

Press Release

**K11 Art Foundation Presents Prestigious Arts Programme
Featuring Diverse Array of International Headliners to
Foster Cross-Cultural Dialogue on the Arts:**

Calligraphy Rhapsody – Retrospective Exhibition of Georges Mathieu, In Just a Blink of an Eye
by Xu Zhen, the exhibition teaser of *City As Studio* curated by Jeffrey Deitch and more

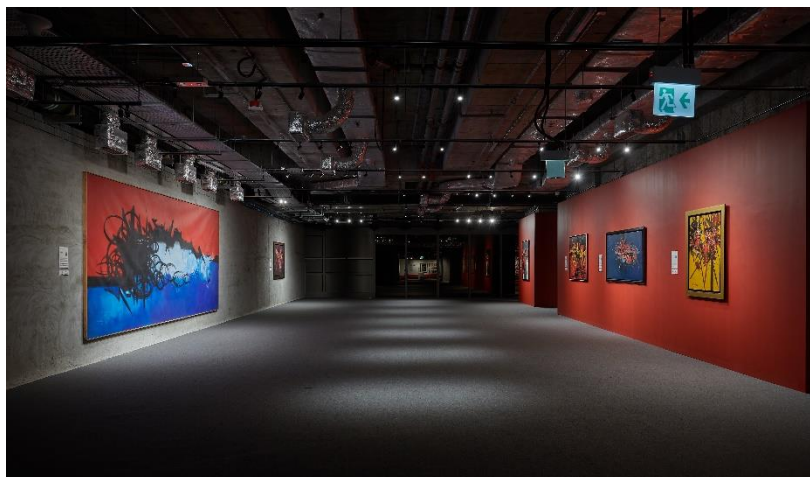
Hong Kong – To celebrate Hong Kong's annual art month, foster cross-cultural dialogue and inspire through the arts, K11 Art Foundation (KAF) presents a remarkable international arts programme at K11 MUSEA. Headlining the programme is ***Calligraphy Rhapsody – Retrospective Exhibition of Georges Mathieu*** co-presented with the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong & Macau, showcasing the preeminent artist's works spanning four decades. Showing in Hong Kong for the first time, ***In Just a Blink of an Eye*** is the landmark installation by Xu Zhen, a leading figure in Chinese contemporary art. The programme will also debut the first-ever bronze sculptures by Japanese artist Izumi Kato, as well as the publication launch of ***City As Studio***, giving an exciting glimpse of the forthcoming *City As Studio* exhibition slated for 2022, helmed by legendary curator Jeffrey Deitch.

Further augmenting the agenda of art and cultural happenings this month, KAF presents an additional array of cross-cultural projects including: the inaugural edition of **Micromégas** artist residency and cultural exchange programme between Hong Kong and France co-organised with the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong & Macau and Videotage, supported by the Institut français; **KAF x MOCA: Transpacific Stream**, an all-digital collaborative video art programme co-presented with The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (MOCA) now screening on KAF's newly revamped official website; and the release of ***Katharina Grosse: Mumbling Mud Catalogue***, an extension of the acclaimed German artist's first solo exhibition in China.

***Calligraphy Rhapsody – Retrospective Exhibition of Georges Mathieu* Co-Presented by
K11 Art Foundation and the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong & Macau**

Date: 19 May – 4 July 2021

Location: 605, K11 Art & Cultural Centre, 6F, K11 MUSEA



Courtesy of K11 Art Foundation and © Comité Georges Mathieu / ADAGP, Paris -
SACK, Seoul, 2021

Co-presented by K11 Art Foundation and the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong & Macau, *Calligraphy Rhapsody – Retrospective Exhibition of Georges Mathieu* presents the major pictorial evolutions of Mathieu’s oeuvre to the public with significant oil paintings by the French painter spanning the 1950s to 1990s loaned from important private collectors.

Curated by Catherine Kwai, *Calligraphy Rhapsody* begins with Mathieu’s early works which emphasise calligraphic gesture and speed extending into the paintings from the “cosmic shift” period starting from 1984. His potent intrinsic energy for boundless abstraction is exemplified in the exhibition by the six-metre-wide canvases that Mathieu specially created for his Grand Palais Retrospective in 1978. Marking the artist’s centenary in 2021, this exhibition celebrates Mathieu’s fierce and poetic expressivity as well as his bold visionary spirit while introducing this French pioneer of free abstraction to a new audience.

A painter, philosopher, and pivotal instigator of Lyrical Abstraction, Georges Mathieu (1921 – 2012) shifted away from figuration and pursued a gestural abstraction away from geometrical abstraction. In the late 1940s, Mathieu began curating exhibitions, cultivating a connection between the new School of Paris artists in post-war France and the Abstract Expressionists in New York. By the 1950s, he was organising performances where he would paint in front of audiences live, anticipating the Happenings of the ’60s. He also synthesised the spirit of Asian calligraphy with the abstract language, inspiring philosophical debate and pictorial revolution.

To complement the exhibition, KAF has curated a series of educational resources and experiences — both online and offline. Developed around the concepts of ‘think’ and ‘feel’, TÖÖF serves as a participatory experience for all ages, where visitors are encouraged by prompts to approach the artworks from different angles and actively respond to them in the exhibition. For school-aged children, a tailor-made activity kit inspired by the artist’s creative practice provides a variety of simple art-making exercises, inviting them to unleash their imagination and express their feelings through art and the creative process. Additionally, specially curated online resources, including scholarly and archival materials, seek to enrich public knowledge on the historical background and context of Georges Mathieu’s pioneering artistic practice while allowing visitors to learn beyond the works showcased in the exhibition.

Xu Zhen's *In Just a Blink of an Eye* Supported by K11 Art Foundation Freezes Time and Space

Date: 18 – 23 May 2021

Location: Sculpture Park, 6F, K11 MUSEA



Xu Zhen's *In Just a Blink of an Eye*. Courtesy of K11 Art Foundation

In Just a Blink of an Eye (2005/2021) is one of the most significant artworks by Xu Zhen, a leading figure in Chinese contemporary art. *In Just a Blink of an Eye* explores the notion of temporality, freezing time and space by portraying a human figure that appears suspended mid-fall through means kept out of the visible eye—for hours at a time. In the presence of the work, we experience how it must feel to have time stand still, urging us to contemplate questions of personal existence and the constructed reality of the viewing experience.

Xu's conceptually-driven works encompass a vast range of media and often employ humour, irony, and sophisticated optical illusion and deception. With *In Just a Blink of an Eye*, the audience waits for movement and the presumably inevitable moment the figure will either stand up or fall to the ground. Yet, as the moment of suspension stretches on, they instead experience time and stillness.

In Just a Blink of an Eye has previously been presented at The Museum of Contemporary Art (Los Angeles, USA, 2019); National Gallery of Australia (Canberra, Australia, 2020); Art Basel (Basel, Switzerland, 2014) and Hayward Gallery (London, UK, 2012). The landmark artwork was also recently featured by *Vogue* (March 2020 issue, USA edition) with a photo of the pop singer Billie Eilish as the floating subject.

***City As Studio* Publication Launches Giving an Exclusive Glimpse into Forthcoming *City As Studio* Exhibition, Slated for 2022, Curated by Jeffrey Deitch**

Date: From 19 May 2021

Location: 605, K11 Art & Cultural Centre, 6F, K11 MUSEA

Online Shop Link: <https://www.k11designstore.com/happenings/post/k11-art-foundation>
(available now)



City As Studio Publication. Courtesy of K11 Art Foundation

Published by K11 Art Foundation and helmed by legendary art curator Jeffrey Deitch, the *City As Studio* publication celebrates the dynamic history of graffiti and street art with an extensive combination of historical archives and rare insights. The comprehensive bilingual publication examining the history of graffiti and street art in both English and Chinese, *City As Studio* delves into the history of graffiti and street art through influential artists such as Keith Haring, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Kenny Scharf, Martin Wong, FUTURA, and contemporary street art innovators such as JR, Timothy Curtis, and KAWS.

Containing a vast number of unpublished works and interviews, the publication serves as an enticing sneak peek of the forthcoming *City As Studio* exhibition. A showcase of more than thirty artists, the book includes up-to-date comprehensive artist interviews that reveal how cities such as New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco played a significant role in the evolution of the street art movement from the 1970s to now. The convergence of street art and graffiti styles that emerged from housing projects, subway yards, and bleak suburban parking lots has become a global phenomenon. The street art movement continues to thrive and evolve fifty years after it began.

Discover the *City As Studio* publication, a definitive, not-to-be-missed look into the graffiti and street art scene, at K11 Art & Cultural Centre and online at (link placeholder).

Involved with modern and contemporary art for nearly five decades as an artist, writer, curator, dealer and advisor, Deitch was the former director of The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles and has been an advocate of graffiti art since the 1980s. Deitch is also known for bringing Andy Warhol to Hong Kong for the first time in 1982.

Introducing the Micromégas Artist Residency Initiative Co-Organised by K11 Art Foundation, the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong & Macau and Videotage

Date: 19 – 24 May 2021

Location: Sunken Plaza, G/F Front Entrance, K11 MUSEA



Théodora Barat's *Off Power*. Courtesy of the Artist

Co-organised by K11 Art Foundation, the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong & Macau and Videotage and supported by the Institut français, *Micromégas* is a new artist residency and cultural exchange programme for the next generation of media artists in Hong Kong and France. The programme will bring a French artist to Hong Kong and send a Hong Kong artist to France for an eight-week residency. During their residency, each artist will create media artworks inspired by the foreign city and culture under the theme of 'Globalisation'.

In 2021, the first edition of Micromégas has taken place in Hong Kong with *Off Power*, the latest screen-based media work by French artist Théodora Barat. In her first Hong Kong project, Barat continues her exploration of the intertwining connections of a city through its electricity infrastructures. In *Off Power*, Barat re-examines the relationship between development and urbanism by gazing at electrical substations silently standing among skyscrapers and monstrously giant power plants carefully hidden behind mountains and trees. Her reimagined Hong Kong skyline takes place in a science-fiction story in an imagined future where the power plant on Lamma Island stops distributing electricity to Hong Kong Island. Highlighting the peculiar and almost monumental architecture of the city, the artist creates a re-imagined Hong Kong Island that remains in darkness without lights, LED signs, and electricity so that only architecture remains – an authority without ornament.

Inaugural KAF x MOCA: *Transpacific Stream* Programme Screens Four Pairs of Curated Films on Newly Revamped KAF Official Website

KAF Newly Revamped Website Showcase – K11 Art Foundation: A New Era

Date: From 6 May

Location: Gold Ball, 2F, K11 MUSEA

KAF x MOCA: *Transpacific Stream* Programme Screening

Date: 29 April – 10 June 2021

Website: <https://www.k11artfoundation.org/en/video>



Automotive Landscapes (Pair 1: Judy Fiskin – Liu Chuang)

Humour (Pair 2: Erin Cosgrove – Guan Xiao)

Movement (Pair 3: Mark Leckey – Li Ming)

Man versus Machine (Pair 4: Damián Ortega – Cheng Ran)

To say the global pandemic has set in motion sweeping societal changes is an understatement. Yet, despite tremendous challenges over the past year, the uncertain landscape has also fostered a wave of creative solutions. In response, museums and galleries have gone virtual to connect with audiences across vast distances. K11 Art Foundation (KAF) also embraces this paradigm shift as it proudly launches its new official website, now housing a wide array of online programmes, artist interviews, documentations and resources, all accessible from the comforts of home.

Debuting on the newly revamped official website, KAF has collaborated with The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (MOCA) to present the inaugural digital programme, KAF x MOCA: *Transpacific Stream*, screening a themed curation of four pairs of video works.

Launch of Katharina Grosse: *Mumbling Mud* Catalogue, An Extension of Internationally Acclaimed German Artist Katharina Grosse's First Solo Exhibition *Mumbling Mud* in China

Date: From 19 May, 2021

Location: 605, K11 Art & Cultural Centre, 6F, K11 MUSEA

Online Shop Link: <https://www.k11designstore.com/happenings/post/k11-art-foundation>



Katharina Grosse: Mumbling Mud Catalogue. Courtesy of K11 Art Foundation

Exhibited in Shanghai and Guangzhou from 2018 to 2019, *Mumbling Mud* was highly acclaimed German artist Katharina Grosse's first solo exhibition in China. Using the spray gun as her primary painting tool, Grosse applied variegated swaths of paint across the walls of exhibition spaces, her own bed, an entire house and its surroundings, and arranged objects such as mounds of soil and tree trunks to create large-scale site-related paintings. Now, *Katharina Grosse: Mumbling Mud* Catalogue launches as a published extension of the exhibition documenting a sharing by the curators alongside exclusive interviews and stories from Grosse and Chinese artists she met during her research visit including Cao Fei, Li Ming and Cui Jie, Zhang Enli as well as Zheng Guogu. These enriching dialogues gave Katharina priceless inspiration for *Mumbling Mud*.

Explore *Katharina Grosse: Mumbling Mud* Catalogue on display at K11 Art & Cultural Centre.

To provide local communities and the young and inquisitive members of our generation with easy accessibility to art and elevate our collective understanding of culture, KAF has also curated the Public Art Series to showcase artworks and installations open for public appreciation.

First in Asia: Isa Genzken's Largest Sculpture Exhibited in Asia to Date, *Rose II*

Date: From end of May 2021

Location: Promenade, G/F, Visual Corridor, K11 MUSEA



Detail of Isa Genzken, *Rose II*, 2007 at MoMA, The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden, New York | Gift of Alfred H. Barr, Jr., and gift of the Advisory Committee (both by exchange) | Photo by Santi Visalli/Getty Images©Isa Genzken / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn | Courtesy the artist, David Zwirner and Galerie Daniel Buchholz, Cologne

A celebration of the beauty of art in the heart of the city, *Rose II* is an 8.5-metre tall monumental long-stemmed rose that seemingly rises from the sea, standing in full bloom amongst the iconic architecture of Hong Kong's skyline at the picturesque harbourfront promenade.

A crucial female figure in contemporary art, Genzken has continuously experimented with materials, techniques, and forms of display in her outdoor sculptures to explore the links between architecture and urban space over the course of four decades.

Having debuted in New York in 2010, the steel, aluminium and lacquer *Rose II* is a spectacular public sculpture of which its superhuman size, exaggerated proportions and inorganic materials are in perfect harmony with the striking architecture and soaring skyscrapers of cities. With its larger-than-life scale, the piece turns what is normally a personal act of giving a rose into a gesture for the whole community. As a final touch, the rose's vibrant red colour conveys a sense of energy, strength, passion and warmth that also resonates with Hong Kong.

***Untitled* by Izumi Kato, the Artist's First-Ever Bronze Sculptures, Presented by K11 Art Foundation**

Date: Till 2022

Location: Sculpture Park, 6F, K11 MUSEA



Courtesy of the Artist and Perrotin. ©2021 Izumi Kato.

Japanese artist Izumi Kato's art practice is a journey into our own sense of humanity which begins at the point of convergence between imagination and reality. *Untitled* (2021), Kato's sculpture trio, is a new bronze variation born from his stone sculpture series.

With *Untitled*, Kato conveys the organic shape of stones in a stack of partially hand-painted bronze blocks, marking a departure from previous works in both form and origin. Each sculpture portrays Kato's iconic wide-eyed humanoid creature, at once evoking a soft sense of primitivism while also alluding to the far-flung future.

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Download high resolution images:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zb80BXVLZnAiBdBwhlc15WU04Ujm8b5u?usp=sharing>

Social Media

Please join the conversation on Instagram (@k11artfoundation), and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/K11ArtFoundation/>), with hashtag #K11ArtFoundation and tag @K11ArtFoundation

**About K11 Art Foundation**

Founded by Adrian Cheng in 2010, K11 Art Foundation (KAF) is a non-profit organisation in Hong Kong dedicated to fostering the development of Chinese contemporary art. In pursuing our mission, we are committed to supporting artists through KAF's exhibitions, artist residencies, and educational programmes. We also actively establish partnerships with leading art and cultural institutions around the world, collaborating with curators and other industry specialists to create impactful cross-cultural exchange and contribute to the expanding global contemporary art discourse.

Over the years, KAF has collaborated with the Royal Academy of Arts, Serpentine Galleries, and the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; Centre Pompidou, Palais de Tokyo, and Musée Marmottan Monet, Paris; Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí, Figueres; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the New Museum, The Museum of Modern Art, and MoMA PS1, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; UCCA Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing; and Videotage, British Council Hong Kong, Design Trust, and Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong, among others.

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