

# HdM GALLERY

## LU CHAO | BLACK DOTS

07/03/2019 – 11/05/2019



Shell, 2013



Black Light No.6, 2018



Relic No.5, 2018

This Spring HdM GALLERY will present 'Black Dots' by Lu Chao. The sixth instalment in a range of sequential exhibitions exploring the colour black, 'Black Dots' continues Lu Chao's trademark investigation into issues of identity and the unknown, mass society vs. the individual. Following exhibitions at HdM GALLERY in Beijing, this will be Lu Chao's fifth show with the gallery and his first exhibition at the London gallery. The show will open on March 7th and last until May 11th 2019.

### A collector of faces

Inspired by both Chinese and Western philosophy, Lu Chao's large scale, monochromatic oil paintings are surrealist dreamscapes. An astute observer of society in all its guises, Lu Chao's approach is part painter, part sociologist and his paintings shine a searing spotlight on the human condition. Drawing inspiration from the quotidian, Lu Chao uses newspapers, magazines but also his personal experience and daily travels to create his canvases, scouring the faces of passers-by before transcribing these faces to canvas. He describes "imagining the story behind every face".

### Dark Matter

"Every dot on the canvas is like the birth of a new 'life' in the universe, and its relationship to time and space makes me very curious." – Lu Chao

Influenced by his upbringing in densely-populated mainland China, Lu Chao is fascinated by the notion of the crowd - "I love crowds, I fear them and I am curious about the life of each member". His previous paintings are populated by miniature armies of figures and teem with a restless humanity. Rendered with meticulous precision, Lu Chao's miniature figures and his use of monochrome reference traditional Chinese ink painting which he developed a passion for whilst at university in Beijing. Just as Lu Chao draws out the individual from within the crowd in his crowd scenes, in the new work, 'Black Dots' he uses the dot as a symbol to explore ideas of "similarity, uniqueness, tininess and the mystery of life."

### About the Artist

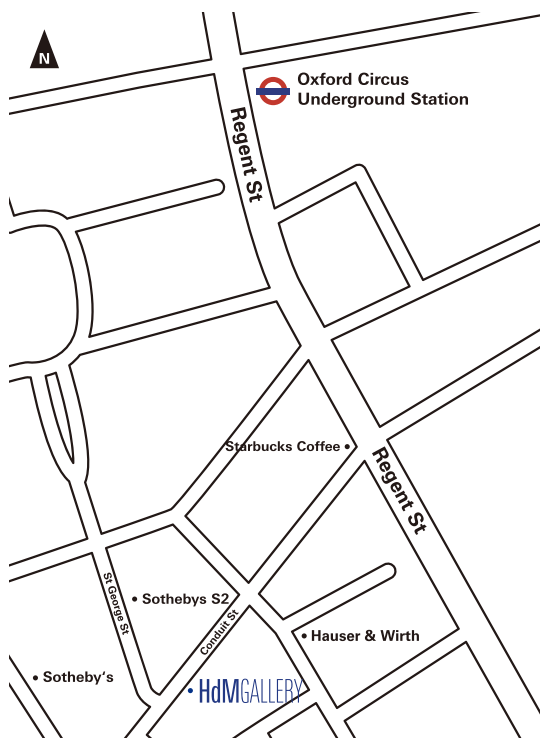
Born in 1988 in Shenyang, Lu Chao trained at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing before completing his Masters at the Royal College of Art in London. He currently works between London and Beijing and has exhibited widely, both in China and Europe, and has participated in major art fairs such as Art Basel and Art Basel Hong Kong. His work features in several major collections including the Louis Vuitton Collection (Paris), the Today Art Museum (Beijing) and the MARTa Herford museum in Germany. The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue with academic texts by the artist's professor Jonathan Miles (Royal College of Art) and curator James Putnam as well as an interview by Olivia Sand in Asian Art Newspaper.



Beijing space



London space



## HdM GALLERY

HdM GALLERY is a leading contemporary gallery with a special focus on Contemporary Chinese Art. Founded on a passion for Chinese art, the first HdM GALLERY was opened in Beijing in 2009 - the success of which leading to a subsequent gallery opening in Hangzhou in 2013. Founders and partners Hadrien de Montferrand, Laurant Dassault, and Olivier Hervet have garnered over 10 years of experience and understanding of the art market in China, witnessing first-hand China's rapidly evolving art ecosystem.

HdM GALLERY proudly represents a wealth of emerging Chinese artists among which are He An, Chen Han, Hao Shiming, and Wang Yi. Having established a reputation as a leading gallery in the field of Chinese contemporary art - working with established Chinese artists such as Mao Yan and Liu Xiaodong - HdM GALLERY is dedicated to using their expertise to nurture and develop the careers of these new artists. Exhibiting regularly at prominent fairs such as Art Brussels, Photo London and Art Basel Hong Kong, HdM introduces contemporary Chinese artists to a worldwide client base and broadens perceptions, understanding and appreciation of these engaging contemporary works.

Though initially specialising exclusively in Chinese Art, the ethos of the gallery has since seen a development. HdM has evolved to work with noted Western artists - often exhibiting their works alongside their Chinese contemporaries, bridging the Chinese and Western art markets through this previously unexplored approach. The result is an exhibition with a unique and thought-provoking fusion of influences and on this topic, founder Hadrien de Montferrand defines the identity of the gallery as 'an international gallery with strong Chinese DNA'. Western artists such as Martin Kollar, Ivan Messac, Romain Bernini, Manuel Mathieu and Barthélemy Togo are currently represented by HdM GALLERY.

## FOUNDERS

Hadrien de Montferrand has long served as a bridge between the Art worlds of China and Europe. His more than seven years at various auction houses and Art institutions included roles as marketing director for ARTCURIAL, the largest French auction house, and for the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing.

Laurent Dassault, an entrepreneur to the core, helped to found Arquana, continental Europe's leading horse auction house, in 2006. His entrepreneurial spirit extends to his charitable activities as well: Laurent serves as the administrator of the "Friends of Pompidou Museum's Association" in Paris, and heads the development committee for the auction house ARTCURIAL.

Olivier Hervet graduated with an MA in Classics from Oxford University in 2008. After working for Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery since its inception in 2009 where he developed the gallery's network of young collectors, he became a partner in 2012 with the goal of opening a second space in China.

## Gallery Contact

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Opening Hours: Monday - Friday from 10 am to 6pm

(By appointment)

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