannual Exhibition" (Beijing, 2012), and "The 8th Shanghai Biannual Exhibition" (Shanghai, 2010). His works have been collected by the National Art Museum of China, Shanghai Museum of Art, Chengdu Museum of Contemporary Art, King Kuei Art Foundation and other international public institutions.

**Contemporary by Angela Li**

Contemporary by Angela Li is dedicated to the promotion of contemporary and avant-garde artists from China, Hong Kong and worldwide. Since its establishment in 2008, the gallery has gained considerable attention and has become one of Hong Kong's top galleries for contemporary art.

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Opening Hours : Mon – Sat 10.00 am – 6.30 pm  
Sun & Public Holidays Closed

