

## Amanda Wei Gallery presents “Kaleido”

### First Solo Exhibition of Taiwanese Collage Master Liu Shih-Tung's in Hong Kong

(Hong Kong, 25 Apr 2018) Following Belin's exhibition of post-neo cubism artworks, Amanda Wei Gallery is going to invite renowned Taiwanese artist, Liu Shih-Tung to have his first exhibition in Hong Kong, bringing the new oriental culture to Central. Liu's collages are abounded with vitality and richness. Through placement, dissociation and amalgamation and other visual techniques, he creates a painterly space with intertwined implication and ambiguous symbolic relationships. The exhibition will start from 11 May to 27 June for the public to appreciate Liu's art.

In recent years, the rapid development of technology and society have given rise to humans' continuous desire towards new things. Traditional painting therefore can no longer satisfy contemporary artists' aspiration towards new media, making the fusion of new ideas and various media a predominant trend. Liu combines contemporary thoughts and traditional techniques to create artworks based on historical culture and his very own experience. By giving new meanings to existing objects through capturing, restructuring, and reconstruction, Liu breaks the boundary of the flat space of painting.



Famous for his collages, Liu not only has profound academic background and artistic skills, but he also learns traditional paper-cutting art. He collects materials from daily lives like newspapers and magazines and turns them into literary landscape scenes by improvisation. During this process, the collage techniques present the mingling between those rich texture and visually fragmented images, creating a deepening of color and space. While it looks like scenery of flowers and birds from a distance, the arrangement of images in a closer look may make you smile. These special techniques involve comprehension and interpretation of the contemporary life. Through Liu's images, they give a various level of meaning to both the scenery or still life themes.



“To me, every object has infinite possibility. Continuous experimenting and exploring the nature of development and presentation of things, is also a repeatedly challenge to my understanding of the world. This kind of practice has become important not only in my creation, but also my daily life.”

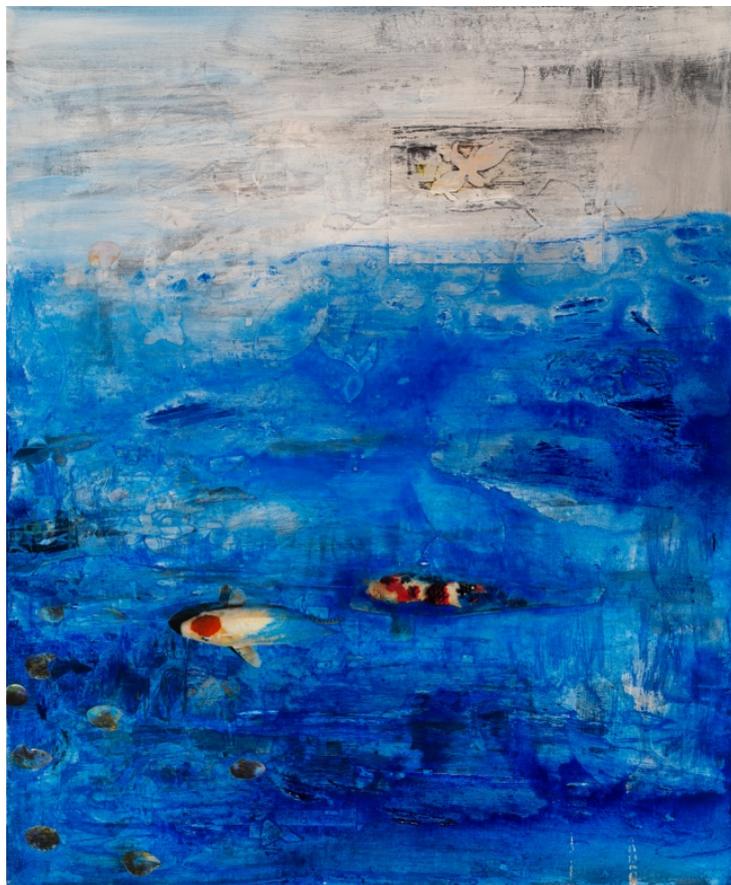
- Liu Shih-Tung

As the first solo exhibition of Liu Shih-Tung, the exhibition “Kaleido” will showcase eight artworks alongside an installation to audience, which are Liu’s latest work from 2017 to 2018. The works are infused with the composition of Chinese traditional painting and elements of the Bible. Liu compares traditional culture with existing objects, building a subtle connection which permeates a balance between traditional and contemporary vision.



<Red Vase and Bird> Mixed Media on Canvas 91x73cm (2017)

In the early 2000s, Liu started to paste and reorganize image symbols, which became the beginning of his collage creation. His works included traditional images of flower and birds after 2010 to awaken his aspiration towards traditional Chinese aesthetics and revealed the conversation with literati. His new works “A Walk by the River” and “Trace of Time II” are also inspired by traditional Chinese landscape paintings. The attention to spatial layout as well as emphasis on the composition and linear structure presents a multi layers of painting. Liu collects different kinds of printed materials which can represent a slice of life, like magazines, newspaper and catalogs. He turns them into artworks through visual deconstruction, resetting and grouping, putting them into a certain scenario that they carry, and paints layers of colors in between to create textures that connects each object, imitating the characteristics of the nature. It could be obviously seen in “Fishes In Clear Water I” and “Fishes In Clear Water II”.



<Fish in Clear Water I> Mixed Media on Canvas 91x73cm (2017)

On top of the base of traditional collage art, Liu strengthens post-modern commercialized symbols to construct a contrast to the traditional painting, and reverse audience's existing imagination of landscapes or animals. “Swimming Fish” and “Glance Back” are infused with poetic elements and cultural values at first sight, but words and symbols of modern daily lives are actually embedded in the details. This does not only convey Liu's deep analysis of the topic, but also establish a linkage with the life experiences of the audience.



<Blooming> Mixed Media on Canvas 180x80cm (2018)

“Red Vase and Bird” and “Blooming” continues the collage techniques, using elements of flowers and birds with contrast of warm and cool colors as the main theme. Liu’s special aesthetics is conveyed through his craftwork. The mixed overflowing symbols somehow reach a balance in the arrangement, exuding a poetic atmosphere. His works become interesting when he contrasts heavy cultural style with the images of modern industrial consumer goods. Each and every canvas is akin to a miniature version of the artist’s everyday life, which lets spontaneous brushwork and collage become a special piece of art.



<Where Is the Art Going?>Mixed Media 128x36x24cm (2016)

The installation “Where Is the Ark Going?” continues Liu’s experimental spirit in his installation in the 1990s. Inciting the biblical story of God building an ark to shelter everything on Earth, this installation also reveals Liu’s concept of disassembling and reassembling different materials, thereby evokes audiences’ reminiscence through these randomly picked objects in daily life. The name of the work implies the origin of the continuation of all things, it at the same time shows the artist's expectation for a collage creation to contain all things. Liu follows the path of his past creations, ironically replaces the objects on the ark into daily objects he collected to assemble this ark that looks like moving in the air. The image and structure of the "Ark" hints at the flow of time and space around it, as if it were an unknown journey.

### **Liu Shih-tung’s solo show: “Kaleido” exhibition information**

Opening: 11 May 2018, 5pm – 8pm

Duration: 11 May 2018 – 27 June 2018

Time: 11am – 8pm (free entry)

Venue: Amanda Wei Gallery

Show B, Lower Ground Floor, Wilson House, 19-27, Wyndham Street, Central (D1 Exit, Central Station)

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### **About Amanda Wei Gallery**

Amanda Wei Gallery is located within the art district of Central, Hong Kong. We exhibit unique art works from all around the world, including paintings, sculpture, photographs, multimedia, installations, as well as art-related merchandise. As a modern art space with an international vision, we aim to provide an innovative forum to bring well-established artists and their works to Hong Kong while also promoting creative young talent who exhibit promising potential.