

GO FIGURE!?

May 19–May 26, 2021

Online

Sprüth Magers

Monika Sprüth and Philomene Magers are pleased to announce an online exhibition in collaboration with Ed Tang and Jonathan Cheung. *GO FIGURE!?* will present works by artists from Sprüth Magers' roster alongside a selection of emerging artists from around the globe and across various media.

GO FIGURE!? is conceived not as a conventional survey of figuration in a literal sense, nor does it strictly follow representations of the body. Rather, it aims to welcome a playful dialogue between the exhibiting artists and works. The title of the show is a tongue-in-cheek nod to the lineage of figuration in art while also posing as an open-ended question, the word 'figure' serving as both noun and verb. The show brings together those who work in Europe, America and Asia, reflecting both the geographical presence of Sprüth Magers, and the universal nature of the theme.

Multimedia works by John Baldessari, Cao Fei, George Condo, Thomas Demand, Gary Hume, Karen Kilimnik, Barbara Kruger, Louise Lawler, Pamela Rosenkranz, Sterling Ruby, Thomas Scheibitz, Cindy Sherman, Rosemarie Trockel, Kara Walker and Andro Wekua will anchor the show; juxtaposed with works by Henni Alftan, Diane dal-Pra, Alex Foxtan, Lenz Geerk, Elizabeth Glaessner, Matthew Angelo Harrison, Clementine Keith-Roach, Jo Messer, and Oscar yi Hou.

One can freely ping pong between the works in *GO FIGURE!?*. You may find clues in Barbara Kruger's work that allude to the conflict of Alex Foxtan's subject. The window of Sterling Ruby may open up to Elizabeth Glaessner's fantastical world. Likewise, George Condo's protagonists could be seen as distant cousins of Jo Messer's dizzying figures; the sitter depicted in Oscar yi Hou's painting may have stumbled home from Cao Fei's disco.

The spectacle in Kara Walker's collage recalls Elizabeth Glaessner's wild subjects. Matthew Angelo Harrison's totemic sculpture playfully offsets Rosemarie Trockel's Tisch; Lenz Geerk's enigmatic portrait has a cinematic quality that parallels the cropped figure in John Baldessari's painting; Diane dal Pra's introspective girl may be hiding under a sheet admiring Gary Hume's

moonscape; the tactile quality in Clementine Keith-Roach's ceramic speaks to the touch of Pamela Rosenkranz's hands all over her emergency blanket. A lightbulb moment may come with looking at Louise Lawler's work featuring Felix Gonzalez Torres' iconic installation. The disparate elements aim to encourage looking and engaging beyond the obvious.

Perhaps what the works have most in common is the way they have been included in this online platform, just as the world is figuring new ways of engaging with art with an ever-increasing audience in the digital age. In the context of *GO FIGURE!?*, while the selection was made through the personal lens of Tang and Cheung, it serves both as statement and question. The intention is to look at and explore the crossover of artists and disciplines in an open-ended, non-linear way, and to flirt with the multitude of connotations. Ergo, go figure!

Ed Tang

As partner of Art-Bureau, Tang is a contemporary art advisor based in New York, with over a decade of experience working with collectors, artists, galleries and institutions. He was formerly a director at Art Agency, Partners in New York and was Vice-President and Director of Global Fine Arts at Sotheby's. His previous work encompassed advisory, collection development and management, valuations and special projects involving artists, estates and foundations in the US, Europe and Asia. A native of Hong Kong and the U. K., Tang received a B.A. degree in History of Art from University College London.

During his time in London, Tang was an ambassador for Tate Young Patrons and the founding co-chair of the Whitechapel Gallery First Futures group. He was also a member of the Tate Asia-Pacific Acquisition Committee for a number of years. He moved to New York in 2014, shortly before becoming the Global Head of First Open at Christie's. He oversaw the First Open New York contemporary auctions and helped its expansion to London, Hong Kong as well as the online realm. More recently, Tang became a founding member of the Asia Art Archive Women in Art History Fund and has been involved as a Friend the Foundation for Contemporary Art since 2017.

Jonathan Cheung

Hong Kong native Jonathan Cheung (JC) first became involved with the art world as a collector of contemporary art. Instantly drawn to its multi-faceted and global nature, JC has since developed his interests in the arts into his passion.

Alongside his role as Partner at Art-Bureau, JC is a devoted supporter of art through his global activities with international institutions. He currently sits on the Asia-Pacific Acquisition Committee of Tate and the Council of Serpentine Galleries, where he was originally a founding member of the Asian Council. In Hong Kong and Asia, JC sits on the International Council of Visual Art of M+ Museum, where he is also a founding patron. JC is a trustee of Design Trust Hong Kong, and an executive committee member of the Society of Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. Additionally, JC is a founding member of the Asia Art Archive Women in Art History Fund, a platform to support research on archives about women in art in Asia.

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JC is currently a partner and executive director of Occasions Asia Pacific Group, a leading integrated PR & communications ground in the region. JC was Co-Founder of Buzz Agency Hong Kong, a PR & Marketing agency that was acquired by Occasions Asia Pacific Group. JC completed his undergraduate studies at Parsons School of Design in New York City and his graduate studies at The Bartlett school of Planning at University College London.

Art-Bureau

Established by Ed Tang and Jonathan Cheung in 2021, Art-Bureau is an independent advisory with a global outlook. With a particular focus on contemporary art in all media and offices in Hong Kong and New York, Art-Bureau provides a range of collector-driven and project-based services.

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