

# ART PLURAL GALLERY

**PRESS RELEASE**  
For Immediate release

## ***Dreams of Desire* – solo exhibition by Chinese artist Fu Lei unveiled at Art Plural Gallery**

**Singapore, September 2014** – This November Art Plural Gallery presents *Dreams of Desire*, a solo exhibition featuring the work of Chinese artist **Fu Lei**. Running from **14<sup>th</sup> November to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2014**, Fu Lei's exhibition unveils 5 large-scale oil paintings created exclusively for the occasion and a selection of drawings.

Born in Beijing in 1958, Fu Lei's elaborate oil paintings capture the notion of excess in today's world. Plump figures decorated in pearls and dainty high-heels frolic amongst toads, flamingos, snails and fruit in an absurd yet uncannily familiar world. The subtle point of a toe as it emerges from the tangle of flesh reveals the underlying theme of lust, framed by the sheen of draped silk sheets and the enveloping wing of a crane in a display of somewhat faux modesty.

Although set in the clouds, just beyond the periphery of our realm, Fu Lei's baroque scenes address the entirely real subject of vice and desire in contemporary society. Despite being based in the thriving 798 Art Zone in Beijing, the artist stresses that his observations of lust and gluttony extend beyond contemporary China: *"the inspirations of my creation come from the freedom of not fixing my mind on any culture, region, pattern or even species"*. Fu Lei holds a mirror up to the viewer without interrogating him, allowing him a mere moment of guilt, shame or perhaps despair before the eye begins to notice the absurd and humorous motifs that are carefully arranged amongst the orchestrated jumble.

Indeed, the artist is fully committed to escapism, perpetually searching for avenues to enter his imagination or to *"flee away from the real world and escape into a realm of illusion"*. By leading the viewer up into the clouds, Fu Lei allows him a brief glimpse into a world that he has always wanted to experience, a kind of wonderland that exists only in the mind. In this world, the vices of lust and gluttony are re-imagined, stripped of their negativity and redefined as marvellous dreams of desire.



Fu Lei, *Paradise no. 13* (2014), oil on canvas, 300 x 170cm

*"In China today, Fu Lei has achieved an entirely unique artistic language. His universe reflects the excess of our societies, playing with symbols and reflecting the desires of our world. We are happy to introduce his most recent work to Singapore and to continue to share his talents with a wider audience"* - Frédéric de Senarclens, founder and director of Art Plural Gallery.

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## Artist Biography

As one of the first few studios established in the 798 district, Fu Lei's studio marked the beginning of a new Chinese art landmark, now known as the 798 Art Zone. His early works assimilated a lot of vivid colours and decorative delights from Chinese folk art. In 1998 he began to use ironic plump figures to unearth the indolence and ambiguousness of human nature. Today he still stands fast in working in the 798 Art Zone amongst the handful of others, using his unique artworks to identify the present day.

Born in Beijing, China in 1958, Fu Lei graduated from Fine Arts School at the Hebei Normal University in 1982 and pursued a career as an art teacher before becoming a professional artist in 1992. In 1994, he presented his first solo exhibition at the Beijing Restaurant. Fu Lei established his studio in Beijing Dashanzi district in 2002 and still remains working in the 798 Art Zone today. His exhibitions include: Germany Embassy in Beijing, China; La case Art Space, Beijing; Oriental Light Art Space, Beijing; The Hong Kong Academic Invitational Exhibition for the 60th PRC Anniversary, China; Vecchiato New Art Gallery, Padova, Italy; Chinese Culture Centre, Paris, France; Chinese Contemporary Art Exhibition, Italy; The National Art Museum of China, Beijing. The artist lives and works in Beijing, China.

## About Art Plural Gallery

Founded by Swiss art dealer Frédéric de Senarclens in May 2011, Art Plural Gallery is located in the heart of Singapore's museum and cultural district. A significant international art destination for collectors, the gallery's space encompasses an expansive 12,000 square feet, extended across 4 levels of exhibiting areas, and housed within an Art Deco heritage building. Most recently, Art Plural Gallery was named by Blouin Artinfo as one of the World's Best New Galleries and Museums.

## Exhibition Details

Fu Lei: *Dreams of Desire*  
14<sup>th</sup> November to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Art Plural Gallery  
38 Armenian Street  
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Opening hours from 11 am to 7 pm - Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays

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