MULAN GALLERY
Contemporary Fine Art

Press Release

LIU YAN 刘彦
"All The World's A Stage"
<人生如戏>

14 Jan to 18 Feb 2012

Singapore, 11 Dec 2011—Mulan Gallery is proud to present *All The World's A Stage,* an exhibition showcasing 12 of acclaimed Chinese artist Liu Yan's latest series of works from 14 Jan to 18 Feb 2012.

Liu Yan's new series of works centres on the intrinsic theatricality of life. Using symbols and iconography from Peking opera and drawing from life and memory, this series of works explores both the dichotomy and overlap between ideals and reality and the duality of dreaming – the artist's hopes and ideals, as well as the subconscious world of dreams. The paintings carry the full weight of Liu's emotions: her loves and sorrows, anxieties about modernity's spiritual crisis, and memories and longing for the natural simplicity of childhood.

As someone born in 1960s old Beijing who was sent to the country to be a worker during the turbulent years of the Cultural Revolution, Liu Yan grew up during a time of immense transformation in her country, witnessing its transition from the Cultural Revolution, to its subsequent economic reforms and growing dominance of capitalism and foreign influences. Maturing amidst the frenzy of burgeoning social and technological advancement, industrialisation, urbanisation and commercialisation, Liu's works often express the double-edged sword of China's new openness to international influences and increasing economic and personal freedoms.

Melding and reconciling her love for traditional forms such as Peking opera and calligraphy with her love of modern Beijing rock from the hutongs and contemporary culture, Liu's work demonstrates the tensions and ambivalence felt by a child of '60s Beijing who grew up during and after the height of the Cultural Revolution. Her work combines modern Western culture with imagery and icons from traditional Chinese culture, and often addresses contemporary social issues and topics, such as the erosion of traditional culture as a result of rapid urbanisation and development. Both celebratory of the freedoms and liberties of modern life in China and mournful of the loss of traditional values and the simplicity of a past era, her works offer a commentary on the jarring discordance of the decadent materialism of modern urban life and its drastic departure from traditional values. Combining traditional subject matter, materials and techniques of traditional realist Chinese painting with Western representational modes and painting and contemporary images, Liu's works conflate and contrast past and present, tradition and modernity, East and West, and creates with these layered cultural references and jarring juxtapositions an unrestrained reflection of China's wrought cultural and sociopolitical history and a nuanced reflection of what modern life means for the Chinese urbanite.

"An outstanding artwork should be touched by the artist's soul and emotions and issue from a personal angle. If you fall in love with the work, it will be ultimately be accepted by the viewer and society as well."
– Liu Yan, May 1998

Exhibition Details

Title of Exhibition: ***All The World's A Stage*** 人生如戏

Exhibition Period: 14 January – 18 February 2012

Exhibition Opening: 13 January 2012

Biography

Liu Yan 刘彦

b. 1965, Beijing, China

EDUCATION

1998 M.A., Chinese Painting from the Fine Arts College of Capital Normal University
1990 B.A., Beijing Teachers Training College

EXHIBITIONS

2010
World Beings: Oil Painting Exhibition by 10 Chinese Contemporary Figure Artists, Gehua Art Center, Beijing
Bare, Naked & Nude , Noel-Baza Fine Art, San Diego, California
Chinese Female Artists Exhibition 2010, Museum of Chinese Women and Children, Beijing

2009
Art Asia – International Asian Contemporary, Eli Klein Fine Art
Redefining Surrealism, Eli Klein Fine Art, New York
SCOPE Art Fair, New York
Art Chicago, Chicago

2008
In Progress Now Arts Invitational: Let Nanjing Fly. Nanjing Phoenix Art Museum, Nanjing
Assembling Under the Five Rings, Chinese Contemporary Art Exhibition in the Legend, Beijing

2007
Art Now Fair, Miami
Six 21st Century Chinese Neo-Pop Artists, ArtSpace / Virginia Miller Galleries, Miami

2006
06 Chinese Contemporary Art Document, Beijing
Chinese Art Today, National Art Museum of China, Beijing
Her Presence in Colours VII, Daegu Cultural and Arts Center, Taegu, Korea
Impression Beijing: Beijing Women Artists Association, The Capital Museum, Beijing
Chinese Art Today, National Art Museum of China, Beijing
Chinese Contemporary Art Document, The China Millennium Monument, Beijing

2005
The East Artist Exchange, The National Art Museum of China, Beijing
Solo Exhibition, Art Scene Warehouse, Shanghai
Century of Chinese Character, The China Millennium Monument, Beijing
Dress Up in Art: The Subject of Beijing Opera's Art, Today Gallery, Beijing
Ink Paintings by Urban Ladies, Today Gallery, Beijing
0 Factory Contemporary Art, 0 Factory Gallery, Beijing

2004
Art Cologne, Cologne, Germany
Cohesion, Art Scene Warehouse, Shanghai
New Classics, The National Art Museum of China, Beijing
The Invitational Exhibition of Fine Works of Traditional Chinese Delicate Painting, International Art Palace, Beijing
Mix Together: The Invitational Exhibition of the Contemporary School of Logicians of Chinese Painting, International Art Palace, Beijing
Painting on Photographs: Collaborations of French Photographers and Chinese Artists, Le Jardin d'Acclimatation, Paris
Dream, Perplexity, *Modern Female Identification*, China Women Activity Center, Beijing

2003
Miniature Delicacies, National Art Museum of China, Beijing
Shanghai Spring Art Salon, Shanghai Ever-Bright Convention & Exhibition Center, Shanghai
Chinese Art Today, The China Millennium Monument, Beijing
Mix Together & Permeate: The Chinese Contemporary Painting, International Art Palace, Beijing

2001
0-Modern Chinese Painting, Shandong Provincial Museum, Shandong
Courtyard Gallery August Group Show, Courtyard Gallery, Beijing
China-Korea Art Exchange Exhibition, Capital Normal University Art Museum, Beijing
Beijing New Century International Women's Art Exhibition, National Art Museum of China, Beijing

2000
China Arts Expo IV, China International Exhibition Centre, Beijing
For a Full New World: Environmental Protection Art, National Art Museum of China, Beijing

1999
Ideality. Reality. Conflict, Wan Fung Art Gallery, Beijing
TRANSFORMATIONS: Painters Examine Change in China, Carleton College Art Gallery, Northfield, Minnesota
Hong Kong & Beijing Women Artists, 7/F Exhibition Gallery, Hong Kong

1998
Century Women, National Art Museum of China, Beijing

1997
Taegu Asia Arts Exhibition, Taegu, Korea

1996
Solo exhibition, Qin Gallery, Beijing
China Arts Expo III, China International Exhibition Centre, Beijing

1995
China Arts Expo II, China International Exhibition Centre, Beijing
Chinese Women Artists, National Art Museum of China, Beijing

1994
China Arts Expo I, China Export Commodities Fair Building, Guangzhou

For more information, please contact:

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