

**K11 Art Foundation and The Royal Academy of Arts present:
Third Artist in Residence at K11 art village, Wuhan, China
*Martin Gross: Paradox Lake***

Following resident Chinese artist Zhang Enli and RA alumnus Paul Schneider, K11 Art Foundation (KAF) and the Royal Academy of Arts (RA) are presenting the third phase of their three-year collaborative artist-in-residence programme: ***Paradox Lake***, the first solo exhibition in Asia of RA alumnus Martin Gross which will be on view at K11 art village, Wuhan, China, from 10 May to 10 June 2019. The exhibition explores social landscape – a relationship between humans and the man-made urban environment – and discloses the ways in which life and art are together presented as a spectacular agglomerate.



Martin Gross in K11 art village, Wuhan.

GIVING BIRTH TO VISUAL SPECTACLES AMONG UNIQUE URBAN TEXTURES

Gross spends most of the eight weeks of the residency traveling in the hustle and bustle of Wuhan's architectural density and traffic crowdedness. He wanders in the rapidly developing city that is in recent years caught in high-speed renewal projects and social changes and is awed by the spectacle this highly-populated city has to offer. As the 'city of hundred lakes,' Wuhan is

geologically known for the large number and variety of lakes within the city - not only lakes as popular as the tourist-attracting Donghu, but also lakes rapidly shrinking or disappearing as the city further urbanizes itself. **The unique geological nature of the city along with the profound history of Punk music interest Gross. Creating for the upcoming exhibition, the artist weaves his observations and experiences of local cultures together with rich inspirations and astute narrative abilities and produces a series of paintings and installations that depict and reflect upon every-day life, pertaining to the balanced relationship between humans, Wuhan city, nature, lakes and the constantly renewed landscape. The unique cityscape result directly in the notion of *Paradox Lake*.**

Heavily influenced by his time in Wuhan, Gross created a number of new and bold works on-site. This new body of bold works by Gross is a result of the artist's constant evolving artistic process, as he relentlessly innovates and renews the conceptual aspect of his art and makes breakthroughs at decisive turning points. By participating in the KAF-Royal Academy artist-in-residency programme, Gross furthers his practice that is deeply rooted in his long-term focus on our social connections, our world around us and the visual languages of the information society.

DEEPENING INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND REVITALISING THE CITY

As a result of the latest KAF artist-in-residence programme in China, and the third edition of the artist-in-residence collaboration between KAF and the Royal Academy, the exhibition further deepens the international cultural exchanges and cross-disciplinary research practices between China and overseas.

Aidan Li, Head of K11 Art Foundation says: "Through our collaboration with RA on the residency programme, KAF aims at encouraging and inspiring artists from various fields to reconsider the potential of languages and information, to produce new narratives in social landscapes. *Paradox Lake* further amplifies the social influence of the collaborative residency programme, makes an example and opportunity for Chinese contemporary art to be more integrally involved in international dialogues, and provides a new perspective regarding the local cultures and lifestyles of Wuhan."

May Xue, curator of *Paradox Lake* and Director of Education & Institutional Relations, remarks on this artist-in-residence programme: "We hope that participating artists could be deeply involved with the city of Wuhan, and the public here. We hope that the art produced on the occasion and the KAF could together elevate everyday aesthetics to another level. The international nature and locality of the residency programme rendered the previous two editions more than successful and rich. The residency programme in Wuhan will continue observing the principles of the programme and will further benefit the local and create new opportunities."

Dedicated to supporting young artists KAF carries out the promise of building a unique contemporary Chinese culture and enhancing public understanding of art. This three-year artist-in-residence partnership between KAF and RA redefines the meaning of an international cultural dialogue, continuously encouraging artists to aspire to greatness.

Notes to Editors

Credit line: Artist-in-residence exchange programme co-presented by K11 Art Foundation (KAF) and Royal Academy of Arts (RA), From August 2017 to 2020 located in London, UK and Greater China. www.k11artfoundation.org www.royalacademy.org.uk

Presenters:

K11 Art Foundation, The Royal Academy of Arts

Exhibition Period:

Opening Ceremony: 10 May 2019, 4:00pm-8pm (last admission at 7:30pm)

Public Viewing: 11 May 2019 – 10 June 2019, Tuesday to Sunday (closed on Monday)
10am – 8 pm (last admission at 7:30 pm)

Exhibition Venue:

K11 art village

No 355 Guan Shan Avenue, East Lake New Technology Development District, Wuhan, China

Artist:

Martin Gross

K11 Art Foundation x The Royal Academy of Arts Artist-in-Residence Programme

First artist-in-residence: Chinese artist Zhang Enli

Residency period: August to September 2018

Location: Life Room, RA Schools, Burlington House, Royal Academy of Arts, London

Second artist-in-residence: RA Schools alumnus Paul Schneider

Residency period: November 2018 – January 2019

Location: K11 Shenyang, China

Third artist-in-residence: RA Schools alumnus Martin Gross

Residency period: March 2019 – May 2019

Location: K11 art village, Wuhan, China

Fourth artist-in-residence: Chinese artist Zhang Jianjun

Residency period: July 2019 – September 2019

Location: Royal Academy of Arts, London

About 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 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. The foundation also hosts an artist-in-residence programme at the K11 art village in Wuhan, China.

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 the appreciation of art and culture. www.k11artfoundation.org

About the Royal Academy of Arts

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. www.royalacademy.org.uk

About Martin Gross

Born in 1984, Martin Gross explores the structural and spatial nature in painting, and creates a large number of highly conceptual paintings, prints, textual works and installations that are remarkably rich in terms of the artistic and visual languages the artist employs. Recently, Gross shifts his focus to observations, impressions, human figures and texts that are related to cultures and the everyday life. He describes his works as 'social landscape'. Regarding his own practice, Gross remarks: "Moments from personal experiences and fragmented statements could all be the starting points of my paintings, materials for my wall pieces and the texts in my LED works. In these works, I try to face the viewer with a mix of forms and languages, where all the texts, data and information are highly concentrated in a kind of raw, impressionistic mark."

Press inquiry

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