

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liu Jianhua
Between

5 – 23 November 2015
6 Burlington Gardens, London, W1S 3ET
Private view: Wednesday, 4 November 2015, 6 – 8 pm



London—Pace London is delighted to announce its first exhibition of the work of Liu Jianhua. *Between* will be presented at 6 Burlington Gardens, from 5 November to 23 December 2015 and will coincide with the eighteenth annual instalment of *Asian Art in London*.

Working primarily in porcelain, Liu Jianhua's personal affinity with the traditional medium sprung from fourteen years of training at the imperial kilns of Jingdezhen. By creating new forms in this ancient material, Liu brings into question the contemporary Chinese artists' relationship with cultural heritage.

Liu Jianhua's delicate porcelain installations possess aesthetic beauty, placing strong emphasis on form and material. Jiu stands away from the prevailing styles in contemporary art; that of social commentary and narrative approaches and favours a "no meaning, no content" approach which signals an innovative direction in contemporary art creation.

"The title of the exhibition is meant to express the abstract idea of the relationship between the works and the space, the viewers, and between the two different cultures of tradition and modernity." Liu Jianhua, October 2015.

Liu's installations create a perfect balance between objects and space, giving the viewer free reign to explore their own ideas. He transforms paper, leaves, bones and ink drops into curious and fragile porcelain sculptures.

The artist's *Blank Paper* series, included in the exhibition, consists of white porcelain rectangles which at first glance appear to be blank sheets of paper. Upon closer inspection, the viewer

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becomes attuned to a surreal atmosphere that vibrates from the coiled corners of the fragile ceramic sheets.

In *Trace*, first exhibited at Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing, Liu appropriates a Chinese calligraphic stroke, the “wulouhen” — stains caused by leaking roofs — and reproduces it repeatedly in gleaming black trails of porcelain. The work treats the white walls like a blank canvas, there to support Liu’s porcelain brush strokes.

Liu Jianhua’s work is included in the current group exhibition *Reshaping Tradition: Contemporary Ceramic from East Asia* at the USC Pacific Asia Museum in Pasadena. He has also been commissioned to produce an installation for the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco which is scheduled to be unveiled in March 2016.

NOTES TO EDITORS

LIU JIANHUA

Liu Jianhua (b.1962, Ji’an, China) began working in a porcelain sculpture studio in 1977. He studied sculpture in the the Fine Arts Department of the Jingdezhen Pottery & Porcelain College from 1985 to 1989, moving onto teach at the Yunnan Institute of the Arts. Since 2004, Liu has been a professor in the Sculpture Department of the Fine Arts School of Shanghai University. The artist currently lives and works in Shanghai, China.

Liu’s work has been featured in numerous major exhibitions including *Polit-Sheer-Form!*, Queens Museum of Art (2014); *Voice of the Unseen* at the Venice Biennale (2013); *DUCHAMP and/or/in China*, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (2013); Gwangju Biennial (2012); First Kiev Biennial (2012); Busan Biennial (2006); *The Secret of Clay: From Gauguin to Gormley*, Tate Liverpool (2001); and the Venice Biennale (2003).

The artist’s work is included in the permanent collections of institutions including the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; Asian Art Museum, San Francisco; Kawara Museum; Shenzhen Art Museum; Guangdong Museum of Art; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Today Art Museum, Beijing; USC Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena and the Yuz Museum, Shanghai.

PACE

Pace is a leading contemporary art gallery representing many of the most significant international artists and estates of the 20th and 21st centuries. Founded by Arne Glimcher in Boston in 1960 and led by Marc Glimcher, Pace has been a constant, vital force in the art world and has introduced many renowned artists’ work to the public for the first time. Pace has mounted more than 800 exhibitions, including scholarly ones that have subsequently travelled to museums, and published nearly 450 catalogues. Today Pace has eight locations worldwide: four in New York; two in London; one in Beijing and Hong Kong. Pace London inaugurated its flagship gallery at 6 Burlington Gardens in 2012.

Pace London at 6 Burlington Gardens is open to the public Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. www.pacegallery.com

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