

**For immediate release**

**Artist Zhang Jian-Jun takes up a two-month residency at the Royal Academy of Arts and presents solo show *Human Traces*  
 Artwork will be exhibited in Greater China**



Zhang Jian-Jun has been working on his Multi-media installation *Human Traces* in Smirke 2 Studio at the RA Schools in the Royal Academy of Arts, London. Courtesy of Studio PB.

K11 Art Foundation (KAF) is pleased to announce that artist Zhang Jian-Jun, who is based in Shanghai and New York, has started his two-month residency at the Royal Academy of Arts (RA), located in London, as the fourth artist taking part in the three-year artist-in-residence programme co-presented by the two institutions. The residency involves the creation of a new mixed-media installation—*Human Traces*—that manifests Zhang’s ongoing artistic enquiry into humankind and his deep interest in the existence of nature, society and people as one whole. The work will be on view at Zhang’s solo show at his studio in the RA Schools from 5 to 14 September 2019.

Since settling into his new work routine in London in July, Zhang has been transforming Smirke 2 Studio, his temporary studio in the RA Schools, which is situated at the heart of the Royal Academy, into an ‘archaeology’ site where experiences from the past and present are captured and transformed into an engaging form of storytelling that invites ruminations about the possibility of connection beyond cultural differences. Ink and charcoal portraits of the people he met in London, along with images of the historical statues displayed at the Royal Academy, have been made to integrate with audio recordings of the interviews he did with a group of participants, who answered questions about their personal experiences linked to history and the future.

In the show, visitors can walk into the installation to get immersed in the stories told by people from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, reflecting on themselves as they listen to and observe their surroundings. The installation will be exhibited in Greater China after its debut in London.

### **Zhang Jian-Jun: Artist in Residence**

#### ***Human Traces***

#### **RA Schools, Royal Academy of Arts, London Residency period:**

19 July 2019– 16 September 2019

**Show period:** 5 September–14 September 2019

(10am–6pm daily; free admission)

**Show venue:** Smirke 2 Studio, RA Schools, Royal Academy of Arts, London

#### **RA/KAF Artist-in-residence programme**

Zhang Jian-Jun is the fourth artist-in-residence participating in the long-term residency programme co-presented by the RA and KAF. The partnership facilitates an exchange of artistic practice with Chinese artists invited to work in London to highlight the diversity and dynamism of Chinese contemporary art and for RA Schools graduates to take up residency in Greater China. Both artists have an opportunity to engage with new and international audiences.

#### **About Zhang Jian-Jun**

Zhang Jian-Jun was born in 1955 in Shanghai. He graduated from the Shanghai Theatre Academy's Department of Fine Arts in 1978 and became Shanghai Art Museum's first Assistant Director and the head of the Art Research Department of the Museum in 1986 before moving to the United States in 1989. Currently, Zhang is a professor at New York University Shanghai. He lives and works in both Shanghai and New York City. Zhang began to pursue abstract painting in the 1980s. He expresses his personal perspective on humankind and the universe through the integrity of language and constantly explores the existence of the ontological status. His work displays a profound understanding of Chinese philosophy and culture.

#### **About K11 Art Foundation (KAF)**

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

Through its exhibitions, partnerships, residencies, 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 art and culture. [www.k11artfoundation.org](http://www.k11artfoundation.org)

#### **About the Royal Academy of Arts (RA)**

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by King George III in 1768. It has a unique position in being an independent, privately funded institution led by eminent artists and architects whose purpose is to be a clear, strong voice for art and artists. Its public programme promotes the creation, enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts through exhibitions, education and debate.

The Royal Academy has launched a new campus as part of the celebrations of its 250th anniversary year. Following a transformative redevelopment, designed by the internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield RA and supported by the National Lottery, the new Royal Academy of Arts reveals more of the elements that make the RA unique – sharing with the public historic treasures from its Collection, the work of its Royal Academicians and the Royal Academy Schools, and its role as a centre for learning and debate about art and architecture – alongside its world-class exhibitions programme. [royalacademy.org.uk](http://royalacademy.org.uk)

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