

SOLUNA

FINE ART

Exhibition: *Colour-Fullness*

Dates: March 8th – April 13th 2019

Marking one of its most important exhibitions since its opening, **Soluna Fine Art** presents *Colour-Fullness*, a revolutionary exploration of the connections between Op Art and Dansaekhwa. The gallery will exhibit two of the most iconic artists from Korea: **Park Seo-Bo** and **Choi Myoung Young** in dialogue with **Puerta Roja's** Op Art masters; **Carlos Cruz-Diez** and **Luis Tomasello**. *Colour-Fullness* reveals the paradox of colour by juxtaposing two distinctive approaches to abstraction from the East and West. The show title plays with a double entendre with reference to the Heart Sūtra in Buddhism, the teaching of the Two Truths doctrine where ultimately all phenomena are “sunyata”, empty of an unchanging essence.

Both art genres arose during the sixties as part of artistic collectives aiming to develop a new path for thought and expression in response to periods of wars and would blossom in the seventies. Both also developed revolutionary aesthetic styles and ‘liberation’ from different forms of traditional strictures. Key to these new artistic expressions was a desire to challenge materiality in order to engage with the viewer. Purity of colour, texture and materials were used as a new form of language distinctive from other abstraction currents.

The Kinetic & Op Art movement revolutionized the understanding of motion in art through either physical movement or the oscillation of colours and forms that invited the audience to become an active participant. Playing with perception and optical illusion, artists turned the viewer into an intrinsic part of the work, an accomplice with a pure sensorial and emotional response to works constructed on the basis of scientific research. The artwork in itself becomes an experience of the present.

During the 1970s, Dansaekhwa (literal meaning is monochrome painting in Korean) was formalised as a form of post-war abstract art against a backdrop of socio-political turbulence. Dansaekhwa artists utilised the canvas as the object of rebellion to resist the historical and cultural burden of the Korean War, dictatorship and Westernisation. By perceiving the canvas as a medium for practising self-discipline of body and mind, Dansaekhwa artists' creation process is an on-going exercise of attaining spiritual transcendence.

The juxtaposition of the artworks highlights both a historical and visual connection where “colour” becomes a journey of exploration into life. However, it also emphasises the contrast between the experiential and exuberant multi-chrome Op Art works, and the spiritual and meditative undertones from the Dansaekhwa minimalist monochromes.

Prior to the opening reception on 7 March, Soluna Fine Art will present a panel discussion with **Adriana Alvarez-Nichol** (Founder of Puerta Roja and Co-President of the Hong Kong Art Gallery Association), **Yunah Jung** (Associate Vice President, Senior Specialist of Asian 20th Century & Contemporary Art, Christie's) and **Rachel Eun Ju Lee** (Founder, Creative Director of Soluna Fine Art). The speakers will aim to provide a deeper understanding of both art genres through an open conversation addressing their history and future by highlighting their similarities and differences.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Anastacia J. MARCHAL-JUNG
anastacia.marchal@solunafineart.com



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NOTES TO EDITORS:

COLOUR-FULLNESS

7 MARCH 2019

5-6 PM (PANEL DISCUSSION)

6-8 PM (OPENING RECEPTION)

About Soluna Fine Art, Hong Kong

Soluna Fine Art is the pioneering purveyor of Asian fine art and objects in Hong Kong with deep roots in South Korea. The mission is to revitalize the concept of Eastern aesthetics by promoting works that brings traditional value with contemporary interpretations. Soluna Fine Art emphasizes the idea of essential meaning and tradition of Asian fine art that incorporated a wide variety of cultural influences throughout history. It is their goal to provide platforms for art that goes beyond boundaries of cross-cultural encounters. Soluna Fine Art showcases established and emerging artists through art exhibitions, fairs, educational programs, multi-disciplinary collaborations on an international level. Works sold by Soluna Fine Art are owned by private collectors and art museums around the world. Soluna Fine Art is soon to open a new space focusing on Korean artists in Hong Kong.

About Puerta Roja, Hong Kong

Puerta Roja was founded by Adriana Alvarez-Nichol in 2010 pioneering the promotion of established and emerging contemporary Latin American and Spanish artists in Asia-Pacific. Puerta Roja focuses on exhibitions that expand the understanding of Latin American artists' contribution to the development of global art movements, selecting artists whose discourse remains relevant to Asia Pacific. Its programming has introduced master's works from Mexican modernism to South American geometric abstraction such as Siqueiros, Carrington, Asís, Tomasello and Cruz-Diez. The gallery supports the internationalisation of emerging artists and has the ground-breaking new media installations by digital pioneer Miguel Chevalier, "nature made" paintings and installations by Fernando Prats and Asia inspired bamboo mobile sculptures by Laurent Martin 'Lo'. Exhibitions are regularly accompanied by a talk and community engagement programme.

Collaborators:

CHRISTIE'S



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