

BEN BROWN FINE ARTS



Kitty Chou, *Red, Blue & Black #1*, 2014, inkjet on Hahnemühle photo rag paper, 76 x 102 cm. (29 7/8 x 40 1/8 in.), edition of 5 + 2 AP & 42 x 56 cm. (16 1/2 x 22 1/8 in.), edition of 10 + 2 AP

KITTY CHOU

EXPLORATION OF ABSTRACT REALISM

9 - 30 JANUARY 2015

PRIVATE VIEW TUESDAY 13 JANUARY, 6-8PM

Exploration of Abstract Realism is the first UK solo exhibition of Hong Kong-based photographer Kitty Chou, renowned for her rare ability to capture abstract imagery from life's fleeting moments. *Reflections* and *Almost Black & White* are the two recent bodies of work showcased in this exhibition, the former a continuation of Chou's notable *Water* series, the latter using colour photography to create surprising monochromatic effects.

While studying in New York, Chou developed a fascination with the work of Henri Cartier-Bresson, inspired by his spontaneous photographs and complete immersion within his environment. Using elements of his classical photographic process, spontaneity and sketchbook style, Chou never crops or alters her images and relies heavily on the element of chance in her work. She has been described as the "Accidental Photographer", referring both to her unconventional path to becoming a photographer and her 'instant capture' approach to the subject matter.

In her colourful *Reflections* series, Chou delves into the ethereal qualities of water, captivated by the rippling effect of wind and ephemeral passages of light on its surface as exemplified in *Orange, White and Green #1* (2013). A standing figure is playfully distorted in *Red, Blue & Black #1* (2014), an image inescapably reminiscent of Gerhard Richter's hallmark 'blur' technique, while *Chromatic Impression #1* and *Chromatic Impression #2*, (both 2013) depict paving stones awash with rainbow hues. In *Paradox #1* (2013), Chou turns her lens to a garbage collection yard in Hong Kong, transforming a heap of discarded papers into a beguiling landscape.

Chou's second body of work *Almost Black & White* explores the near absence of colour. This series includes the five-panelled work, *Passage de Mémoire* (2013), in which silhouetted pedestrians are captured mid-motion. A chance encounter on a darkened Paris street is immortalised in *Rain Man #1* (2012), a meditation on the mystery of an approaching stranger. In this series Chou again abstracts the unremarkable, offering a rhythmic depiction of a staircase in *Spiral* (2012) and an eerily framed corridor in *Passage* (2012). In these delicate arrangements of line and composition, the artist brings beauty to the mundane.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Kitty Chou (b. 1961) pursued higher education in the United States, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Business Administration from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1982, followed by a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design from the New York School of Interior Design in 2009. Her photographs have been exhibited in Hong Kong, Paris and New York and she was nominated for the Prix Pictet prize in 2013.



Kitty Chou, *Passage de Mémoire*, 2013, inkjet on Hahnemühle photo rag paper, 5 parts, 164 x 122 cm. (64 5/8 x 48 1/8 in.) each, edition of 5 + 2 AP & 5 parts, 102 x 76.5 cm. (40 1/8 x 30 1/8 in.) each, edition of 10 + 2 AP

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Founded in 2004, Ben Brown Fine Arts is located on Brook's Mews in the heart of Mayfair. The gallery has prominently positioned itself on the contemporary art scene with the sole UK representation of artists such as Ron Arad, Tony Bevan, Candida Höfer, Claude and François-Xavier Lalanne, Gavin Turk, Not Vital and Heinz Mack. Also renowned for its strong expertise in 20th century Italian art, the gallery has been exhibiting the work of Lucio Fontana and Alighiero Boetti, amongst others, since its inception. In 2009 Ben Brown Fine Arts took their first step in an international expansion with the opening of an exhibition space in Hong Kong.

FOR FURTHER PRESS INFORMATION AND ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

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Monday to Friday: 11am - 6pm

Saturdays: 10.30am - 2.30pm