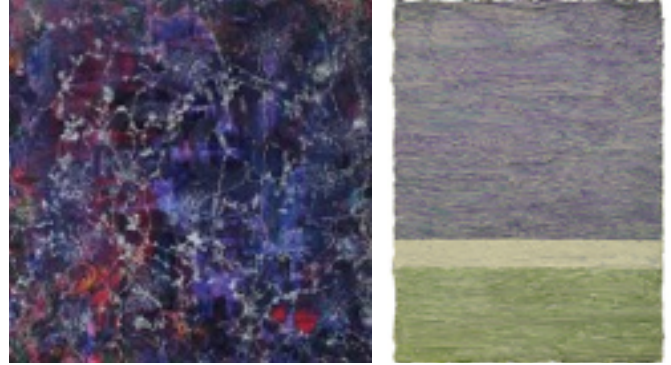


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PRESS RELEASE

Element Art Space

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Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Sunday: 11:00am – 7:00pm
(closed on Mondays and Public Holidays)

JIA PENG & LAILA AZRA: Invisible Paintings

Thursday, 31 March – Saturday, 30 April 2016
Opening Reception: Thursday, 31 March 2016 from 6:30PM to 8:30PM

Element Art Space is pleased to present ‘Invisible Paintings,’ a two-person exhibition by Chinese rising artist Jia Peng and Indonesian artist Laila Azra. This will be Jia Peng’s first show in Singapore.

‘Invisible Paintings’ is a unique collaboration between the two artists and will feature new, especially conceived paintings that explore the constant shift between visible and invisible realities, between surface and depth, and between present and past. Both artists in this exhibition have always pursued the abstraction of individual character and their practices deliver compelling takes on how nature and culture coexist and clash.

Captivated by the structure and movement of water, Jia Peng strives to project different contents on to the idea of invisibility or emptiness of water—render the invisible within the visible rather than to depict external appearances. Jia Peng's multi-layered paintings display both additive and subtractive marks, as a way to represent the transition of a space, or element in nature, over time.

The Singapore based Laila Azra, imbues paint with emotional resonance yet at the same time restricts those emotions within the confines of her often indefinable and mysterious forms. She adapts gestural painting method where she uses her hands and body movement to drip, splash, and scrape on a canvas often positioned flat on the floor. This resulted in bold, rhythmic lines and texture-rich artworks, which are characterised by the weaving and interweaving layers of acrylic paint as well as her other chosen mediums.

(Continue to page 2)

The exhibition will be on view through Saturday, 30 April 2016.

Jia Peng (b. 1975, Beijing, China) works in Beijing, China and Avignon, France. He studied at Ecole Supérieure d'Art d'Avignon, France, became a full-time artist and part-time lecturer at China Central Academy of Fine Arts and Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts where he teaches painting. He is also a member of La Maison des Artistes (MDA).

Laila Azra (b.1970, Jakarta, Indonesia) the Singapore-based Indonesian mixed media artist known for her multi-layered and intricate abstract canvases. Graduated from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) in Western Abstract Painting, the influences of Abstract Expressionism techniques made popular in 1940s by the likes of Jason Pollock, Willem De Kooning and Mark Rothko, resonate in Azra's art making. Laila views painting as a passage to explore her roots and identity by finding and realising her personal voice and purpose in life. Issues surrounding culture and life encounters thus remain a common theme. "Our understanding of what we see is conditioned by our personal and social cultural experience," she says.

Images: **LAILA AZRA**, *Dream*, Mixed media on canvas, 80 x 80 cm, 2015
JIA PENG, *Invisible No. 31*, Acrylic on canvas, 40 x 30 cm, 2016



JIA PENG, *Invisible No. 19*, Acrylic on canvas, 30 x 40 cm, 2015