

SILIA KA TUNG

Garden of Heavenly Delights

Curated by James Putnam

Opening september 26 at 6.30 pm

september 27 - november 10 2023

monday - friday / 11 am - 7 pm

saturday only by appointment

Mimmo Scognamiglio Artecontemporanea is pleased to present a new exhibition of works by the London based artist Silia Ka Tung. This comprises a series of paintings, drawings, hanging textiles, sewn canvas sculptures and installations. Her playful paintings and drawings include random abstract elements and organic shapes rendered in bold, vibrant colours.

The show includes her characteristic soft sewn canvas sculptures, which she paints on with colourful motifs.

They represent mythical creatures, mushrooms, exotic fruits and organic shapes such as tree branches.

Her work explores themes of identity, folklore and memory with a unique fusion of elements from different cultures: from Chinese and Greek mythology, Japanese manga, and Korean media to Hindu philosophy.

The exhibition also includes a site-specific installation based on the Greek myth of Odysseus' encounter with the Lotus Eaters and the intoxicating and narcotic effects of the lotus fruits.

These are represented by her hanging pear-shaped painted textile 'pods' while the textile forms on the floor refer to tar pits.

Ka Tung creates a fairy tale wonderland, a unique magical dreamscape inhabited by mysterious creatures that personify magic, wisdom and folklore inspired the many wondrous phenomena of the natural world.

'Garden of Heavenly Delights' is an intriguing mix of modern, sci-fi like fantasy combined with the influences of Chinese culture and tradition.

Order and chaos go hand in hand with Yin and yang, the philosophical concept that describes opposite but interconnected forces. This forms a visual journey that tells the complexity of nature through colorful folktales and mythology.

Silia Ka Tung was born in Xinjiang, China and lives and works in London. She obtained a B.A. in Fine Arts Painting at the Chelsea College of Arts (1997-2000), followed by a MFA in Painting at the Slade

School of Fine Art (2000-2002). Tung has had numerous group and solo exhibitions in the UK and internationally, including at the Royal Academy of Arts, London; Arti et Amicitiae Amster-

dam; Galerie Karsten Greve, Paris; The Rubin Museum, Tel Aviv; KISS - Kunst im Schloss Untergröningen; Centre Design Marseille; MoCA Shanghai and the Jerwood Space, London.