

ART PLURAL GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate release

Singapore, January 2015 – At Art Stage Singapore 2015 **Booth C13**, Art Plural Gallery presents the solo exhibitions of French artist **Fabienne Verdier** and Chinese ink artist **Nan Qi**. These exhibitions unveil 5 significant new paintings by Fabienne Verdier, who created them especially for the occasion, and 20 intricate ink drawings by Nan Qi.

Fabienne Verdier

Born in Paris in 1962, **Fabienne Verdier** is an internationally celebrated artist who bridges the dialogue between Eastern and Western artistic traditions, being one of the very few Western artists to have mastered traditional Chinese ink painting. Having spent 10 years studying traditional ink painting under a Chinese master in Chongqing, China, Verdier has since created an iconic pictorial language that merges these traditional painting techniques with influences from Western art history. Working standing up, Verdier uses a giant suspended animal-hair brush, not unlike the calligrapher's vertical brush that links heaven and earth, to create her works. The process is both meditative and performative; as Verdier moves with the brush, she responds to the forces around her, transmitting these universal truths and energy into her work at the point of equilibrium.



Fabienne Verdier, *Peinture du 2 septembre*, 2014, 150 x 365 cm

Nan Qi

Chinese artist Nan Qi's bold ink portraits reflect the role of political power in dictating China's contemporary society. Born in the Zhejiang Province in 1960, Nan Qi's experience of the Cultural Revolution was complicated by his early involvement and training in the Army of Communist China. Reflecting on his conflicted beliefs, stoic portraits of young Mao Zedong and young Xi Jinping rendered in varying degrees of painted opacity gaze just beyond the viewer, focused on the world they see beyond. With the lightening of the ink comes a gradual sense of uncertainty, questioning the strength of the portrait and what it stands for. However, one figure stays true; the front-facing lion stares down at the viewer with an unwavering gaze, dressed in powerful red and standing tall as the ideal of power. Nan Qi poses the question that more and more are beginning to ask: is power an award given from others or does the strongest power come from within?

"At Art Stage Singapore 2015 we are humbled to present the solo exhibitions of two exceptional artists, Fabienne Verdier and Nan Qi. With powerful voices and absolutely unique perspectives on contemporary Chinese culture, we are delighted to bridge these artists from across the globe together in cross-cultural dialogue." – Frédéric de Senarclens, Founder and Director of Art Plural Gallery

Artist Biographies:

Fabienne VERDIER (born 1962)

Born in Paris in 1962, Verdier graduated from the Ecole des Beaux-Arts of Toulouse in 1983 while studying Chinese at the Institut des Langues et Civilisation Orientales in Paris. In 1984, she went to the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute in Chongqing, China, to study traditional Chinese painting and calligraphy. She spent 10 years as an apprentice to a Chinese master before returning to France. Verdier's works have been widely exhibited in Europe and Asia including the Musée National d'Art Moderne Centre Pompidou, France and Kunst Museum Wolfsburg, Germany. Verdier's solo exhibitions include the Chongqing Fine Arts Centre, China; Peking Fine Arts Centre's international calligraphy exhibition, The French Embassy, Beijing; Center for Contemporary Art, Hong Kong; Pacific Cultural Foundation, Taiwan; Erasmus Museum, Belgium; Memling Museum, Belgium and Groeningemuseum, Belgium.

Most recently in 2014, Verdier was celebrated in a major retrospective exhibition *Crossing Signs* at Hong Kong's City Hall as part of Le French May 2014. In 2003, Verdier published her memoir *Passenger of Silence* recounting her years in China. Verdier has created several important private commissions as well as having works in important private and public collections such as Francois Pinault, Barbier-Mueller, the H. Looser Foundation, Musée National d'Art Moderne Centre Pompidou, Cernuschi Museum in Paris and the Majunga Tower in La Défense, Paris. The artist lives and works in France.

NAN Qi (born 1960)

Nan Qi was born in Yongkang City, Zhejiang Province, China in 1960. He graduated from the Chinese painting course at People's Liberation Army Fine Arts Academy, Beijing. In 1990, he travelled to England and France to study European art. He moved to Hong Kong in 1995 and had several international exhibitions in Tokyo, Singapore, the Netherlands, Hong Kong and China before returning to Beijing in 2002. Nan Qi is considered by many throughout China and the world to be the master of dots. The constant evolution in his technique and narration makes him a singular artist whose use of ink is on par with 3-D technology. Nan Qi has participated in numerous exhibitions including the Contemporary International Art Fair Miami; the Royal Academy of Art, London; the 4th Beijing International Art Biennale; the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia; the National Art Museum, Beijing; the 3rd Chengdu Biennale and the Shenzhen Art Museum. The artist currently lives and works in Songzhuang Art District, Beijing, China. He is the Chairman of the Hong Kong Association of Asian Artists and a member of the China Artists Association.

About Art Plural Gallery

Founded by Swiss art dealer Frédéric de Senarclens in May 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. In 2013, Art Plural Gallery was named by Blouin Artinfo as one of the Best New Galleries in the World. The gallery's exhibition programme includes leading international artists such as Bernar Venet, Fabienne Verdier, Li Tianbing, Pablo Reinoso, Nan Qi, Ian Davenport, Jedd Novatt and Chun Kwang Young. Today the gallery is known as a significant destination for art collectors from all over the world.

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Exhibition Details:

Art Stage Singapore 2015
Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre
22nd to 25th January 2015

Art Plural Gallery, Booth C13

Gallery Details:

38 Armenian Street
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Opening hours from 11 am to 7 pm.
Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.

For more information, please contact:

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