

10 Chancery Lane Gallery
Katie de Tilly Contemporary Artists

G/F, 10 Chancery Lane
SoHo, Central, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2810-0065

Email: info@10chancerylanegallery.com

ATTENTION ART EDITORS

For Immediate Release

**MAYA HEWITT and KONSTANTIN BESSMERTNY
10 CHANCERY LANE GALLERY ANNOUNCES OCTOBER AND
NOVEMBER 2014 EXHIBITIONS**

Maya Hewitt (UK/ Philippines)

All Along the Shadows

Opening Reception with the artist: Thursday 30 October 2014, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Dates: 30 October – 22 November 2014



Inner Circle, 2014 oil on panel, 94 x 122 cm

(Hong Kong October 30, 2014)—10 Chancery Lane Gallery is proud to present for the second time in Hong Kong, young British artist, Maya Hewitt.

Maya Hewitt is a talented figurative painter whose exotic narrative landscapes form an artificial space, constructed and staged in a state of suspension. They travel between the real and the fictional, between human and supernatural energies, and between artifice and nature. There is always a relationship or drama at play amongst a sense of belonging.

The figures inhabiting the space of Hewitt's paintings embody elements of the human condition, heartfelt and complex. They remain quiet and introverted, absorbed in their

own thoughts, and perhaps lost in their own world. Hewitt explains, "I don't plan out my paintings beforehand, I like to build up and construct a space and follow a narrative that evolves as I paint, as a way of finding my path within the works. I want to create a feeling of worlds within worlds in my paintings, where you can believe that you have the power inside of yourself to escape there."

This new series of works were inspired by the Jura Mountains where she spent much of her childhood. Although not directly referencing imagery from the Jura, the initial intention was to construct spaces reminiscent of that feeling, where everything is flanked by woods, where nature is the dominant force. The settings appear not quite fully outside (in nature) or within interiors but rather, the figures seemed to have journeyed or awakened in a frontier that is almost a stage-bound, man-made environment or a zoo-like enclosure. Though they reference landscape and narrative, they are not of any one environment.

As in her earlier series, Hewitt explores pockets of details and narratives, which play out, where the exotic and uncanny sit along side figures who appear unawares, absorbed in their own thoughts, doing mundane day-to-day activities. Personal symbolic objects draw references from across time and cultures and myths. Having studied painting in Japan, Hewitt's earlier works were heavily influenced by Japanese animé painting. She has ventured away from this aspect of her previous works and we see a deeper and richer palette yet she continues to reference the bizarre in her choice of beings and symbols. Her works, more cryptic now, the emotions seem more shielded, with an ambiguity that still represents psychological states of being.

Hewitt, presently based in London, has participated in numerous exhibitions internationally including, most recently *The Forgiven Ghost in Me* at Misako & Rosen in Tokyo (2014), *Passion Fruits*, Thomas Olbricht collection, Berlin (2010), *Nocturne*, Bischoff Weiss Gallery, London (2010) and *Elusive Dreams* which travelled from La Cathedrale, Paris to the Irish Museum of Contemporary Art (2009). Hewitt studied at the University of Brighton, Camberwell College of Art, Winchester School of Art as well as the Nagoya University of Art in Japan and was a participant in residencies under the auspices of both Tokyo Wonder Site and the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation. In 2010, Hewitt collaborated with noted Tokyo-based jewelry designer Yoshiyo Abbe (*Petite Robe Noire*) on the exhibition *Stones in Paws*.

UPCOMING IN NOVEMBER

Konstantin Bessmertny (RUSSIA / MACAU)

Konstantin Bessmertny: Stir-Fry

**Press Preview and Artist's Talk: 26 November 2014, 12:30 – 3:00 pm
(refreshments served)**

Private Reception and Performance: 28 November 2014, 6:30-8:30

**Public Opening and Hong Kong Art Gallery Week Art Gallery Night:
2 December 2014, 6:30-8:30**

Exhibition Dates: 26 November 2014 – 31 January 2015



G.S.F &S., 200 x 400 cm, oil on linen, 2013 (detail)

Hong Kong 25 November 2014—10 Chancery Lane Gallery is thrilled to announce the representation of Macau-Based Russian artist **Konstantin Bessmertny** and the launch of his newest series of paintings entitled **STIR FRY**.

Bessmertny is a child of the crossroads, born in the Russian-Chinese border town of Blagoveshchensk and moved to Macau with his wife Gala in 1994. Educated in the

Vladivostok Academy of Fine Arts in classical painting he is trained in the skillful mastery of European traditional painting that he chooses or chooses not to use at will. Very well read on many subjects, his works traverse between philosophy, politics, theology, art history and music. However, these subjects are just devices to arrive at something deeper, which is his cutting insight and observations of human behavior as a parody of life.

In his newest series of works entitled "STIR FRY" Bessmertny traverses our connected and disconnected worlds between East and West within the backdrops of European settings. Within a stir fry the elements are still distinguishable. They don't melt together as in a stew. They remain as distinct items within a contained vessel. Bessmertny likens his life living in Asia with the diversity of peoples and cultures all within the global city of Hong Kong to a Stir Fry. The English, the Scots, the Cantonese, the Mainlanders, the Japanese, the Russians, the Koreans, etc. make for an interesting mix of both global exchanges set within very traditional cultures that can be both nationalistic or clinging to traditional cultural expressions. This may be considered as the forms in which traditional culture is expressed, how it forms part of the identity and heritage of a traditional community, as well as how they are passed down from generation to generation. Within this series Bessmertny touches upon the Scottish Referendum, the Hong Kong protests, the American ideologues all intertwined within a parody of provocative thoughts and ideas. Bessmertny's paintings have the appeal of a grandiose Baroque masterpiece yet the cutting edge of a modern-day samurai. He touches on many a taboo subject yet the works still hold an air of traditional elegance.

Katie de Tilly, 10 Chancery Lane Gallery director states, "Bessmertny is both a great painter as well as an engaged intellectual. Through his brush he dives into his topics with such force and depth that the narrative takes days or years to unravel, not only the obvious jests but the hidden labyrinth of underlying sarcasm that he deftly sinks into hidden pockets within his paintings. I don't think anyone has cracked all the codes that exist within his works. They are a modern day puzzle of painted mastery."

Konstantin Bessmertny represented Macau for the The 52nd International Art Exhibition, Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

Previous exhibitions include: 365, *A Work a Day, the Museu Fundacao Oriente*, Lisbon, Portugal (2014), *Crossroads · Another Dimension: the Cross-Straight Four-Regions Artistic Exchange Project 2013, Imaginary Belongings – Macau Contemporary Art*, Museum of the Orient, Lisbon, Portugal (2011), Hong Kong City Hall, Hong Kong (2014), Museum of Art, Macau, China (2012), *MONUMENT TO ANYONE* (Monumentum pro aliquis), installation and performance at Fringe, da Cidade de Macau, Macau, China (2009), *Recent Works*, The Museum of Art, Macau, China (2007), *The 52nd International Art Exhibition*, Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy (2007), XIX Asian Art Exhibition, Museum of Contemporary Art, Fukuoka, Japan (2005), XVIII Asian Art Exhibition, Heritage Museum, Hong Kong, China (2003), XIV Asian Art Exhibition, Museum of Contemporary Arts, Japan (1999), Contemporary Asian Art Exhibition, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong (1997),

Konstantin Bessmertny was an Awards Finalist, Sovereign Art Foundation, Asia in 2006.

For press enquiries and to arrange interviews, please contact Bo Kim on bo@10chancerylanegallery.com or +852 2810 0065.