

PRESS RELEASE

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Art Plural Gallery presents Kim Lim at Art Paris Art Fair 2015

Singapore, March 2015 – At Art Paris 2015, Art Plural Gallery presents two sculptures by the late sculptor and printmaker Kim Lim, a prominent figure in the Singapore art scene, and one of the pioneer female contemporary artists of Singapore.

As Singapore and Southeast Asia is the Guest-of-Honour for Art Paris 2015, it is very timely that Art Plural Gallery showcases the sculptures of Kim Lim, which are rare on the art market. Throughout her life Kim Lim travelled the world extensively with her husband, Scottish sculptor William Turnbull. Their travels as well as her Asian roots influenced her oeuvre as she was very conscious of the history and depth of Asian heritage. In particular, the rich stone carving traditions found in locales such as Cambodia, a trip in 1962 that had significant importance to her, contributed to her aesthetic formation.

Having worked mostly in wood for twenty years as well as focusing on printmaking, Kim Lim's work changed direction at the end of the 1970s when she began to work in stone. This decision came after holding a twenty-year retrospective at the Roundhouse Gallery in London in 1979. The artist expressed that by moving to the medium of stone "it made [her] very aware of the pull within [herself] between the ordered, static experience and the dynamic rhythms of organic, structured forms" and she was interested in "how to incorporate and synthesise these two seemingly opposed elements within one work," which became the starting point for her stone sculptures.



Kim Lim, *Untitled Relief*, 1983, Portland Stone, 24.8 x 29 x 15cm

ART PLURAL GALLERY

Kim Lim was certainly a versatile artist who continuously strived to reinvent and innovate, looking back at her previous practice, reviewing her work and evolving to create new avenues of expression. Her sculptures, though made of stone, are more concerned with space, rhythm and light, rather than volume and weight. As such, there is a sense of lightness and fragility as well as elegant movement, despite the heavy material she uses to create these works. More often than not, the choice of material is light or white coloured marble and stone. Furthermore, her work has a universal quality, as if they are relics found in any ancient site around the world, appealing to both East and West, as she truly bridges global cultures.

“As Singapore is the Guest-of-Honour of this year’s edition of Art Paris, it is not only the perfect timing for us to participate, but also very significant that we are presenting the works of Kim Lim, who is one of the pioneers of Singapore contemporary art. Her fame in the West, combined with her deep roots to Southeast Asia makes her an ideal showcase for us at Art Paris, as we strive to bridge global cultures.” – Frédéric de Senarclens, Founder and Director of Art Plural Gallery

Artist Biography

Kim Lim developed a strong reputation both for her iconic sculpture and for her long career in printmaking that stemmed back to her training in Slade School of Fine Art in London in the late 1950s. Her earliest print work explores modulations of blocks and lines, which also transpired into wood sculpture using basic linear patterns. From the 1980s onwards, Lim’s print work and sculpture explored more natural forms by taking inspiration from the visual culture of various archaic civilisations, such as ancient Greece, ancient China and ancient South Asia. Prior to her passing in 1997, Kim Lim worked primarily in stone while also continuing to create prints. Her sculpture bears the remarkable quality of lightness and softness by evoking natural elements such as wind, air, water and light through an otherwise contradictory material.

Born in Singapore in 1936, Kim Lim spent much of her early childhood in Penang and Malacca. After finishing school in Singapore at the age of 18, she began her art training at Central Saint Martins in London (1954-1956) in wood-carving and at the Slade School of Fine Art (1956-1960) in printmaking. She has had solo exhibitions at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield, UK; Waddington Galleries, London; National Museum of Art, Singapore; Southampton Museum and Art Gallery; Tate Gallery, London; and Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, among others. She was also featured in many group exhibitions, including at the Musée d’Art Moderne de la Ville, Paris; Nagoka Museum, Japan; Hayward Gallery, London as well as in numerous biennales around the world. Her works are shown in collections at the Nagaoka Museum of Modern Art, Japan; Tate Gallery, London and Liverpool; National Museum of Art, Singapore; Fukuyama City Museum, Japan; Arts Council of Great Britain; Middelheim Museum, Belgium; Southampton City Art Gallery; and the Contemporary Art Society, London. Kim Lim died in 1997.

About Art Plural Gallery

Founded by Swiss art dealer Frédéric de Senarclens in 2011, Art Plural Gallery is a unique contemporary art gallery located in the heart of Singapore’s cultural district. The gallery encompasses an expansive 12,000 square feet spread across 4 levels of exhibition space, housed within an Art Deco heritage building. Art Plural Gallery presents a dynamic programme of solo and group exhibitions by leading artists from East and West, creating a dialogue between cultures. In 2013, Art Plural Gallery was named by Blouin Artinfo as one of the Best

ART PLURAL GALLERY

New Galleries in the World. Today the gallery is known as a significant destination for art collectors from all over the world.

Art Plural Gallery at Art Paris 2015

Booth No.: F10 (Singapore Platform)

25 to 29 March 2015

Grand Palais, Paris

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