

INFORMATION

MUSÉE D'ART MODERNE ET CONTEMPORAIN
DE SAINT-ÉTIENNE MÉTROPOLE

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mamc@saint-etienne-metropole.fr



Open every day from 10 am to 6 pm.
Closed on Tuesdays

TOURS IN FRENCH :

Adults: Wednesday at 2.30 pm, Saturday and Sunday at 2.30 pm and 4 pm

Children: 1st Sunday of each month at 2.30 and 4 pm

Visit/children's workshop:

2 Saturdays per month at 2.30 pm

During school holidays

Adult Visits: from Monday to Saturday at 2.30 pm and Sunday at 2.30 and 4 pm

Family Visits: Wednesday and Saturday at 4 pm



Sunday January 12th, 2020 – 4 PM

DANCE

WE ARE NOT GOING BACK

By Mithkal Alzghair - Cie HEK-MA

We are not going back comes out of images of body facing power, of situations of control, submission, conflict. In a precise work on space and rhythm, dancers call on variations and transformations between coercion and freedom, conflict and harmony, struggle and abandonment, all of them carried by the choreography and Firenze Lai's works presented in the exhibition "White balance".

This project is co-produced by Théâtre de la Ville - Paris with the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès; Théâtre Louis Aragon in Tremblay-en-France/Scène conventionnée d'intérêt national Art et Création-Danse, as part of the program « Territoire(s) de la danse 2018 »; Département de la Seine-Saint-Denis; DRAC Île-de-France; Festival Montpellier Danse 2019; Caisse des Dépôts Group; Musée de la danse/CCN of Rennes et de Bretagne; Théâtre d'Arles / Scène conventionnée d'intérêt national Art et Création; Arab Fund for Arts and Culture (AFAC), with the support of the Briqueterie/CDCN du Val-de-Marne

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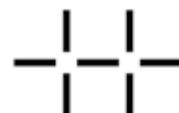
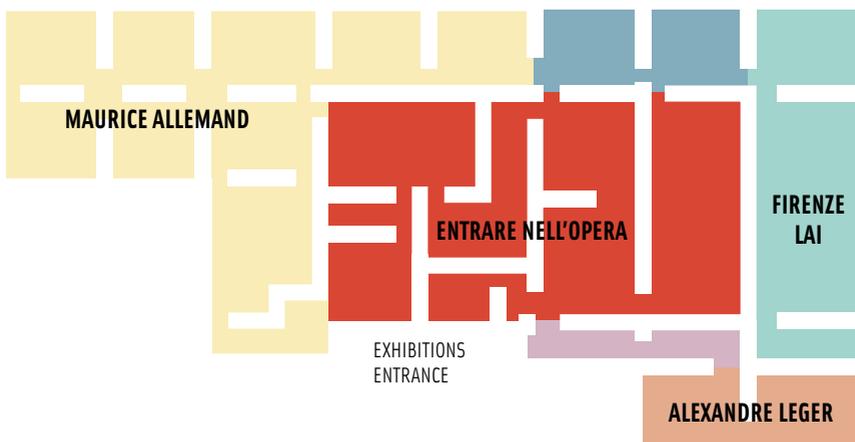


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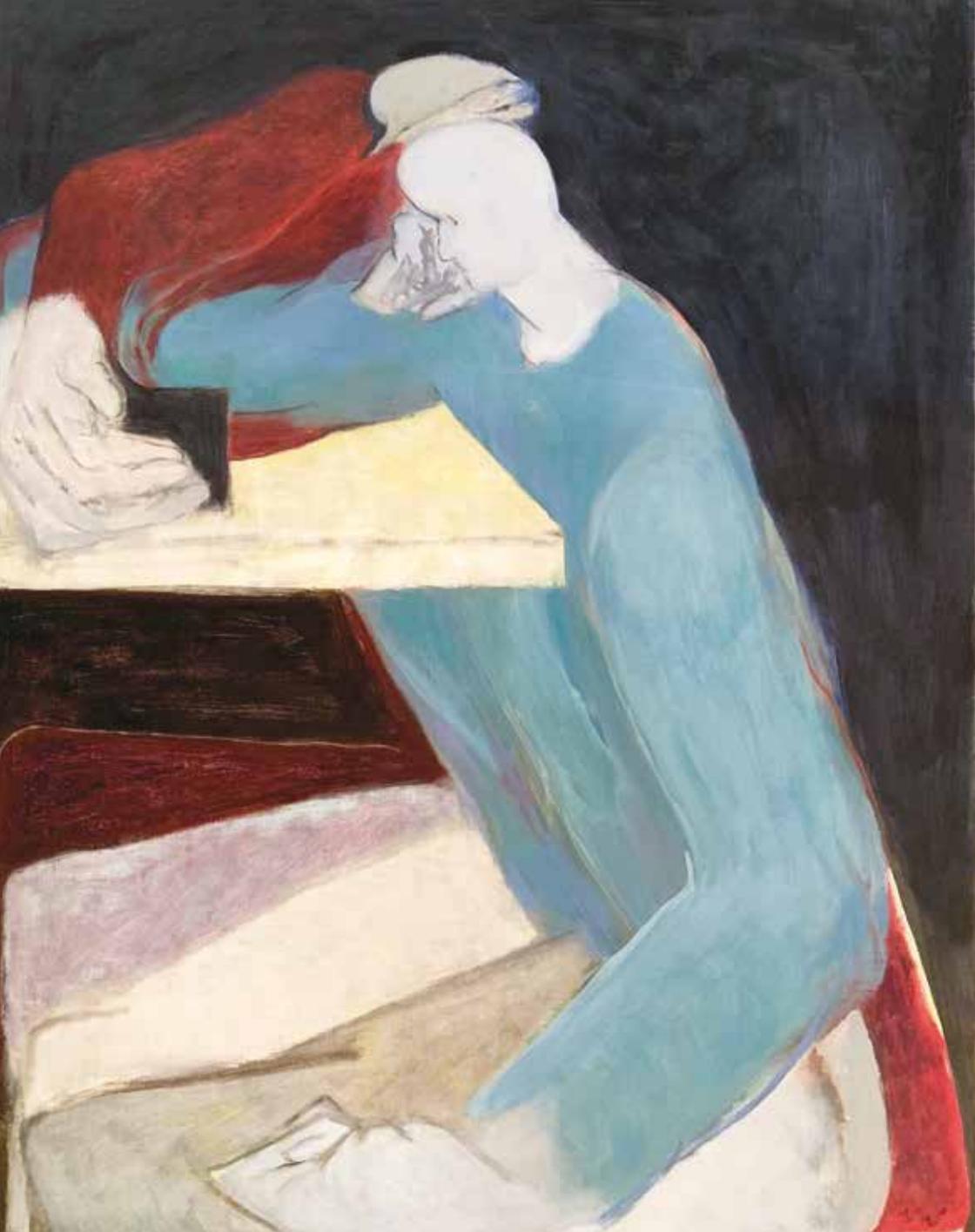
FIRENZE LAI

WHITE BALANCE

30 NOVEMBER 2019 - 17 MAY 2020



Firenze Lai, *Red curtain*, 2018, oil on canvas, 85 x 70 cm.
Courtesy of the artist and Vitamin Creative Space.



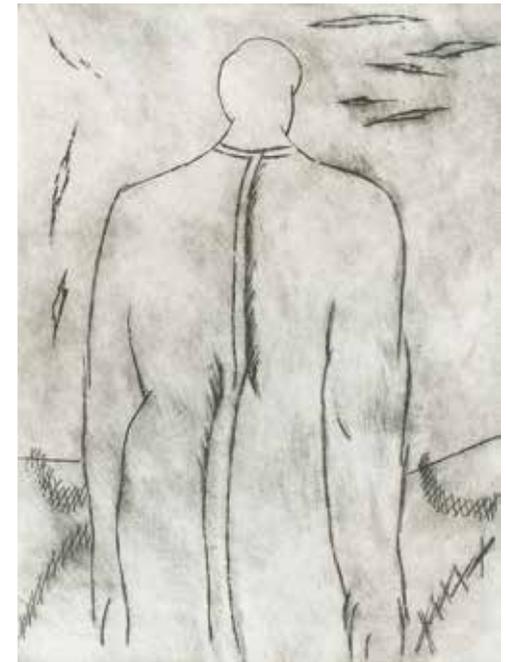
Firenze Lai, *Real Reality*, 2019, oil on canvas, 75 x 60 cm.
Courtesy of the artist and Vitamin Creative Space.

For her first solo exhibition in Europe, Firenze Lai unveils more than sixty works, between paintings, drawings and engravings, in an installation conceived for the MAMC+.

Firenze Lai paints figures in urban environments, prey to a demeaning modern society. Squeezed up in a bus, standing in the queue at the subway station, bent over in underground passageways, these figures take up almost all the space in the canvas, sometimes too small to accommodate their bodies or their thoughts in action. By representing them in disproportionate forms, Firenze Lai emphasises their hands, their legs and feet; almost unfinished lower limbs seem better placed to be rooted in a confined space. Smaller faces and gazes indicate a field of vision which is too restricted for a huge uncontrollable world.

These anonymous figures, merging into neutral backgrounds, relate physical and psychological situations experienced on a daily basis. A lunch break, a discussion amongst friends, or waiting curled up in an armchair, are side by side with other collective scenes, like human chains, with titles referring to political movements. The social transformation in Hong Kong in 2014 had a profound impact on the work of Firenze Lai. On top of her ongoing observation of the daily life of an individual, she focuses more on how public spaces, their urban furniture, systematic air-conditioning, modes of transport and the constant rush, affect bodies, minds and generate non-verbal implicit primal communication. Her paintings, often atmospheric, depict figures sometimes under the influence or forced into an inward withdrawal.

The title of the exhibition, *White Balance*, refers to the photographic process of recalibrating colours and their lighting by means of a neutral and



Firenze Lai, *Sky and Spine*, 2018, etching, 12 x 9 cm.
Courtesy of the artist and Vitamin Creative Space.

unequivocal standard: white. It also points to the moment of changeover, of nuances, a possible personal adjustment in the face of everyday life situations or of universal values.

Exhibition curator :
Aurélie Voltz, director of MAMC+

Born in 1984, **Firenze Lai** graduated from the Hong Kong Art School. Her recent exhibitions include: *Viva Arte Viva*, the 57th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale (2017); *Surround Audience*, New Museum Triennial, New York (2015); *Turbulence*, *Mirrored Gardens*, Guangzhou (2015). Firenze Lai lives and works in Hong Kong.