

## 3812 GALLERY EXPANDS PRESENCE IN ST JAMES'S LONDON

### *Inaugural Exhibition: Chinese Artist Liu Guofu's Solo Show Vibrating Double Shadows*

*Exhibition Period: 6 Nov 2018 – 12 Jan 2019*



Liu Guofu, *Open Space 66*, oil on canvas, 90 cm x 120 cm, 2018

**(31 Oct 2018)** 3812 Gallery, one of the foremost contemporary Asian art galleries in Hong Kong, announces an ambitious expansion to Europe by opening its first outpost in London art district St. James's on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018 with a solo exhibition of **Liu Guofu**, *Vibrating Double Shadows*, showcasing new paintings that were created throughout the last two years by this Nanjing-based artist. The opening of 3812 London Gallery coincides with the week of Asian Art London, in which the gallery will also participate.

Co-founder and CEO of 3812 Gallery Mark Peaker says, 'We are very excited to announce the opening of our new gallery in London. As the opening exhibition, we believe that Liu Guofu's work showcases a unique blend of Eastern and Western art elements that represents a spirit of oriental origin in contemporary expression, a vision that our gallery has been trying to hold onto for years. With our new location, we look forward to continuing to create new aesthetic experiences for our collectors and visitors around the world in the future.'

Liu Guofu's 'Phantom Brushstrokes' gives us a whole new perspective on artistic language. Liu Guofu's works have been displayed in public in many exhibitions over the years and have acquired high reputation. Liu has his idiosyncratic style in creation – he tends to retain every sketch of strokes and oil paint and covers up with new layers without hiding the trace. The fragmented brushstrokes and the transparent layers are handled with patience and persistence as the process bides much of his time. Those black and ochre oil glazes possess an aura that tradition did not; the scattered brushstrokes begin to take on a sacred solemnity of holy chants.

Dr. Xia Kejun, acclaimed philosopher and art critic, once described Liu Guofu's oil paintings as a magical spectacle: 'Among Chinese contemporary oil painters, I have yet to see a single one who is so richly imbued with the dejected and pessimistic qualities of modernity, or can convey the lofty desolation of Shanshui landscape painting with such clear form and spiritual power. This is truly an "otherworldly landscape", the most magical spectacle of the soul.'

In his essay "Surfacing Colour: On Liu Guofu", world-leading philosopher Andrew Benjamin wrote: "Every time we come before the painting of Liu Guofu, the space opened up by the surface of the

painting retains the many shadows of time's passing. Through countless brushstrokes, the painter stacks their imprints onto the painting. Those layers and layers of beautiful, transparent shadows are like the appearance of the spirit."

*'On the river, the mind is drawn to the stacked peaks, floating in the emptiness like jade in the clouds.'* – Stacking Mountain Peaks Along a Smoky River, Su Shi

Liu Guofu's handling of Chinese classical landscape painting is unprecedented. In the overlapping brushstrokes, the trace of clouds and hills from ancient landscape painting emerge imperceptibly, yet just a glimpse and quickly dispersed, like the shadow of a veil depicted in Su Shi's inscription on Wang Shen's painting *Stacking Mountain Peaks*, "On the river, the mind is drawn to the stacked peaks, floating in the emptiness like jade in the clouds." Liu's works has the connotation of abstractionism but not exactly. He neither falls into the abstract thinking of the West nor follows the tradition of Chinese imaginary semblance, maintaining the natural elements and variation in forms.

Liu Guofu's Solo Exhibition will be open to public from 6 November 2018 to 12 January 2019 in 3812 London Gallery (address: G/F, 21 Ryder Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6PX).

#### **For Media Enquiry**

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<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Hgze7jICkNyF3WfNg-etg2juiSutVWcz?usp=sharing>

#### **Notes to Editors**

##### **Liu Guofu**

Liu Guofu was born in 1964 in Nanjing, China, and graduated from the Department of Oil Painting, Nanjing Institute of Arts, in 1985. He is now based in Nanjing.

With a unique artistic language that is at once sensual and spiritual, Liu's oil paintings have been exhibited in many major cities. Highlights include a group exhibition in Kunstraum Villa Friede, Bonn, Germany in 2014, a solo show in 2011 that toured in Jiangsu Provincial Art Museum in Nanjing, Today Art Museum in Beijing, and Shanghai Art Museum; in the same year, he also participated in the Parallel Exhibition in the 54th Venice Biennale.

##### **3812 Gallery London**

3812 Gallery was founded in Hong Kong in 2011 specially dealing with ink art and Chinese contemporary art and is recognized as one of the leading contemporary Asian art galleries.

3812 Gallery London grand opening is in Nov 2018, which signifies a significant move of the Gallery stepping into the international stage. 3812 Gallery London is situated in the exclusive St. James's district, the most vibrant place for art in the city hub. Inside a two-storey building, 3812 Gallery London is dedicated to foster cultural understanding of contemporary Chinese art with Eastern origin and contemporary expression in the district. Standing in the frontier in Asian contemporary art, 3812 Gallery aims to promote the cultural depth and glamour to the globe.