



For Immediate Release

## Zhang Enli Holds First Solo Exhibition in Hong Kong – “Space Painting” Curated by Adrian Cheng and Presented by the K11 Art Foundation

**(Hong Kong, 12 May 2014) – Space Painting**, the first ever solo exhibition in Hong Kong of Chinese contemporary artist Zhang Enli has opened today, curated by Adrian Cheng at the K11 Art Foundation Pop Up Space as the city gears up for Art Basel Hong Kong. Located in the city’s financial district, the exhibition showcases the artist’s recent works exploring spatial creativity, as well as a unique installation reflecting the artist’s emotional response to the Hong Kong cityscape. Adrian Cheng, the Exhibition Curator, is the Founder and Chairman of the K11 Art Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation created to advance the development of the Chinese contemporary art movement and introduce it to a broader audience both at home and abroad.

For his first-ever solo exhibition in Hong Kong, Zhang Enli built a low-ceiling cardboard chamber with a thick central pillar, inviting viewers to move deeper through the installation before returning to its opening. Thick and earthy green, brown, and yellow brushstrokes are layered across rows and columns of square cartons posing as walls, occasionally broken by blue patches to conjure images of Hong Kong’s thriving, densely-spaced environment against the city’s well-defined geometric shapes. Contrasts of light and shadows create a sense of mystery, immersing the viewer in a cocoon where each new facade may invoke a personal memory of the fragrant harbour.

In addition to this special installation, the exhibition also includes two of Zhang Enli’s recent paintings – ‘Space’ and ‘Container’ – featuring the artist’s signature iconography, made famous for using everyday objects and spaces as main subject matters to impart new life to the world of the mundane. While ‘Space’ is one of Zhang’s latest works, ‘Container’ is an earlier painting completed in 2002 – the year the artist moved to a new studio. According to Zhang, subjects in his paintings reflect the changes in his creative path and more generally in everyone’s life, bringing new insights as our surrounding environments evolve. Much like our own bodies, art works too can “breathe” and need to be refreshed once their original purpose is fulfilled.

Adrian Cheng, Curator of the exhibition, commented: “Zhang’s works really touch people’s hearts, as he is a master at turning ordinary objects from our daily lives into creative themes that successfully connect his art with his audience. In recent years, his still life paintings have reflected a certain understanding and sensitivity to his surroundings in almost abstract forms. We are honoured to introduce his latest body of work in his first solo exhibition in Hong Kong. Space painting is a direct connection and communication between his old and new artworks, but more significantly for Hong Kong, it is his personal response to the concept of space in our small but vibrant city.”



The theme of “Space Painting” is a body of work started by Zhang Enli in 2010, where walls, floors, cardboard boxes or cartons become the artist’s canvas, providing observers with a renewed sense of the space that surrounds them. Influenced by ancient Chinese frescoes, Zhang Enli draws from his training in Chinese ink-and-brush techniques to create immersive environments that combine elements of his urban surroundings as well as more personal reflections of his childhood experiences.

### **Space Painting by Zhang Enli**

Curated by Adrian Cheng

Date: 12 May – 13 July 2014

Location: K11 Art Foundation Pop-up Space  
G/F, Cosco Tower, Grand Millennium Plaza  
183 Queen’s Road Central, Sheung Wan

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### **ABOUT K11 ART FOUNDATION**

Founded by Adrian Cheng in 2010, the K11 Art Foundation is a registered not-for-profit organisation that advances the development of the Chinese contemporary art movement by providing the creative incubating platform to nurture artistic talents in Greater China and bring them to the international stage and the broader audience. The foundation has embarked on creative collaborations and cross-regional experimentations regionally and globally to showcase Chinese talents and their full potential. Through research, initiatives and partnerships, as well as harnessing the passion and energy of the active participants, the K11 Art Foundation facilitates the public to enjoy a diverse array of programs and exhibitions to educate and raise the collective appreciation of arts and culture. The K11 Art Villages (artist-in-residence program) in Wuhan and Guiyang offer the space and platform to many young artists to create and present their works.

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