

# Jia Aili

Solo Exhibition Opening at Teatrino di Palazzo Grassi on May 5 – July 31 2015



Between May 5 and July 31, 2015, at the Teatrino di Palazzo Grassi in Venice will be held the Solo Exhibition of Chinese Artist Jia Ai'Li, which is his first museum level exhibition in Europe. Created between 2011 and 2015, the six new artworks on display bear witness to an innovating approach to painting in the cultural context of contemporary China. Growing up in the transition of the Chinese economy to modernization, the artist paints works expressive of human solitude in the face of a modern world: the characters are fragile and innocent, in search of a history pieced together by fragments, so as to become re-integrated with the modern day world.

Palazzo Grassi was originally built in 1797 and remodeled in 2006. In 2009, Punta della Dogana, the former customs house dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, was acquired and converted to an art museum. The restoration of the Palazzo Grassi by François Pinault was seen as the third phase in Venice's Cultural Project. The brainchild of Tadao Ando, who oversaw the renovation of Palazzo Grassi, and in close collaboration with the Venice authorities and its urban construction management teams, the ancient and yet brand-new Palazzo Grassi maintains and upgrades the continuity of the city's architectural spirits.

Globally, Palazzo Grassi invites one artist every year to use his/her work to engage in a dialogue with the art space renovated by Tadao Ando. That is where Jia Ai'Li's exhibition comes in this year. In the foyer of the Teatrino di Palazzo Grassi and open to the public, the exhibition will be the first of its kind by this Chinese artist. Among the six works on display, four are created specifically for this project.

Born in 1979 in Liaoning Province (China) and a graduate of the Luxun Academy of Fine Arts, Jia Ai'li lives and works in Beijing. His main solo exhibitions around the world include the following: *Seeker of Hope*, at Singapore Art Museum; *The Dharma Bums*, at the Hartell Gallery, Cornell University (Ithaca, USA); *Good Morning, World!*, at the OCT Center of He Xiangning Art Museum (Shenzhen, China); *Make Believe*, at the Institute of International Visual Arts (London, 2010); *The Wasteland*, at Platform China (Beijing, 2017). His works have been shown in group exhibitions, at Pinchuk Art Centre (Kyiv, 2014); National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Seoul, 2013); a special exhibition at the 54<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennial (MENGLONG – OSCURITÀ, Venice, 2011); Guangzhou Triennial (2008); Shanghai Art Museum (2006 and 2007), and China National Museum (Beijing 2006), to name only a few.

The exhibition features a body of six works – four of which have never been exhibited before. Created between 2011 and 2015, these works bear witness to an innovating approach to painting in the cultural context of contemporary China.

Often with a greyish and bluish hue, the artist's works are known for presenting a world in which solemnity and violence co-exist, a world on the brink of collapse. His is a solemn and romantic detour, in contrasts with a Chinese art world which is, to a varying extent, clamorous and unsteady. Using pictorial language the public is well acquainted with to depict space and canvas elements, and to arouse courage and the visual appeal, his works energize the senses of the soul, which are indescribable but are the essence of oriental aesthetics we have come to appreciate.

(For more information, please refer to Palazzo Grassi's official website at <http://www.palazzograssi.it/en>)



Jia Aili

Untitled

Oil on Canvas

132 x 98 cm

2014



Jia Aili

Noah's Dream

Oil on Canvas

93 x 132 cm

2012