

HdM GALLERY

XIE LEI/ CHRISTOPHER ORR

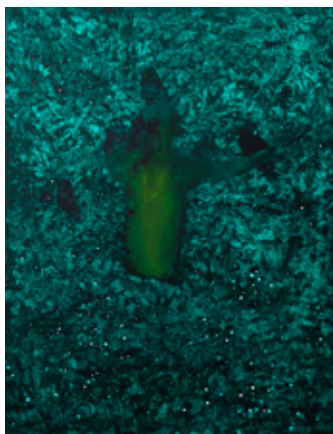
31/10/2019 – 16/01/2020



Xie Lei, *I Will Be Your Mirror 1*, 2018-2019



Xie Lei, *I Will Be Your Mirror 2*, 2018-2019



Xie Lei, *Seeing By Believing*, 2019

“The artist should not only paint what he sees before him, but also what he sees in himself.”

—Caspar David Friedrich

HdM GALLERY is delighted to present “Xie Lei / Christopher Orr”, a two-person exhibition, of Chinese-born artist Xie Lei and British artist Christopher Orr.

The exhibition will intersperse the work of the two painters, conjuring a dialogue between them grounded in their shared, quasi-Romantic sensibility.

Both artists create figurative paintings drawn from and set in dreamlike spaces. The backgrounds in the works of both artists are hazy, indistinct and ambiguous. The atmospheres in Orr’s paintings evoke the painting effects seen in the skies of J.M.W. Turner and Caspar David Friedrich – soft, uncertain passages of light built up through layers of translucent washes and pigments. In Xie Lei’s luminous, almost neon paintings, the backgrounds are often flat and abstract or generically natural; water, mountains, vegetation. Mostly the spaces in the paintings by both artists, are shallow, sometimes even claustrophobically so, frustrating expectations of pictorial depth and foregrounding the subjects, placing them, as it were, dramatically, centre stage.

Archetypes, stereotypes and symbols populate the works. The people in Orr’s paintings are, judging from their clothes, visitors from 1950’s Britain. They look safe and wholesome and uncannily in the wrong place - accidental tourists in Orr’s phantasmagoric creations – dutifully starting into sublime voids. In Xie Lei’s works the humans and animals are more anonymous, more purely archetypal, figures powerfully evoked, but without individual features – ghost forms his nether world – compelling, dark, threatening even. Like dreams these works are deeply allusive, full of opaque meanings.

In an age in thrall to empires being built in digital space the works of Xie Lei and Orr and timely reminders that we all, already, carry virtual worlds within us. They are powerful messages sent to us from the infinite lands of the imagination.

This show will be Xie Lei’s first exhibition in the UK.

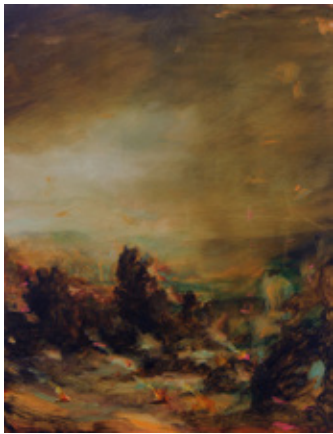
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Christopher Orr, *Untitled*, 2018



Christopher Orr, *An Unvisited Vastness*, 2019



Christopher Orr, *Be Glad for This Song Has No Ending*, 2017

About Christopher Orr

Christopher Orr (1967), born in Helensburgh, Scotland, lives and works in London. Orr graduated from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design with a bachelor's degree in 2000, then studied at the Royal College of Art and received a master's degree in 2003.

Orr's works have been exhibited widely, including in a solo show "A Stone Walks Slowly Under A Cloud" at La Borie, Solignac in France in 2019, "The Beguiled Eye" at Talbot Rice Gallery in University of Edinburgh, Scotland in 2013. "Light Shining Darkly" at Kunsthau Baselland in 2013, another one "Christopher Orr" at the Hauser and Wirth, Zürich in 2010. Notable group exhibitions including "Foncteur d'oubli" at FRAC ile-de-Paris in 2019, "No New Things Under the Sun" at the Royal Academy (London U.K., 2010), "2007 Old School" at the Hauser and Wirth, Zürich in 2007, another one "London in Zürich" curated by Gregor Muir in 2005, Tate Triennial in 2006, "(...) The Duck Was Still Alive" at CAC Meymac in France in 2005 and "Ideal Worlds" at Schirn Kunsthalle in Frankfurt Germany in 2005.

About Xie Lei

Xie Lei, (1983) born in Huainan, Anhui province, China, lives and works in Paris since 2006. He graduated from China Central Academy of Fine Arts and École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts in Paris, and received his PhD (practice-based) in visual arts in 2016 from École normale supérieure and Ecole nationale supérieure des beaux-arts in Paris.

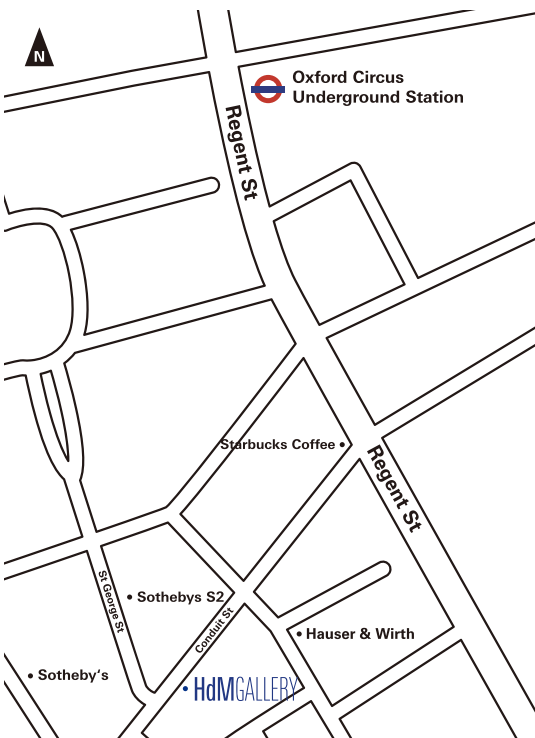
Xie Lei's work is included in public and private collections, such as Musée d'Art Contemporain du Val-de-Marne (MAC VAL) and Burger Collection. He has been exhibited widely in France, Switzerland and China. His remarkable solo exhibitions including "Chimères" at Yishu 8 in Beijing (2012), several other important shows at the Galerie Anne de Villepoix from 2009 to 2015, "Entre Chien et Loup" in Palais des Beaux-Arts, Paris (2016), "Poe's Garden" in Z Gallery Arts in Vancouver both in 2017 and 2019. Significant group shows such as "Persona Grata" in MAC VAL (2019) and Musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration, Paris (2018); "How To See [What Isn't There]", Langen Foundation, Neuss, Germany (2018); "Collection David H. Brolliet – Geneva", Fondation Fernet-Branca, Saint-Louis (2018); "Memo II" at White Space, Beijing (2014) and "Ligne de Chance," Fondation Ricard, Paris (2010).



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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