

K11 Art Foundation presents: *Emerald City*

K11 Art Foundation Pop-up Space

Cosco Tower, 33 Wing Lok Street, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong
28 March – 22 April 2018

chi art space

8/F, New World Tower 2, 18 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong
28 March – 31 May 2018

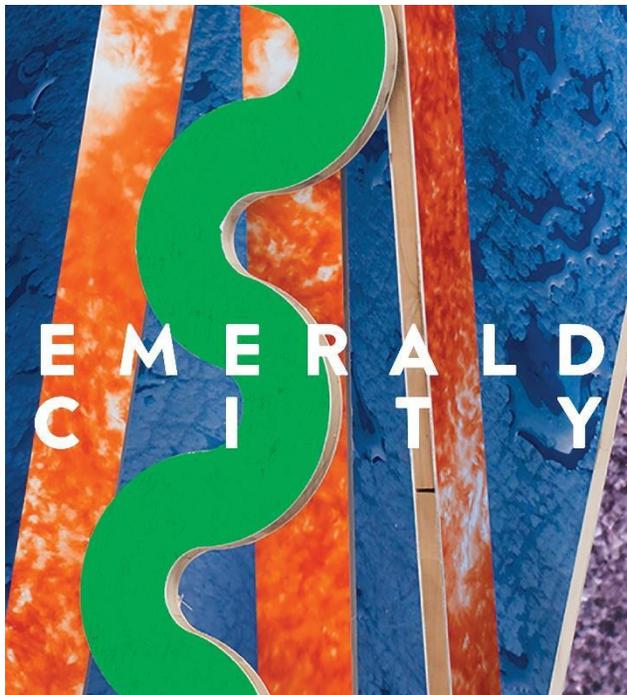


Image on the visual: Zhou Siwei, *Images Carrier 02* (Detail), 2015, digital print, 200 × 150 cm. Courtesy of the Artist and Antenna Space.

To coincide with Art Basel Hong Kong 2018, K11 Art Foundation (KAF) is pleased to present *Emerald City*, a group exhibition that will bring to life a cross-section of artistic approaches to rethinking geometry in relation to the connectivity of universal knowledge through space. The exhibition will show approximately 40 artworks across multiple genres of art, including painting, sculpture, video, photography, and site-specific installation in Cosco Tower and chi art space in Hong Kong, exploring how geometry, the “measurement of the Earth (geo)”, has influenced our imagination of the world.

Through a number of successful collaborations with some of the world's top cultural institutions, KAF has facilitated the deepening of international audiences' understanding of Chinese contemporary art since its establishment in 2010. As the first major exhibition curated and produced solely by KAF, *Emerald City* demonstrates its mature development as a cultural institution by illustrating the fruits of its extensive academic

research and offering its unique perspective in connecting cultural exchange through inter-regional and trans-generational artistic discourses.

Emerald City's conceptual origin is reflected in the inclusion of a number of key artists and works that they created in the last two decades of the 20th century. The 1980s and 1990s saw a huge-scale reimagining of global connectedness, which led to the emergence of art movements including Neo-Geometric Conceptualism (“Neo-Geo”) in the US, Rational Painting in China, and Japanese art before Superflat. The common threads of creative exploration that run through these movements offer insight into the potential for cohesive creativity formed in isolation.

The inclusion of pioneering Neo-Geo artists Ashley Bickerton (b. 1959) and Peter Halley (b.1953) highlights the conceptual nature of the movement, which rejected commodification of art and sought to use geometric dialectic of inside/ outside as a metaphor for the metaphysical fine line between art and commodity. Works by these two artists will be exhibited alongside a number of sculptures by L.A.-based artist Carl F. Cheng (b.1942), whose works in the 60s and 70s sought to create ecosystems within the confines of boxes in portable sizes. Cheng's microwave-sized *Erosion Machine* (1969) mimics nature by allowing the viewer to witness the erosion process of sedimentary rocks enclosed in a box in the scale of handy domestic appliances.

Most contemporary artworks conform to the confines of geometry due to the formal limitations of traditional art media – the canvas, the screen, the lens. *Emerald City* seeks to illustrate the persistence of geometric thoughts in contemporary society, in both our cultural output and social constructs, by positioning artworks such as Keiichi Tanaami's (b.1936) "*The House in Ascension*" sculpture series_A (1986) alongside newly commissioned works by young artists, such as Nik Kosmas (b.1985). Kosmas has created a site-specific, large-scale climbing frame, similar to those found in recreational areas globally; the installation will invite visitors to explore their physicality and the space surrounding them in accordance with a man-made, geometric structure based on the idea of functional asymmetry. Other new commissions include works by Oscar Chan Yik Long (b.1988), Mountain River Jump! (b.1985), Zhang Ruyi (b.1985) and Doris Wong Wai Yin (b. 1981).

The exhibition will include existing works by the following artists:

Ashley Bickerton, Dora Budor, Nina Canell, Chen Zhou, Carl F. Cheng, Dumb Type, Ajay Kurian, Liu Chuang, Andrew Luk/ Alexis Mailles/ Peter Nelson, Oscar Murillo, Adrián Villar Rojas, Shen Xin, Keiichi Tanaami, The Play, Ben Tong, Clarissa Tossin, Alice Wang, Trevor Yeung, Zhang Enli, and Zhou Siwei

As well as newly commissioned works by the following artists:

Oscar Chan Yik Long, Peter Halley, Mountain River Jump!, Nik Kosmas, Doris Wong Wai Yin, and Zhang Ruyi

Adrian Cheng, Founder and Honorary Chairman, the K11 Art Foundation:

"K11 Art Foundation has evolved into a dynamic and autonomous cultural entity within its own right. We are delighted to have forged connections between Chinese contemporary artists and major global institutions in recent years and look forward to continuing to nurture these ongoing relationships. Now is the right time for the Foundation to bring to the fore the extensive academic insight that has been cultivated internally since our inauguration in 2010 and to bring together an exhibition that illustrates the breadth of expertise and unique cultural perspective offered by the Foundation."

Notes to Editors

Credit line

K11 Art Foundation presents *Emerald City* on show at Cosco Tower (Sheung Wan, Hong Kong) from 28 March – 22 April 2018 and chi art space (Central, Hong Kong) from 28 March – 31 May 2018, open daily 11am – 7pm

k11artfoundation.org #EmeraldCityKAF

Press events: 27 March 2018

11am – 12noon Press preview and curator walk-through

5:30pm – 8pm Opening reception

About the K11 Art Foundation

Founded by Adrian Cheng in 2010, K11 Art Foundation (KAF) is a registered not-for-profit organisation that promotes the long-term development of the contemporary art scene in Greater China by providing support for emerging Chinese artists and taking them to the international stage. Not only does KAF nurture artistic talents, but it also serves as an incubator for professional practices of promising young curators.

KAF has forged partnerships with many prestigious art institutions for regional and international art projects. It has collaborated with, for example, Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí in Figueres; Serpentine Galleries and Institute of Contemporary Arts in London; Centre Pompidou, Palais de Tokyo, and Musée Marmottan Monet in Paris; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Armory Show, New Museum, The Museum of Modern Art, and MoMA PS1 in New York. Works of Chinese talents are showcased at exhibitions and on other occasions in Asia and other parts of the world. Another undertaking of the Foundation is to host artist-in-residence programmes at the K11 art village in Wuhan, China. In November 2017, the village was relocated to the K11 Art Mall in the city to provide artists-in-residence from Greater China and around the globe with better resources and facilities for artistic production and knowledge exchange. Equipped with studios, exhibition spaces, and multifunctional rooms, it makes itself an ideal place for all kinds of exhibitions and activities, encouraging creative practices and connecting art to life.

Through its exhibitions, partnerships, residencies, researches, publishing projects, and educational programmes, KAF has created countless platforms for the production, presentation, and interpretation of contemporary art in Greater China and beyond, piquing public interest in contemporary art and fostering appreciation of art and culture.

For more information, visit k11artfoundation.org.

Venus Lau

Venus Lau, Artistic Director of K11 Art Foundation, oversees all artistic vision for programming, providing insights on creative content-building and the realisation of projects. Prior joining K11 Art Foundation, Venus was the former Artistic Director of OCT Contemporary Art Terminal, Shenzhen, and Consulting Curator at Ullens Centre for Contemporary Art, Beijing.

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