

[Press Release: For Immediate Release]

To: General News/Feature/Culture and Arts – Assignment Editors/Editors/Reporters

French May Arts Festival 2022
“Reverie: Landscapes by André Brasilier” alongside Numerous Exhibitions
Immersing in Modern & Contemporary Art and Photography

(11th May 2022, Hong Kong) French May Arts Festival 2022, in collaboration with various galleries and artists, is delighted to unbox the community with numerous exhibitions across May and June, allowing audiences to immerse in modern and contemporary art as well as photography. It is an art exposure to French culture not to be missed by art lovers and exhibition goers. Here are eight highlighted exhibitions.

Featuring a selection of over 20 paintings by Opera Gallery Hong Kong, ***Reverie: Landscapes by André Brasilier*** will take us into the realm of surreal romance created by the French painter, populated by spirited horses, enchanted forests, classical and jazz music, candied snowfall and pensive women lit by moonlight. Painting for over 70 years, Brasilier has developed an artistic approach that is distinctively poetic and expressionistic, influenced by Expressionist works and classical and jazz music. The artist has always possessed a special affinity for nature. Through Brasilier’s paintings, we can immerse ourselves in a timeless and fleeting moment, in which human beings live in harmony with nature. A dream, a delicate reverie, a moment of lyricism for the eyes and for the soul to escape into.

Zao Wou-ki is the fifth solo exhibition of Alisan Fine Arts for renowned Chinese-French artist Zao Wou-ki (1921-2013), tracing Zao’s extensive career works from 1949 to 2004, including oil paintings, ink paintings, watercolour and print. Also on display is a selection of archival material highlighting the longstanding friendship between the gallery and the artist. Born in Beijing in 1921, Zao was a student of Lin Fengmian, the pioneer of modern Chinese painting, at the National College of Art in Hangzhou before he left for Paris in 1948. While drawing from his Chinese roots, he became an exponent of Lyrical Abstraction after becoming inspired by Western artists, in particular, Paul Klee. In 1993, Zao was awarded the Commandeur de la Légion d’Honneur, and in 2006 he was made Grand Officier de l’Ordre de la Légion d’Honneur.

Adrift in Time—Photography by Chun Wai by The University Museum and Art Gallery, The University of Hong Kong, is an exhibition of photographs taken by Chun Wai in France in the 1990s. Born in Hong Kong and educated at the École supérieure des beaux-arts de Mulhouse, the artist toured Europe on a quest for the beginning of time, understanding that everything he photographed had a finite start and end. Chun wandered the streets and alleys of great cultural centres like Paris discovering the collections of its great museums, art galleries and flea markets. The physical and philosophical journey caused the artist to realise that his insights into the relationship suspended between predestination and chance were leading to an expansive form of loneliness—a state he felt was similar to the torment experienced by the ancient Chinese

poets.

Hong Kong Time Rift by Gallery EXIT will showcase French artist Daphné Mandel's assembled imagery reflecting Hong Kong's past and present through a series of new mixed media works on paper and videos, inspired by the artist's recent explorations of Hong Kong's hidden ruins and abandoned properties forgotten in the passage of time. Daphné Mandel grew up in Paris and has been living and working in Hong Kong for many years. The inability to travel out of Hong Kong for an extended period of time due to the COVID pandemic in turn enabled the artist to explore the city in depth.

Contrasting Confluences by Whitestone is a group exhibition featuring French paintings by Clément Denis, Fabien Verschaere and Japanese artist Karen Shiozawa. This exhibition showcases a selection of acrylic and watercolour on paper, spanning a variety of approaches from abstraction to figuration. Each offers nuanced ways of looking, interpreting, and representing the world through highly subjective forms, questioning the value of symbols and the identity that a self-image can convey in the eyes of others.

Retrospective (2012-2022) Wensen Qi (Vincent Cazeneuve) by Sin Sin Fine Art showcases Wensen Qi's work from 2012 to 2022. Vincent Cazeneuve (b. 1977 in Toulouse, France), renamed himself as Wensen Qi and committed to live in Chongqing, China since 2009 for the enchantment of the natural texture and beauty of lacquer. Mixing elements of Western modern art into Chinese lacquer traditions, Qi's works contain endless stories and mysteries through his creativity. Deeply touched by the aesthetics of the nature, Qi has also further explored the integration of lacquer with lithography, engraving, relief piling, mosaic collage and incrustations.

Inspired by the artist's exploration around our everyday contemporary life, ***Life's Currents*** by JPS Gallery features works of French artist Julieth Mars Toussaint. In an era of profound change and in the face of an uncertain future for all human beings, Julieth invites viewers to pay attention to our feelings and life experiences through his use of light, colours, lines, textures and movements by being completely present in the current moment without any distractions.

Vivian Maier – Self Portraits by f22 foto space showcases works of creative genius, Vivian Maier. Maier's striking self portraits series offers a glimpse of the way she established her relations with the outside world, while shedding light onto the neglected beauty in everyday life through her perspective as a distant observer and "a kind of spy", referred by herself, encouraging viewers to trace her footsteps in uncovering the real Vivian Maier.

Through this selection of exhibitions, viewers will not only discover the beauty in arts, but also insights and reflections induced by the extensive and diversified works sprinkled with French elements.

“French May Arts Festival 2022 –Exhibition Highlights” Photo Caption:

Photo

1a



© Opera Gallery

“Reverie: Landscapes by André Brasilier” leads viewers to a timeless and fleeting moment, in which human beings live in harmony with nature.

1b



© Opera Gallery

Photo

2a



©Zao Wou-ki, 10.12.74, 1974, Oil on canvas

“Zao Wou-ki” exhibition traces Zao’s extensive career works from 1949 to 2004, including oil paintings, ink paintings, watercolour and print.

2b



©Zao Wou-ki, Suite Olympique Centennial, 1992, 75.2 x 53.5 cm

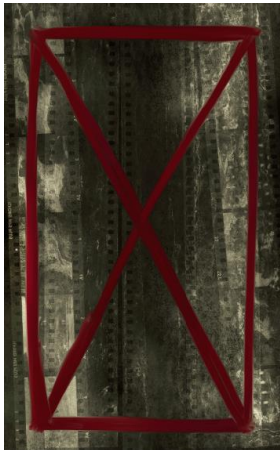
Photo

3a



© Chun Wai, Seine River

3b

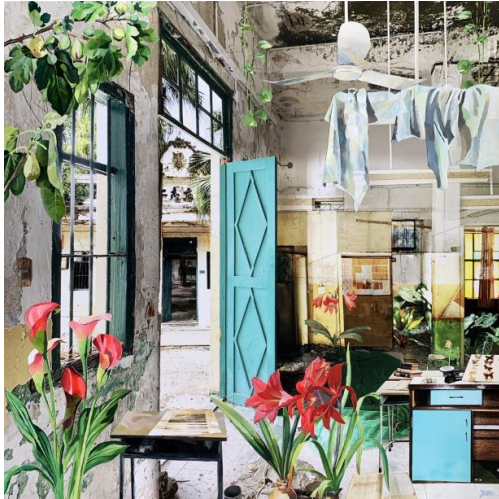


© Chun Wai, No 137562843 931

“Adrift in Time—Photography by Chun Wai” is an exhibition of photographs taken by the artist during a physical and philosophical journey in France in the 1990s.

Photo

4a



© Daphné Mandel, Botany Lesson, 2021, mixed media on paper, 100 x 100 cm

“Daphné Mandel: Hong Kong Time Rift” is inspired by the artist’s recent explorations of Hong Kong’s hidden ruins and abandoned properties forgotten in the passage of time.

4b



© Daphné Mandel, Cabinet of Memories, Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong 2022 - Abandoned Residence, 2022, mixed media on paper, 20 x 16.5 cm

Photo

5a



©Clément Denis, Rorschach

5b



©Fabien Verschaere, Tiger Dreams,
2021, Watercolour on paper, 80 x 60 cm

5c



©Karen Shiozawa, Carry happiness

Works of “*Contrasting Confluences*” question the value of symbols and the identity that a self-image can convey in the eyes of others.

Photo 6



© Sin Sin Fine Art, Untitled 4, Chinese lacquer, old rice bag, gold leaves, oxidized iron powder, 75.5 x 49 cm, 2021

“Retrospective (2012-2022) Wensen Qi (Vincent Cazeneuve)” showcases Wensen Qi’s work with mixing elements of Western modern art into Chinese lacquer traditions.

Photo
7a



©Julieth Mars Toussaint

In an era of change and the face of an uncertain future for human beings, French artist Julieth invites viewers to pay attention to our feelings and life experiences through works of *“Julieth Mars Toussaint: Life’s Currents”*.

7b



©Julieth Mars Toussaint

Photo 8



©Estate of Vivian Maier, Courtesy Maloof Collection and Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York

“Vivian Maier – Self portraits” captivates the entire world with the artist’s meticulous composition, signature self portraits and enigmatic charm.

High-resolution photos: <https://bit.ly/3KxDKHX>

Please refer to the Appendix for **“Checklist of Highlighted Exhibitions”**.

For more exhibitions and other programmes of French May: www.frenchmay.com



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About French May Arts Festival

Established in 1993, French May is one of the largest cultural events in Asia. With about 100 programmes presented across 2 months, we showcase the most diversified art forms: from heritage and contemporary arts, paintings and design, to classical music and hip-hop dance, cinema and circus. It has become an iconic part of Hong Kong's cultural scene reaching out to 20 million visitors since its inception.

French May brings the arts to everyone, not only in cultural venues, but also in public spaces, shopping malls and more, inviting everyone across Hong Kong to enjoy art in their daily lives.

In the aim of promoting accessible-arts for all, French May places a strong emphasis on education through outreach programmes, guided tours, workshops, masterclasses and free performances.

The festival strives to reach the widest possible audience and contribute to the education of the young and less-privileged, working closely with over 50 local institutions and organisations to establish barrier-free arts access.

For media enquiry, please contact **Mention PR Consultants Ltd.:**

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Checklist of Highlighted Exhibitions

Exhibition	Date	Venue	More Information
Reverie: Landscapes by André Brasilier	20 May – 11 June 2022; 10am – 7pm	Opera Gallery Hong Kong Shop G08-09, The Galleria, 9 Queen's Road Central, Central	Free admission
Zao Wou-ki	15 June – 9 September 2022; 10am – 6pm	Alisan Fine Arts 21/F, Lyndhurst Tower, 1 Lyndhurst Terrace, Central	Free admission
Adrift in Time— Photography by Chun Wai	20 May – 25 September 2022; Tue – Sat: 9:30am – 6pm Sun: 1pm – 6pm Closed on Mondays, Public and University Holidays	University Museum and Art Gallery, The University of Hong Kong	Free admission
Daphné Mandel: Hong Kong Time Rift	30 April – 28 May 2022; 11am – 6pm	Gallery EXIT 3/F, Blue Box Factory Building, 25 Hing Wo St, Aberdeen	Free admission
Contrasting Confluences	3 May – 30 June 2022; 11am – 7pm	Whitestone Gallery 7-8/F, H Queen's, 80 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong	Free Admission
Retrospective (2012- 2022) Wensen Qi (Vincent Cazeneuve)	13 May – 30 June 2022	Sin Sin Fine Art Kin Teck Industrial Building, 26 Wong Chuk Hang Rd, Aberdeen	Free Admission By Appointment: info@sinsinfineart .com
Julieth Mars Toussaint: Life's Currents	24 June – 23 July 2022; Mon – Sat: 11am – 7pm Sun and Public Holidays: 11am – 5pm	JPS Gallery Shops 218-219, 2/F, Landmark Atrium, 15 Queen's Road Central, Central	Free Admission
Vivian Maier – Self portraits	4 May – 31 August 2022; 11am – 7pm	f22 foto space BW 11 & BW 13, The Peninsula Hotel, Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Shui	Free Admission