



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Emily Allchurch: The Making of 'Babel Hong Kong'

On Show:

Art Central Fair, Booth C8, 27 March- 1 April 2018

Karin Weber Gallery is delighted to announce the second stage of its collaboration with new gallery artist Emily Allchurch: the launch of 'Babel Hong Kong', an artwork created from weeks of research in local Hong Kong communities and on show for the first time at the Art Central fair in Hong Kong in March 2018.

Allchurch uses photography and digital collage to reconstruct Old Master works in her creation of contemporary narratives. Her starting point is an intensive encounter with a city or place, to absorb an impression and gather an extensive image library. From this resource, hundreds of photographs are selected and meticulously spliced together to create a seamless, new fictional space. Each artwork represents this journey, compressed into a single scene. The resulting photographic collages resonate with place, history and culture. They explore the passage of time and changes to a landscape, imbuing contemporary life with a strong sense of history.

In November 2017, Emily Allchurch spent several weeks in Hong Kong, researching locations and gathering photographic material as the basis for an artwork designed to capture the essence of the city of Hong Kong in a way that reflected traditions of both Chinese and Western old master paintings. In her research, Emily enjoyed the support and guidance of numerous local artists, gallerists and art academics.

'Babel Hong Kong' will be launched in Hong Kong at the Art Central fair in March 2018. Loosely inspired by the 1595 'Tower of Babel' by Flemish painter Lucas van Valkenborch, the piece also draws strongly from Chinese painting traditions in its multiple perspectives and meandering paths which guide the viewer through an unabashedly urban cityscape leading to misty mountain ranges in the distance. A library of nearly 10,000 digital images provided the material for a work which brings the city of Hong Kong to life in a composition that is unique and highly personal, yet quintessentially Hong Kong.

For this project, Allchurch has been awarded the Artists' International Development Grant from the British Council & Arts Council England.



About the Artist:

Born in Jersey, Channel Islands, UK, Emily Allchurch first specialized in sculpture before developing her unique approach to reimagining historical artworks in a contemporary photo-collage style. She shows regularly across the UK, including the prestigious Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in London, and internationally. In February 2018, Emily was a Finalist from over 4000 applicants in the Columbia Threadneedle Prize in London. Having made her Asian debut with her 'Tokyo Story' series' in 2013, this is Emily's first presentation in Hong Kong.

Her work is in the permanent collections of the Tokaido Hiroshige Museum, Japan; Minneapolis Museum of Arts, USA; Manchester Art Gallery, UK; Nouveau Musée National de Monaco; States of Jersey, Channel Islands, UK and the Alberta College of Art and Design, Calgary, Canada. Corporate collections include the Financial Conduct Authority, Unilever, Morgan Stanley, Schrodgers and Rathbones in London, and Fidelity International in Tokyo.

Emily holds an MA in Sculpture from the Royal College of Art, London. She lives and works in Hastings and London, UK.

About Karin Weber Gallery:

Established in 1999 by German-born Karin Weber and now in its 18th year, Karin Weber Gallery is one of Hong Kong's oldest contemporary art galleries. Situated on Aberdeen Street, in the heart of SoHo, the gallery presents a year-round program of curated exhibitions, talks, and collector events.

Karin Weber Gallery has been named one of '500 Best Galleries Worldwide' by BLOUIN ARTINFO in 2015 and 2016 consecutively. The gallery's unique network of partners based in London, Mumbai and Berlin allows it to source emerging and established contemporary art from around the world.

Karin Weber Gallery is equally passionate about presenting works by local artists. The gallery assists artists through exhibitions, art fairs, and residency programs throughout the world. Small in size, yet global in outlook, Karin Weber Gallery is one of Hong Kong's truly international boutique galleries.

Images



Artist: Emily Allchurch
Title: Details of *Babel Hong Kong*
Year: 2018
Medium: Transparency on bespoke LED Lightbox
Size: 120 x 157 x 8.3cm
(Also available as: Archival C-type print mounted onto aluminium, framed size: 104.5 x 130.5cm)
Edition: 20 + 2APs

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