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Sanctuary 聖所

Jon Poblador (b. 1971)u

Date: 19 May - 25 June 2022

Opening: 19 May (Thursday), 4 - 8PM

Venue: Soluna Fine Art, GF, 52 Sai Street, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

Soluna Fine Art is proud to present Jon Poblador's solo exhibition 'Sanctuary 聖所' in Hong Kong. This exhibition marks Poblador's first exhibition with the gallery showcasing eighteen minimalist, monochromatic paintings. Half of the works were completed recently, derived from the artist's devotional acts through the accumulation of creating micro-geometries repeatedly. 'Sanctuary 聖所' will be on view from 19 May - 25 June 2022, with an opening on 19 May (Thursday), 4 - 8PM.

"I describe my work as religious paintings mainly from the amount of faith and devotion I have given to it. The slow, time-consuming process has nothing to do with patience. Patience is about tolerating discomfort without anger. The fact that I prefer to have my face close to the brush so I can see the paint applied carefully to the surface is part of concentration and meditation. I get lost in it. So, it's not about patience, but rather about love."

— Jon Poblador, <Artist Q&A with Soluna Fine Art>

Having lived in the Philippines, Singapore, America and China before settling in Hong Kong, much of Poblador's nomadic life has been defined by impermanence and constant movement. This may explain why he was compelled to find a grounding source and dig deeper into his spirituality. This artistic practice began with him repeatedly copying passages from the Bible as a self-excitation journey to understand Christianity, a religion which he was born into and wanted to connect with more. Hence, Poblador's early works consisted of tightly packed lines of text before evolving to dots, triangles, rectangles, and the grid system, which he primarily focuses on today.

Rather than dwelling on a passage of words with decipherable meanings, Poblador realized there is a higher personal meaning behind the action itself. As his paintings are the 'accumulations' of his devotional acts by painting on the individual grid sections with thin acrylic layers, similarly, practicing virtue requires the same build-up. When looking at his works, viewers often have difficulty telling how many layers of paint he applied. This correlates back to the act of practicing virtue and how its frequency remains unknown to others except oneself. Precisely, this is the reason for Poblador's obsession with the grid. Instead of acting as a form of restriction, the grid system empowers him to paint repetitively, with each gesture of brushstroke representing his silent prayers and devotions towards the art itself. On a visual level, the grid system offers Poblador an artistic room. His canvas then acts as a 'sanctuary' for him to explore the endless possibilities of how duality can be



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represented, from order-disorder to perfection-imperfection through the slightest deviations of the grid squares.

Beyond the process-oriented aspect, Poblador usually strips down his choices of color palette to a single primary color based on the intuitions of the places he had visited: Del Carmen, Salt River, South Dakota, and more. At the same time, the timelessness of primary colors, together with black and white, is what he fundamentally considers to neutralize the audience's viewership of his works free from direct interpretations. Moreover, the absence of colors and smooth-surfaced panels may invite the audience to think about the nature of what they are seeing, 'Am I looking at an object or painting?'. To Poblador, the above discursive power of his art is an indirect form of praise for his devotional acts that are personal and known to himself only. 'Sanctuary 聖所' thus becomes an exhibition space of sanctuary that safeguards artists' creative process and viewers' open curiosity.

About Jon Poblador

Jon Poblador (b.1971, Quezon City, the Philippines) is a Filipino American contemporary painter best known for minimalist works characterized by monochromes, repetitions, and mark-making. Having received both BFA (Northern Illinois University) and MFA (University of Pennsylvania) in the US, Poblador has always lived a nomadic life including in the Philippines, Singapore, America and China. The artist is currently residing in Hong Kong and is active in the contemporary art scenes in the city and the US, where he's had several solo shows at Larry Becker Contemporary Art in Pennsylvania, Gebert Contemporary in Arizona, and Galerie Koo in Hong Kong.

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About Soluna Fine Art

Soluna Fine Art is a gallery specializing in Asian fine art and objects with deep roots in South Korea. Our mission is to revitalize interest in Eastern aesthetics and philosophy by showcasing established and emerging artists and works of traditional value with contemporary interpretation. Works by artists represented by Soluna Fine Art can be found in private collections and institutions around the world. As well as exhibitions, our annual programme includes fairs, educational initiatives and multi-disciplinary collaborations on an international level.



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GF, 52 Sai Street, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

Opening hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10am – 6pm

For press inquiries, please contact:

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Sanctuary 聖所

Jon Poblador (b. 1971)

日期：二零二二年五月十九日至六月二十五日

開幕：二零二二年五月十九日（星期四），下午四時至八時

地點：Soluna Fine Art, 上環西街52號

Soluna Fine Art 誠意呈現 Jon Poblador的個人展覽「Sanctuary 聖所」。本次展覽為藝術家 Poblador 在本畫廊的首次亮相，共展示18幅極簡主義的單色畫。藝術家以虔誠的信念不斷在作品中累積細小的幾何圖案，本次展覽將會包含9幅新作。「Sanctuary 聖所」的展覽為二零二二年五月十九日至六月二十五日，開幕定於二零二二年五月十九日(星期四)，下午四時至下午八時。

「基於我在創作過程中所給予的信念和奉獻，我會形容我的作品為宗教繪畫。緩慢、耗時的創作，光是靠忍耐是無法堅持的。忍耐是指容忍不適時不會發怒。我喜歡把臉靠近畫筆從而觀察細膩的塗顏料過程，這是專注和冥想的一部分並使我沈迷。所以這無關忍耐，而是關於愛。」

— Jon Poblador, <Soluna Fine Art與藝術家的訪談>

在定居香港前，藝術家曾在菲律賓、新加坡、美國和中國生活過。他的大部分游牧生活都被無常和重複穩定地移動所定義。這或許能解釋為什麼他不得不找一個立足點，並更深入地挖掘自己的精神世界。結合因為搬家帶來的內在與外在的變化，藝術家的藝術創作也發生了變化，從早期的具象作品轉向現在的抽象主義。這種劇烈的轉變始於他發掘自我的旅程，通過反覆抄寫《聖經》內的段落來深入了解他原居地的宗教：「基督教」，因此藝術家的早期作品由密密麻麻的文字組成，然後演變成圓點、三角形、長方形和現在最常使用的格子，是他的宗教式藝術創作。

相比起容易理解的文字，藝術家意識到他重複性的行動背後隱藏著更深層的意義。他的畫作是透過逐漸累積，虔誠地為每一個方格塗上一層層的丙烯顏料的成果。同樣地，他創作的過程就如人的美德一樣，兩者也是要長時間累積下來的。當我們在觀賞他的作品時，觀眾難以估計藝術家最後塗上了多少層顏料。這正正也反映了人累積陰德的次數是只有自己才知道的。準確來說，這就是藝術家癡迷於格子的原因。格子並不是作為一種限制，而是能夠讓藝術家重複地繪畫，每一個筆觸的姿勢代表他對藝術的虔誠與沈默禱告。在視覺效果方面，格子為藝術家提供了一個藝術空間。他的畫布就像一個「聖所」，通過格子之間的細微差別來表現二次元的無限可能，從規律和失序，從完美到不完美。

除了專注過程的面向，藝術家經常根據他對到訪過的地方，如墨西哥普拉亞德爾卡曼、美國鹽河和南達科他州等地的直覺，在調色盤中精簡至單一的原色。同時，通過使用永恆不變的原色和黑白，希望能不干擾觀眾對其作品的觀點，不受外界詮釋的影響。此外，缺失了顏色和光滑表面的面板或許可以使觀眾思考作品的性質，「我是在看一個物件抑或畫作？」以上談及由藝術作品延伸出來的



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力量，對藝術家而言，這對他虔誠的創作過程是一種間接讚美，且僅自己瞭解。「Sanctuary 聖所」因而成為一個保障藝術家創作過程和觀眾好奇心的展覽空間。

關於 Jon Poblador

Jon Poblador (生於 1971 年，菲律賓奎松市) 是菲律賓裔美國當代畫家。他極簡風格的作品，因單色運用、重複性和標記製作的特點而著名。藝術家分別在美國的北伊利諾伊大學取得藝術學士學位，以及賓夕法尼亞大學獲得藝術碩士學位。他經常過着游牧般的生活，曾經在菲律賓、新加坡、美國和中國生活過。目前居住在香港並活躍於本地和美國的當代藝術界。他的作品曾在賓夕法尼亞州和亞利桑那的當代藝術館，還有香港的雍廷序畫廊展出。

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關於 Soluna Fine Art

Soluna Fine Art 是一家來自韓國並精於當代亞洲藝術的畫廊，致力於展示成熟和新興藝術家的兼備現代詮釋意義和傳統價值的作品，激發人們對東方美學和哲學的興趣。Soluna Fine Art 所代理的藝術家的作品均被納入世界各地的私人收藏和機構。除畫廊內部的展覽之外，我們歷年也作為被邀請方參與國際的博覽會、教育計劃和多元的合作項目。



營業時間：星期二至星期六，早上十時至晚上六時

地址：上環西街52號

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