

Jonathan Cooper  
20 Park Walk London SW10 0AQ

Press Release

*He Xi - Outside the Lines*

*The contemporary Chinese painter's first UK solo exhibition*

**31<sup>st</sup> October – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2019**



*The Fish Being Watched II*, ink & Chinese pigments on rice paper, 16.9 x 18.5ins (43 x 47cm)

In November 2019 Jonathan Cooper, London, will be holding the first UK solo exhibition of contemporary Chinese painter He Xi.

Born in Beijing in 1960, He Xi lives and works in Shanghai. He has been the subject of numerous solo museum exhibitions, including at the China Academy of Art Museum, the Suzhou Museum, and the Shanghai Chinese Painting Academy Art Museum, and is Creative Research Director of the Shanghai Chinese Painting Academy.

# Jonathan Cooper

20 Park Walk London SW10 0AQ

Working in the traditional media of ink and Chinese pigments, He Xi employs the materials and techniques of the great masters of Chinese painting, informed by the rigorous training that he received at the prestigious China Academy of Art. His works often feature motifs found in traditional Chinese painting, such as flowers, birds, and fish, yet are firmly contemporary in tone and style. Many of his compositions are inspired by ancient parables, and demonstrate their continuing relevance to our modern urban existence. Others, however, arise from his observation of the contemporary world, seeking always to express his experience and vision of life.

Quietly humorous and often enigmatic, his thought-provoking paintings encourage the viewer to form their own interpretations of his idiosyncratic scenes. Frequently exploring the theme of freedom versus containment, in them we find a reflection of the human condition in the natural world, and an invitation to question the limits, both psychological and environmental, that we face in our journey through life.



*Urban Life No. 2*, ink & Chinese pigments on silk, 50.8 x 26.5ins (129 x 67.5cm)

Shaped by the great tradition of Chinese painting but unique in contemporary Chinese art, He Xi's work is both timeless and strikingly contemporary, and this exhibition will be an unmissable opportunity for admirers of Chinese art in Britain to discover the work of an exceptional modern master.



*See the Sea III*, ink and Chinese pigments on silk, 18 x 17.3ins (46 x 44cm) (left); *Early Summer in the Bottle*, 27.5 x 27.5ins (70 x 70cm) (centre) and *As Long as You Live Better than Me*, 17.75 x 17.75ins (45 x 45cm) (right), both ink & Chinese pigments on rice paper

## NOTES TO EDITORS

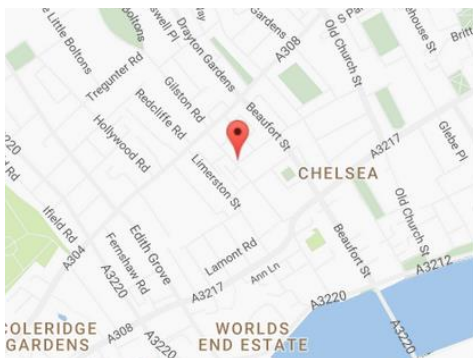
**He Xi** (b. Beijing, China, 1960) lives and works in Shanghai. He trained at the Shanghai Arts & Crafts Vocational College, and the Chinese Painting Department of the Zhejiang Academy of Art (now the China Academy of Art). He is a member and Creative Research Director of the Shanghai Chinese Painting Academy; National First-class Artist of China; a member of the China Artists Association; a syndic of the Shanghai Artists Association and China Hue Art Society, and a committeeman of the Chinese Painting Committee. He Xi is Visiting Professor of Shanghai Academy of Fine Arts, Shanghai University and Shanghai Institute of Visual Arts, and has been the



subject of numerous solo exhibitions in museums such as the China Academy of Art Museum, the Suzhou Museum, and the Shanghai Chinese Painting Academy Art Museum.

**Jonathan Cooper** – founded in 1988 – is a London based contemporary art gallery specialising in representational drawing, painting, and sculpture. The gallery is a member of SLAD (The Society of London Art Dealers), BADA (The British Antique Dealers' Association) and LAPADA (The Association of Art & Antique Dealers), and regularly exhibits at international art fairs.

## LISTINGS & PRESS INFORMATION



The gallery is open Monday – Friday 10am – 6.30pm and Saturday 11am – 4pm, free admission.

### How to find us:

Bus: 211, 11 and 22 on the Kings Road  
or 14 and 414 on the Fulham Road

Tube: South Kensington or Fulham Broadway

For more information or images please contact Rebecca Wall on +44 (0) 20 7351 0410 or at [rebeccawall@jonathancooper.co.uk](mailto:rebeccawall@jonathancooper.co.uk).