

Xin Liu wins the inaugural K11 Artist Prize



Photo by Pok Lam

25 March 2024, Hong Kong – K11 Art Foundation and the K11 Art Foundation International Council today announce **Xin Liu** as the recipient of the inaugural K11 Artist Prize. This new annual prize offers an emerging Asian artist international visibility through creative collaborations, critical recognition, and other significant opportunities.

The Council was established by **Adrian Cheng** (Founder of K11 Art Foundation) in 2023 to empower and nurture up-and-coming Asian artists. Xin (b. 1991) – an artist and engineer working at the intersection of art, technology, and science – was selected from a shortlist of eight artists.

Alia Al-Senussi, Chairperson of the Council, commented on Xin's selection: *"We're thrilled to announce Xin as the winner of our inaugural K11 Artist Prize. It is a year of many firsts for us, and to celebrate Xin is special in this context. Xin is distinguished by an innovative, interdisciplinary practice deeply inspired by her Chinese identity and heritage. Born and raised in Xinjiang, and now based in New York, her work explores and celebrates the perspectives of different contexts and worlds, serving as an important bridge between cultures and communities. We look forward to seeing her continue to flourish on the world stage under the guidance of the K11 Art Foundation and its International Council, whose essence she embodies so brilliantly."*

The winning artist will also be supported by mentorship from the Council which includes founding members **A4 Arts Foundation, Basma Al Sulaiman, Sarah Arison, Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Eugenio Re Rebaudengo** and **Olga Re Rebaudengo**.

The announcement took place during Hong Kong Art Week on a special occasion that celebrates the opening of *Boundless Reverie: Chinese Savoir-Faire and Contemporary Art*, an exhibition that highlights the intersection of cultures across time as fertile ground for artistic inspiration, exhibiting rare Chinese antiquities alongside contemporary artworks that look to our shared global heritage and the fluidity of cultural expression. Other artists shortlisted for the Prize included **Han Mengyun, Greg Ito, Yeonsu Ju, Melissa Ling, Shota Nakamura, Sun Yitian**, and **Alexandre Zhu**.

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About K11 Art Foundation

Founded by Dr. Adrian Cheng in 2010, the K11 Art Foundation is a non-profit organisation in Hong Kong dedicated to nurturing emerging Asian artists on the international art scene while fostering the development of contemporary art.

In pursuing its mission, the K11 Art Foundation organises a diverse range of art projects, including exhibitions, artist residencies, and educational programmes, providing platforms for artists to showcase their talents, embark on new endeavours, and engage in exchanging ideas. Many of these projects are presented in partnership with leading art and cultural institutions around the globe, which enables meaningful cross-cultural collaborations among emerging and established artists, esteemed curators, and other industry specialists. Through its efforts, the K11 Art Foundation also contributes to broadening audiences' creative horizons, strengthening the connections among different art communities.

Over the years, the K11 Art Foundation has collaborated with the Royal Academy of Arts, Serpentine Galleries, the Institute of Contemporary Arts, and international contemporary art magazine ArtReview in London; Centre Pompidou, Palais de Tokyo, and Musée Marmottan Monet in Paris; Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí in Figueres; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the New Museum, and The Museum of Modern Art, and MoMA PS1 in New York; The Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles; UCCA Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing; Videotage, British Council Hong Kong, Design Trust, and Asia Art Archive in Hong Kong, among others.

www.k11artfoundation.org

About K11 Art Prize

Created by the K11 Art Foundation International Council, the K11 Artist Prize marks the first step in their mission to empower and support the next generation of Asian artists. This new initiative offers a platform for one outstanding artist to explore new paths in professional development, engage in creative collaborations, and gain recognition on a global scale.

Supported by the Council - which is composed of influential collectors and experts in their fields - the recipient of the award will have the opportunity to benefit from ongoing support from the K11 Art Foundation including participation in international projects, educational initiatives and residency programmes.

About K11 Group

K11 Group is a unique concept brand that combines culture and commerce, sustaining an ecosystem that caters to all walks of life. Founded in 2008 by renowned entrepreneur Dr. Adrian Cheng, the Group encourages a deeper look at the interconnectivity between creativity, culture and innovation. Through K11 Group, Cheng aims to enrich the daily lives of next-generation consumers and create a new global identity for Chinese millennials, as well as cultivate opportunities for communities to thrive, connect, work and shop.

K11 Group is based in Hong Kong with operations in Greater China and investments in Europe and the US. By 2026, K11 Group will have gained a footprint of 38 projects (GFA 2.80 million sq. m) in 10 cities across Greater China. In addition to its flagship K11 MUSEA, 11 SKIES and K11 Art Malls, the Group operates K11 ATELIER, K11 ARTUS and K11 Select. In addition, it cultivates cultural richness through the Hong Kong non-profit K11 Art Foundation and the K11 Craft & Guild Foundation, alongside educational platforms like K11 KULTURE ACADEMY & K11 Future Taskforce. www.k11.com

About Xin Liu

Xin Liu (1991, b. Xinjiang) is a multidisciplinary artist and engineer, who creates sculptures, digital experiences, and films that feature machinery, genetic material, petroleum, and rocket debris, to explore the verticality of space, extraterrestrial explorations, and cosmic metabolism.

She is an artist-in-residence at SETI Institute and works as the Arts Curator in the Space Exploration Initiative at MIT Media Lab. Her recent institutional solo exhibitions include *Seedings and Offspring* (2023) at Pioneer Works, New York, and *At the End of Everything* (2023) at ARTPACE, San Antonio. She is an advisor for LACMA Art+Tech Lab and a researcher at Antikythera, Berggren Institute.

Her work has been shown at Shanghai Biennale, Thailand Biennale, M+ Museum, Yuz Museum, MoMA PS1, MAXXI Rome, Sundance Film Festival, Ars Electronica, and Onassis Foundation, Sapporo International Art Festival, among others.

About *Boundless Reverie: Chinese Savoir-Faire and Contemporary Art*

Boundless Reverie: Chinese Savoir-Faire and Contemporary Art opens to the public from 26 March to 19 May 2024.

Supported by SUPREME, a premium brand of Hutchison Telecom Hong Kong, and LG Electronics Hong Kong (LG), this exhibition highlights the intersection of cultures as fertile ground for artistic inspiration. Rare Chinese antiques are exhibited alongside contemporary artworks that look to our shared global heritage, in addition to the fluidity of cultural expression in today's context.

Boundless Reverie begins by showcasing the exquisite gilt-decoration craftsmanship that recalls the prosperous maritime trade between China and Europe during the Age of Sail. From jewellery cabinets and tea boxes from the 18th century to hand-painted fans and bookcases of courtyard scenes from the 19th century—the collection is complemented by immersive, digital technology-enabled experiences that celebrate the contemporary resurgence of traditional crafts.

Moving through to the present, Boundless Reverie brings together 13 emerging contemporary artists, each with a distinctive connection to China as a place and culture. The artists include Jes FAN, Dominique FUNG, Chris HUEN Sin Kan, JI Xin, SUN Yitian, Xiyao WANG, Ziping WANG, XIA Yu, Vivien ZHANG and ZHANG Zipiao; along with Coco HO, Gerry LI and Pongyu WAI, who previously participated in the K11 Group × ArtReview Artist-in-Residence Programme. The works on display manifest their creative interpretations of established Chinese and western artistic traditions while demonstrating how they navigate their ever-evolving identities in a world that is in constant flux.

Biographies of Founding Members of K11 Art Foundation Council:

Alia Al-Senussi, Chairman

Alia Al-Senussi, PhD, is an active member of the contemporary art world with a focus on cultural strategy and patronage systems. She is a cultural strategist, writer, patron, public speaker and academic. Al-Senussi has served as Art Basel's UK and MENA Representative for over a decade, and she is also currently the Senior Advisor, International Outreach for Art Basel.

In 2019 she was appointed Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Culture, Saudi Arabia, where she focuses on developing international partnerships whilst working on a variety of projects across the Ministry's commissions and the Diriyah Biennale Foundation. A visiting lecturer at Brown University's Watson Institute, working with the Middle East Studies Program she is also a member of the Tate Modern Advisory Council (London), the Strategic Advisory Panel of the Delfina Foundation (London), the Board of Trustees of The Showroom (London), the Board of Trustees of FUNTASIA/Elisa Sednaoui Foundation (UK / Egypt / Italy), the Board of Governors of Aiglon College (Switzerland) as well as a member of Therme Advisory Board (Germany) and the UCCA Contemporary Circle (China).

She continues to serve as a founding member of the Tate's Acquisitions Committee for the Middle East and North Africa, the Board of 1:54 The African Art Fair, and the Middle East Circle of the Guggenheim, the Middle East Studies Advisory Committee at Brown University, the Serpentine Future Contemporaries (and founding committee member) as well as was a being a member of the Board of Patrons of Art Dubai, having played an integral role in the founding of the fair. Al-Senussi is also a member of the British Museum committee for the acquisition of Middle Eastern art. She has a PhD in Politics from SOAS (London), examining the nexus of power and cultural patronage, featuring Saudi Arabia as a case study. She graduated Magna Cum Laude in International Relations (honors) and Middle East Studies from Brown University and holds an MA in Political Science from Brown and an MSc in Law, Anthropology and Society from the London School of Economics.

A4 Arts Foundation

A4 Arts Foundation is a free-to-public not-for-profit laboratory for the arts of Southern Africa. It is a site for experiments and an experiment itself. In conversation with trans-disciplinary collaborators, A4 explores the arts as a catalyst for innovation. In September 2017, A4 opened an art centre in District 6, Cape Town. Participating alongside existing public, private, commercial and academic frameworks, A4 reaches for continuous learning, quantum thinking and serious play.

Basma AlSulaiman

Born in Jeddah Saudi Arabia, Basma Al Sulaiman is considered one of the 100 most influential people in the Art World and one of the most relevant collectors and art patrons in the Middle East. Fostering a dialogue between the local and the global art scene has always

remained a priority for Basma, which is why the collection is now considered among the pioneering collections to have sparked and steered the Kingdom's relationship with the arts, paving the way for the local flourishing cultural sector. In 2011, she founded BASMOCA (Basma AlSulaiman Museum of Contemporary Art), the first virtual museum in the world relying on cutting edge visual technologies to share her collection among a wider audience. She regularly loans pieces to museum around the world and has been behind several donations. One of the missions behind her collection is to preserve the legacy of her late son Mohammed Juffali.

Sarah Arison

Sarah Arison is President of the Arison Arts Foundation, a private grant-making organisation that supports emerging artists and the institutions that foster them. She is active across a broad cross-section of US arts organisations. She is Chair of the Board of YoungArts, where she has developed strategic partnerships with the Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA, Jacob's Pillow, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Sundance Film Festival and more, to provide aspiring talent with presentation and mentorship opportunities. Arison is also the Chair of the board of MoMA PS1; a trustee of MoMA; Board President of American Ballet Theatre; a trustee of Lincoln Center; a trustee of the Brooklyn Museum and Chair of the Education Committee; a trustee at New World Symphony; a trustee of Aspen Art Museum, and a trustee of the Americas Foundation of the Serpentine Galleries.

Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo

Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo has been collecting art for over three decades. She is the President of Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo which she created in 1995. In 2017, she founded Fundación Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Madrid. Since 2017, she has also been President of the IEO-Monzino Foundation, supporting the European Institute of Oncology-Monzino Cardiologist Center. She plays an active role in many leading international institutions, including MoMA, New York; Tate, London; The New Museum, New York; Philadelphia Museum of Art; Bard College, New York and the Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai. In 2023 she was appointed President of the Fondazione per l'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea CRT, Turin.

Eugenio Re Rebaudengo and Olga Re Rebaudengo

Eugenio Re Rebaudengo is an entrepreneur and art collector with more than 15 years of experience in the artworld. His interest in the arts led to greater involvement in the family's foundation, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo and he was appointed part of its Board of Directors in 2008. Since then he has been actively engaged in developing the collection and the organisation of shows by artists including; Michael Armitage, Avery Singer, Josh Kline and Sanya Kantarowski amongst others. After moving to London, Re Rebaudengo received an MSc degree in Management from the London School of Economics. He founded ARTUNER in 2013, an art platform staging curated selling exhibitions online and through an ambitious programme of international shows. Over the last ten years, Re Rebaudengo has focused on identifying talented artists in the early stages of their careers and helping them develop, organising over 40 exhibitions worldwide.

Having graduated from the London School of Economics, Olga Re Rebaudengo spent 10 years in the financial industry in London (JPMorgan Investment Banking and Hedge Fund Industry) before moving into the art sector joining ARTUNER in 2017. Passionate about art, fashion, sustainability and philanthropy, Olga went on to found ArtCollab in 2019. ArtCollab is a philanthropic project by *Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo*, aimed at bringing together artists from various disciplines to create one-of-a-kind products with all profits going towards programming at *Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo*.