

For Immediate Release:

MobArt

Presents

T R A N S C E N D E N C E

Cornelia Erdmann / Sarah Koljonen / Man Fung-yi

Venue: The Drawing Room, 1/F JIA Boutique Hotel, 1-5 Irving Street, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.
Opening Reception: 30th April, 2009. Exhibition continues through late September.

MobArt Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of *Transcendence*, a group exhibition featuring three Hong Kong-based female artists – Cornelia Erdmann, Sarah Koljonen and Man Fung-yi. This is MobArt's inaugural presentation and will be held at The Drawing Room from 30th April through late September, 2009.

The exhibition brings together three artists from a variety of cultural backgrounds who currently live and work in Hong Kong. The 17 selected pieces in the show unveil the artists' endeavor to rise beyond the limits of nature and human experience. Through a range of media and forms, they aspire to transport the viewer to a moment of transcendence – a state of elevation above the presumed and accepted truth towards the unknowable and immeasurable.

Commencing the show is Man Fung-yi's *Weaving Intimacy (Body Lines) No. 9*. This stunning brass dress piece punctured with her signature graphic patterns, as well as her other clothing sculptures in the main dining area, are manifestations of the artist's incessant interest in ancient cultural and religious traditions. In Taoism, one has to be cleansed in both body and mind in order to attain a state of absolute peace and purity. The formality and unity of one's attire becomes a significant element to his/her spiritual well-being. Rather than blindly reiterating these social rituals, Man aims to celebrate them through reflection and reinterpretation from a contemporary female perspective. Her works on one hand subdue the robust, aggressive nature of metal into gentle and graceful drapery; and on the other hand, impart strength and power to these icons of domesticity and submissiveness of the conventional female image.

Like with Man's sculptural pieces, Cornelia Erdmann also favours the use of the masculine and cold stainless steel. Working in the industrial area of Fo Tan with auto shops in the neighbourhood, she developed her interest in meandering the strong and durable characteristics of this material into fragile-looking forms and shapes. In *Swarms I, II & III*, the mirrors' elegance and delicacy exert a feminine quality that counteracts with the mechanical nature of the medium. Under light, the ethereal wings cast shadows all over the surrounding space, creating an imagery of a garden in spring. It is as though the lucent butterflies are given life and uplifted by positive spirits beyond the 2-D surfaces into another dimension.

Sarah Koljonen's works are externalizations of her fractured memories and unleashed imagination. This exhibition revisits her earlier works that explore scale and the notion of impermanence. For instance, her work on canvas, *Airplane Window to Japan Sea*, is the artist's recollection of looking out of a window only to find a mysterious layer of scattered light spots from an unknown source, faintly cast over what could be the distant ocean or near-by clouds. In this ambiguous 'in-between' space on an aircraft, neither the time on her wrist-watch nor the lines on the map added any real understanding to the space she occupied. What occurs in the final work of art stems from a complex process of both the making and the subtle act of remembering. Deliberately, Koljonen creates visual puzzles that invite inspection and reflection.

Endorsing their own individual ideologies, all three artists pursue in their art truths independent of the earthly decree. This mutual quest to supersede laws of the material universe is embodied in Man's flowing dresses woven from cold hard metal; in Erdmann's silhouettes of butterflies fluttering out of mirrors; and in Koljonen's meticulous hand-made prints exploring the uncertainties and embedded secrets within nature. Together, they transform The Drawing Room into somewhere more than a place to entertain guests with art and cuisine. The space metamorphoses into a sanctuary where one can ponder with the artists on traditions, spirituality and the life and death of beings, moments and places.

For price inquiries or more information on the artists in this show, please feel free to contact Anne Cheung at 96880647 or anne@mobartgallery.com.