



ART LEXING Announces Solo Exhibition “The Modern Utopia” by artist Lu Chengxiang at Mandarin Oriental Miami during Art Basel Miami Beach

Miami, October 2014

Guests of Mandarin Oriental, Miami have the opportunity to experience contemporary Asian art during a special exhibition titled, “The Modern Utopia” on view in the hotel’s MO Bar + Lounge debuting at the prestigious Art Basel Miami Beach on December 1-15, 2014. The exhibition celebrates the hotel’s Asian roots and nods to the expanding cultural interest and influence of eastern art.

Organized by Lexing Zhang of ART LEXING Gallery of Miami, the Mandarin Oriental exhibition will feature works by acclaimed Chinese artist Lu Chengxiang, who treads the boundary between old and new. Chengxiang’s ink paintings subtly introduce the restlessness of modernity into traditionally-inspired scenarios.

“The Modern Utopia” exhibition collectively illustrates Chengxiang’s own portals between time periods and aesthetic methodologies. Symbols of prosperity, luck, wisdom and immortality flow freely through his paintings. One work depicts a typical man of the moment riding into view atop a giant crane. In the realms of Chinese mythology (and accepted among more than sixty ethnic groups throughout mainland China), the crane was connected to ideas of immortality or the transformed “xian” (Taoist immortal) who could fly between worlds both seen and unseen. Chengxiang dresses his crane-rider in a typical schoolboy uniform: he simultaneously addresses the vivaciousness of youth and how time seems endless in the mind of a child. These encapsulated fantasies, collectively called The Modern Utopia, are Chengxiang’s own portals between time periods and aesthetic methodologies. Each circular painting is a strange gateway for the contemporary observer, where the final destination is a benevolent one, but not fully known or understood. Symbols of prosperity, luck, wisdom, and immortality flow freely through these delicate rounds, but Chengxiang’s fantastic situations provide only short lapses of escape. His quotidian figures and present-day limousines, backpacks, and school uniforms are sharp reminders that the fantasy cannot be maintained as long as the mythologies they call upon.

The results are haunting juxtapositions which contrast the harmony of uniformity against the fundamental beauty of uniqueness, triggering a powerful emotional response where predictability proves to be both beautiful and mystic. His pieces are thought-provoking manifestations ripe with pan-cultural significance, not to be missed during this first-ever Miami debut.

EDITORS NOTES

About ART LEXİNG

ART LEXİNG is committed to promoting museum-quality works from emerging Asian artists, each with truly original and challenging perspectives filtered through photography, sculpture and traditional two-dimensional media. Participating in internationally-acclaimed art fairs and partnering with respected institutions and galleries throughout the United States and Europe, ART LEXİNG presents its global audience with only the most forward-thinking, provocative works from Asia's brightest young talents. Based out of Miami, ART LEXİNG has shown an array of works at venues including Art Asia Miami, artpalmbeach, Photo I.A, Zona Maco, Art Paris and Art Basel Hong Kong

About Lu Chengxiang

Lu Chengxiang was born in Jiangxi, China in 1974. He graduated from the South Jiangxi Fine Art Academy and has been featured in group exhibitions in Shanghai, Beijing, Taipei, Los Angeles, and Southampton (New York). He was nominated as an Artist to Watch in 2007 at the Beijing BSI Contemporary Art Museum and was featured in the Young Art Taipei art show in Taipei, Taiwan in 2013. Chengxiang lives and works in Shanghai. Ye Hongxing is represented by ART LEXİNG, a Miami-based art gallery which is committed to promoting museum-quality works from emerging Asian artists, each with truly original and challenging perspectives filtered through photography, sculpture and traditional two-dimensional media.

About Mandarin Oriental, Miami

Contemporary in design and with a prominent waterfront location, the triple Five-Star Mandarin Oriental, Miami features 326 elegant guest rooms and suites – offering dramatic views of the bay and the Miami skyline. Amenities include an award-winning tri-level spa, signature Azul restaurant, the new La Mar by Gaston Acurio restaurant, the waterfront MO Bar + Lounge, Oasis Beach Club, the luxury boutique Shanghai Tang and extensive meeting and business space.

About Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group

Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group is the award-winning owner and operator of some of the most luxurious hotels, resorts and residences. The Group has grown from a well-respected Asian hotel company into a global brand and now operates, or has under development, 45 hotels representing over 11,000 rooms in 26 countries, with 20 hotels in Asia, 11 in The Americas and 14 in Europe, Middle East and North Africa. In addition, the Group operates or has under development, 13 Residences at Mandarin Oriental connected to its properties.

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Lu Chengxiang, *Unfold your own myth*, Oil on canvas, 100 x 96 cm, 2012



Lu Chengxin, *The cranes who played with a young man*, Oil on canvas, 100 x 96 cm, 2013



Lu Chengxiang, *Dialogue between an ancient scholar and a youth*, Oil on canvas, 96 x96 cm, 2012