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CHRIS HUEN SIN KAN: PUZZLED DAYDREAMS



**SIMON LEE GALLERY, LONDON
15 JUNE - 3 JULY 2020**

Simon Lee Gallery is proud to present *Puzzled Daydreams*, a solo exhibition by Hong Kong-based artist Chris Huen Sin Kan comprising, new paintings and works on paper.

Huen's largescale oil paintings are derived from observation of his own life, portraying quotidian experiences through a fresh set of aesthetic strategies that bring the domestic and surreal into compelling partnership. His technique, imbued with both deft abstraction and the hallmarks of traditional Chinese ink painting, involves layering one dab of paint over another until the pattern on the canvas echoes the spirit of the scene. The blank spaces and fragmented forms give voice to a specific moment and the way it exists, or perhaps escapes the artist's consciousness.

From his studio in leafy Yuen Long, north of the dense urban centre of Kowloon, Huen depicts a cast of recurring characters including his wife Haze, two children, and dogs Balltsz, MuiMui and Doodood. His dream-like pictures evolve organically and haphazardly; the artist forgoes underdrawings and sketches, and rather than paint from a photograph or from the scene itself, favours intuition by opting to eternalise transient moments from feeling and memory. Depicting what has been seen but perhaps forgotten, Huen's intuitive exploration of perception flows with a deep sensitivity and alchemy of recognition, attaining a specific resonance steeped in individual sensation and shared experience.

In his new work, Huen investigates the 'specious present', a concept first defined by E. Robert Kelly in the 19th century. The present is experienced via the accumulation of every passing second; it is a past so recent that while we term it as the present, it would be better explained as the 'specious present'. As such, the 'specious present' is a collection of all the moments that make up the short duration of which we suppose ourselves to be constantly sensible. The same phenomena occur with sight. As we look into space – especially a space in which no specific event occurs – we establish our understanding of what's in front of us by bringing together different perceptions from disparate, very recent moments. This theory resonates with Huen's own impression of how we experience time and space, as explored by the tumbling perspective and all-over composition of his paintings.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Chris Huen Sin Kan

Chris Huen Sin Kan was born in 1991 and lives and works in Hong Kong. He obtained a BA in Fine Arts at The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2013. Recent solo exhibitions include Simon Lee Gallery, New York, NY (2018); Pilar Corrias Gallery, London, UK (2017, 2016); Nanhai Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan (2015) and Gallery Exit, Hong Kong (2015, 2014). Group exhibitions include Hong Kong Visual Arts Centre, Hong Kong (2017); Simon Lee Gallery, Hong Kong (2016); Leo Xu Project, Shanghai, China (2016); Sifang Art Museum, Nanjing, China (2015) and Parasite Art Space, Hong Kong (2015). His work is held in private and public collections, including Sifang Art Museum, Nanjing, China.

About Simon Lee Gallery

Founded in London in 2002, Simon Lee Gallery represents artists of diverse generations whose practices explore a wide range of media, from sculpture and painting to video and photography, and who share a broad interest in an exploration of the conceptual. Aiming to provide a significant international audience for its artists, the gallery also regularly punctuates its programme with historical exhibitions and curated group shows, which present shifts in contemporary art practice and thought, whilst broadening the dialogue with artists outside of the gallery's core programme. In addition to its UK activity, in 2012 the gallery opened a space in Hong Kong, which introduced its artists to a wider public in Asia, with a fully independent programme. In 2014, Simon Lee Gallery opened an office and private viewing space in New York. In 2017, this space was re-launched with a year-round programme of exhibitions and events, showcasing the work of emerging and established artists in dynamic group and solo exhibitions.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter: @SimonLeeGallery
www.simonleegallery.com

Image: Chris Huen Sin Kan, *Doodood, Balltsz and MuiMui*, 2020, Oil on canvas, 200 x 240 x 5 cm (78 3/4 x 94 1/2 x 2 in.). Courtesy of the Artist and Simon Lee Gallery.

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