

Postcard from Hong Kong

Is a shipping container a good metaphor for a white cube, or vice versa? A survey of the city's current art scene, from new to old to reopened spaces

BY PABLO LARIOS



Hans-Peter Feldmann, *Untitled*,
undated, oil on canvas, 47 x 41 cm.
Courtesy: the artist and Simon Lee
Gallery, Hong Kong

A visit to the Pedder building in Hong Kong rounded off my visit. At Simon Lee Gallery, I found a great grouping of German Hans-Peter Feldmann's undated works, in which copies of historical paintings – by artists including Francisco de Goya – are subtly redacted to contain anachronistic gestures or details, such as a bikini tan or a cheeky wink. Two scenes depict the sitters, in 19th-century formal dress, closing their eyes, as if responding to an unexpected an iPhone flash. In another, a squat girl sourced from Goya's court paintings wears a clown nose like Patch Adams. It all goes to show that sometimes what art needs isn't mercantile commentary, black mirrors or heartfelt romanticism, but a little clown-nosed humour.