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ATTENTION ART EDITORS & ENVIRONMENT EDITORS!

Faces of Gaia

Zoë Marden, Christine Nguyen, Katrina Leigh Mendoza Raimann and Jessica Zoob, and introducing Arabella Chong

10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Hong Kong

Exhibition Period: June 8 - July 22, 2023



Jessica Zoob, Dancing with Kali, 2022, Acrylic with oil on canvas, 114.5 x 228 cm (114.5 x 76 cm each), Triptych.

(HONG KONG JUNE/JULY 2023) 10 Chancery Lane Gallery is proud to present FACES OF GAIA, featuring five women artists Zoë Marden, Christine Nguyen, Katrina Leigh Mendoza Raimann and Jessica Zoob and introducing Arabella Chong.

Coinciding with the UN World Ocean's Day June 8th, the exhibition brings together five women artists whose works suggest the many faces of Gaia, Earth Goddess of Greek mythology. and ancestral mother of all life. Each of the selected artists have practices linked closely to their experiences of nature and its rhythms, incorporating individual sensibilities to reflect the many faces of Gaia. The exhibition highlights Gaia as a complex intertwining of phenomena that as both maker and destroyer creates the harmony of life. Further explained in scientific circles, the Gaia hypothesis posits that Earth, and its biological systems, behave as a huge single entity. This entity has closely controlled self-regulatory negative feedback loops that keep the conditions on the planet within boundaries that are favorable to life. 'The Faces of Gaia' proposes the transformative nature of the Earth Goddess in all her strength to bring restorative balance to the whole.

The exhibition opens on June 8, UN World Ocean's Day 2023, adding its voice to calls from around the world to protect the earth. Furthermore 10 Chancery Lane will continue its long term support of Oceanic Global, an NGO committed to protecting the Ocean, by donating a portion of the proceeds from the exhibition.

ZOË MARDEN

Zoë Marden's works over the last years include themes of the aquatic cosmos, she creates immersive installations, video and performances. Her current series of ceramic works, multi-media installations and videos take us to the underwater world of organic feminine forms.

Zoë states, "The ceramic sculptures are creature-like, some in aquariums but look as if they might make a break for it and escape their containers. The shapes are organic, curved and rounded, some echoing the folds of a vulva. Others are plan-like with branches that fold over the edges of the glass containers. The metal sculptures, with their wonky legs, give off the appearance of bending or reaching with water pooling around each of their legs slowing this potential movement down. They are the creatures of an imaginary sea, a sea that may exist on another planet. They are speculative sea squirts, they are abstracted oysters or the 'tentacular ones' as Donna

Harraway¹ would call them, they are intrinsically queer in their refusal to be defined by any categories of gender or sexuality. They refuse to be contained just as Isabelle Stengers'² concept of Gaia, the earth as maker and destroyer, an intrusion on the exploitation by humankind and its destruction of the earth's resources."

Zoë Marden is an artist, filmmaker and writer. She grew up in Hong Kong and is currently based in London. She works with performance, video, text, sound, sculpture and installation to create alternate worlds and speculative futures. Her work is research based and is concerned with where intersectional feminism overlaps with the post-colonial. Her intimate performances play with the voice, activating soundscapes of desire and vulnerability.

She graduated from the Royal College of Art, Fine Art: Moving Image MFA, London and Goldsmiths University, Curating MFA, London. Her recent solo exhibitions include: Living A Performance Artist's Life, Madeln Museum, Shanghai (2023); Becoming The Wild Thing, Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hong Kong (2022).

CHRISTINE NGUYEN

Christine Nguyen's work draws upon the imagery of nature, the sciences, and the cosmos but it is not limited to a conventional reading of these realms. It imagines that the depths of the ocean reach into outer space, that through an organic prism, vision can fluctuate between the microand macroscopic. Her practice is devoted to the natural world and its curiosities. It has been her inspiration and a place that she finds meditative and complex but also mysterious.

Christine explains, "My practice has allowed me to continuously know more about the world we live in. I've been drawn to 19th century Naturalists like Ernst Haeckel: biologist, philosopher, physician and artist; Anna Atkins: botanist and photographer and Robert Fludd: cosmologist, astrologer, occult philosopher who believed that every plant in the world had its own equivalent star in the firmament which I saw as every plant has a corresponding star in the cosmos, in which direct connections were made between the microcosmic earth and the macrocosmic celestial space."

¹ Tentacular Thinking: Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Chthulucene by Donna Haraway (<u>e-flux journal</u>, issue 75, September 2016)

² <u>Isabelle Stengers: "The Intrusion of Gaia" (translated by Andrew Goffey)</u> 29 december 2015, http://modesofexistence.org/isabelle-stengers-the-intrusion-of-gaia/

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Christine Nguyen was born and raised in California and currently resides in Aurora, Colorado and also works in Long Beach, California. She received her B.F.A from California State University, Long Beach and M.F.A from University of California, Irvine. Exhibitions of her work have been shown nationally and internationally. Her works can be found in various collections such as the J.Paul Getty Museum Department of Photographs, Getty Research Institute, Armand Hammer Museum, Grunwald Center for Graphic Art, Los Angeles World Airport's Collection, Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles, CA; The Burger Collection, Hong Kong; The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Hanoi, Vietnam; Long Beach Museum of Art, Kleefeld Contemporary Art Museum in Long Beach, California; Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio; and Microsoft Collection.

JESSICA ZOOB

Jessica Zoob's is a painter whose intricately layered abstract canvasses paradoxically emit both energy and stillness. Her landscapes teeter between her deeply felt impressions and her way of allowing things to happen spontaneously on her canvasses. She allows the interpretation of her works to be within the imagination of the viewer allowing them to be part of the creative process bringing it full circle from herself as artist to the viewer in a collaborative dance. In her painting entitled "Dancing with Kali," Jessica channels the fierce Hindu Goddess who, like Gaia, is a primordial cosmic energy, and the mother of all living beings. The goddess is stated to destroy evil in order to defend the innocent. She is worshipped as the Divine Mother, Mother of the Universe. Jessica's painting of swirling strokes of colour, powerfully describe the energy of Kali's force. Jessica's work is strongly connected to the earth, the oceans and the desire to protect it.

Jessica shares, "I would describe my art as evocative. My works seek to reach out to capture the viewers imagination. To remind them of a place, a smile, a long forgotten memory and sense of purpose and ultimately and always to invoke and highlight the sacred interconnectedness of everything. I walk through the world with my heart wide open, seeking to capture and reflect the beauty that I witness. I paint my dreams, my wishes, my fantasies, I paint because I am compelled to do so. To make real those half-forgotten places where we can walk each other home."

Jessica Zoob has been living and working in Hong Kong, before recently returning to her homeland in the UK. Jessica trained at Central School of Art and Nottingham University, she has worked as a theatre designer and now dedicates her practice solely to painting. She has exhibited internationally and is passionate about the environment and protecting it.

KATRINA LEIGH MENDOZA RAIMANN

Katrina Leigh Mendoza Raimann's Working across textiles, installation, and performance, she tells stories of intimacy, relationships, and the body. In this exhibition, Katrina's contemporary textile practice threads landscapes and mosaic patterns into intricate tapestries. Her art practice focuses on the histories of material and action, gender and labour.

Katrina describes her works, "My recent works draw upon the exploration of memories, feelings, and lived experiences; depicted through images of intangible spaces and landscapes. I find myself always associating memories with the environments they took place in. These environments then become spaces at acquire the feelings and emotions contained in the memories. The landscapes I depict are spaces that delve into the uncertainty of the in-between. The shifting of emotions that spatial (physical) distance and temporal distance creates; where a place stops being just a place but a site of memory or inaccessible future. I am also very interested in the relationship between the making process and the memories I depict in my work. The boundaries between the physical and intangible are also explored in the creation process. A sensation of movement that is sometimes calm and sometimes erratic is held still through the carefully intertwined and knotted threads. "

Katrina Leigh Mendoza Raimann is a Filipino interdisciplinary artist based out of Hong Kong and graduated BA Fine Art at Goldsmiths, University of London.

WORLD OCEANS DAY AND OCEANIC GLOBAL

10 Chancery Lane Gallery brings awareness through art for "World Oceans Day" June 8, 2023 and support Oceanic Global!

TIME TO PUT THE OCEAN FIRST. ABOUT THE UN WORLD OCEANS DAY CELEBRATION

The ocean covers the majority of the earth, but only a small portion of its waters has been explored. Despite humanity's utter reliance on it, and compared to the breadth and depth of what it gives us, the ocean receives only a fragment of our attention and resources in return.

But tides are changing.

To celebrate the United Nations World Oceans Day 2023 theme, Planet Ocean, the United Nations is joining forces with decision makers, scientists, private sector executives, civil society representatives, indigenous communities, celebrities and youth activists and more to put the ocean first.

OCEANIC GLOBAL: Founded by a local Hong Kong woman, Lea d'Auriol, Oceanic Global inspires us to care deeply for the ocean and provides solutions to protect it. The international NGO sheds light on humanity's essential relationship to the ocean and empowers individuals, communities, and industries to create positive change. Oceanic Global creates educational experiences, consults on sustainable operations, and engages local communities to generate measurable impact for our collective wellbeing.

ABOUT 10 CHANCERY LANE GALLERY

Established in 2001, when Hong Kong's art scene was burgeoning, Katie de Tilly started 10 Chancery Lane Gallery. Along the back wall of the, then running, Victoria Prison, now the buzzing Tai Kwun Heritage and Cultural site, the little walking lane opened into a gallery specializing in contemporary art from the Asia-Pacific. Over the past 22 years, 10 Chancery Lane has worked with some of the region's great artists, curators and museums. The gallery's motto still stands: "We are committed to giving a breath of fresh air to the Hong Kong art scene by bringing works that can expand horizons, open minds and view the world, and life in general, through varying eyes, ideas and souls. Art is not just decoration for our walls but a connection with our deep inner selves and the world around us."

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High resolution images available on request

