

Hsiao Chin (1935-2023)



About

Hsiao Chin was born in Shanghai in 1935 and is celebrated as a pioneer of modern abstract art. He is widely recognised in both Eastern and Western art scenes for his major contribution to the development of Chinese modern abstract art. His works can be found in major collections around the world including Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), M+ Museum (Hong Kong), Musée Guimet (Paris), National Galerie (Rome), Long Museum (Shanghai), Song Museum (Beijing) and MGM Chairman's Collection (Macau).

Hsiao Chin drew artistic nourishment from his study of traditional Chinese culture and Eastern philosophies and in the 1950s, started to explore abstract art based on his core concept of 'Eastern Spirit': the quest for Eastern spirituality and modern artistic expression. In 1955, with a group of artists who shared his aesthetic vision, Hsiao Chin co-founded the Ton Fan Art Group, the first post-war Chinese modern art group, which blended techniques from traditional Eastern art with Western modernism, while promoting Chinese modern art overseas. In 1956, Hsiao embarked on a series of travels in America and Europe, moving first to Madrid and finally settling in Milan, where he lived for over half a century.

Like his senior masters Lin Fengmian and Zao Wou-ki who travelled to France, Hsiao Chin was greatly motivated by Western art during his time in Europe, but developed an interest in Zen and Taoism – in particular the ideas of Lao Tzu and Chuang Tzu – around the 1960s. Drawing artistic nourishment from these studies of traditional Chinese culture and Eastern philosophies, he was capable of understanding and capturing the complex dialects between the void and the solid, strength and

weakness. Freely transforming them into his abstract visual language, Hsiao showed great ambition to develop his own style of abstract painting that emphasised the dichotomous nature of the world, and which would be at once distinguishable from, yet reflective of, Western abstract art at that time.

In 1961, Hsiao Chin co-founded the Punto International Art Movement, the first ever international avant-garde art movement initiated by an Asian artist with the aim of promoting Eastern philosophy of 'calm contemplation'. Whilst living and working in Europe for nearly 60 years, Hsiao Chin strove to integrate his Eastern philosophical thought with his extensive studies of Western aesthetics and his fascination in space science.

His resulting body of work marks key periods in Hsiao Chin's life, including; 1950s Spain and the influence of Eastern philosophy; 1960s Milan, the birth of Punto and the Universal Energy series; Late 60s New York and Hsiao's Hard Edge period; his 1980s return to Asia and experiencing modern China; the 1990s Eternal Garden series after the devastating loss of his daughter Samantha; through to 2000s where Hsiao revisited his cosmic theme, continuing his spiritual exploration into the energy of the universe. Hsiao's oeuvre charts his journey of self-discovery and his spiritual quest for transcendence.

Since 2016, 3812 Gallery represents Hsiao Chin and becomes the most important partner in his late artistic journey. In recent years, Hsiao Chin has held major solo exhibitions in Daugavpils Mark Rothko Art Centre (Daugavpils), Musee national des arts Guimet (Paris), Song Art Museum (Beijing), and China Art Museum (Shanghai). In 2022, Hsiao Chin and Punto was presented at 3812 Gallery London, which was the artist's first return to the U.K. since 1966. In the summer 2023, a large-scale immersive art exhibition "To Infinity and Beyond: The Art of Hsiao Chin" was staged at MGM Theater as a special exhibition of Art Macao, Macao International Art Biennale 2023.

Hsiao Chin passed away peacefully on 30 June 2023, at the age of 88. On the 100 days of his demise, Gazing at Sirius – Hsiao Chin Memorial Exhibition was held in Taipei to pay the final tribute to the post-war international abstract art master in the 20th century.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 From Eternal Garden to the Bright Side, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2023 Gazing at Sirius, Hsiao Chin Memorial Exhibition, Art Gallery Bellavita, Taipei
To Infinity and Beyond: The Art of Hsiao Chin, MGM Cotai Theater, Macao International Art Biennale 2023
Hsiao Chin: His Unexplored History, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2022 Hsiao Chin and Punto, 3812 Gallery, London
- 2021 Hsiao Chin, from Beijing to Paris, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
The Artist as Astronaut: Hsiao Chin solo exhibition, Song Art Museum, Beijing
- 2020 In my beginning is my end: the art of Hsiao Chin retrospective exhibition, Daugavpils Mark Rothko Art Centre, Daugavpils
Hsiao Chin at 85: An Exhibition of Transcendent Art, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kao-hsiung
Hsiao Chin: The Combination of New Energy solo exhibition, Hsiao Chin Art Foundation, Kaohsiung
- 2019 New Energy. Reunification solo exhibition, Tainan National University of the Arts, Tainan
PUNTO. HSIAO CHIN solo exhibition, ART TAIPEI, Taipei World Trade Centre, Taipei
Hsiao Chin – Infinite Universe selling exhibition, Sotheby's S|2 Hong Kong Gallery, Hong Kong
Hsiao Chin: The Colours of Ch'an parallel exhibition, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
Les Couleurs du Zen: Peintures de Hsiao Chin parallel exhibition, Hsiao Chin Art Foundation, Kaohsiung
Les Couleurs du Zen: Peintures de Hsiao Chin solo exhibition, Guimet National Museum of Asian Arts (Musée national des arts asiatiques-Guimet), Paris
- 2018 Hsiao Chin. Spiritual Energy solo exhibition, Lotus Art Gallery, Kaohsiung
To An Infinite Ascendence solo exhibition, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
Hsiao Chin Coming Home retrospective exhibition, China Art Museum, Shanghai
ZEN - ART Bright Light – Homage to Ascendence solo exhibition, Tsz Shan Monastery, Hong Kong
- 2017 Hsiao Chin Art Archival Exhibition: The Origin, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
Hsiao Chin Salon Show: 1960's, An Important Era, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2016 Hsiao Chin Solo Exhibition: Endless Energy, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
Novel Energy: The End is the Beginning, Tina Keng Gallery, Taipei
- 2015 Eighty Years of Energy: Hsiao Chin's Retrospect & Prospect, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung
60 Years of Abstraction, Harmony and Form, de Sarthe Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2014 Infinite Energy, Kuo Mu Sheng Foundation, Taipei
Hsiao Chin Eternal Energy, Lotus Art Gallery, Kaohsiung
- 2013 Great ALL, Lin & Lin Gallery, Taipei

- 2010 Infinity of Chi: Retrospective of Hsiao Chin, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung
- 2009 Hsiao Chin. In-finite journey 1955-2008, Bovisa Triennial (Triennale Bovisa), Milan
- 2008 Retrospective Exhibition, University of Parma (Università di Parma), Parma
- 2006 Glory to the Source, Hsiao Chin 1955-2005, National Art Museum of China, Beijing
- 2005 Hsiao-Chin 1954-2004 – A Journey Back to the Source, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou
Hsiao-Chin 1954-2004 – A Journey Back to the Source, Zhongshan Museum of Art, Zhongshan
Retrospective Exhibition, Civic Museum of Villa Colloredo Mels (Museo Civico Villa Colloredo Mels), Recanati
Retrospective Exhibition, Acquaviva Palace (Palazzo Acquaviva), Atri
- 2004 The Journey of Hsiao Chin's Painting 1958-2004, Shanghai Art Museum (now renamed as China Art Museum), Shanghai
- 2003 Solo Exhibition, Leda Fletcher Gallery (Galerie Leda Fletcher), Geneva
March to the New World: 2003 Hsiao Chin Touring Exhibition, Taiwan, presented by National Culture and Arts Foundation, Taiwan
- 2002 1958-2002: Retrospective Exhibition of Paintings, Marconi Studio (Studio Marconi), Milan
Exhibition of Large-size Paintings, Mudima Foundation (Fondazione Mudima), Milan
1958-2000: Retrospective Exhibition of Works on Paper, Lattuada Gallery (Galleria Lattuada), Milan
Ceramic Sculpture Artworks, Oberdan Space (Spazio Oberdan), Milan
- 1998 Il Ponte Gallery (Galleria Il Ponte), Florence
Di Meo Gallery (Galerie Di Meo), Paris
1958-1998: Retrospective Exhibition, Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt Institute (Institut Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt), Darmstadt
- 1997 Gathering Force: From Passage through the Great Threshold to Birth of the New World, Dimensions Art Centre, Taipei
- 1996 Journey of Life, Dimension Endowment of Art Foundation, Taipei
- 1995 Hsiao Chin: the Odyssey, 1953-1994, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei
- 1992 Retrospective Exhibition, Taiwan Provincial Museum of Art (now renamed as National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts), Taichung
- 1990 Punto Gallery (Galería Punto), Valencia

A. Peola Gallery (Galleria A. Peola), Turin
University of Macerata (Università di Macerata), Macerata
HSIAO CHIN 30 Retrospective Exhibition, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu

- H. Feldmann Gallery (Galerie H. Feldmann), Bern Contemporary Art Gallery, Taichung
- 1989 La Chiocciola Gallery (Galleria La Chiocciola), Padua Lung Men Art Gallery, Taipei
Contemporary Art Gallery, Taichung
- 1988 30-year Retrospective Exhibition: 1958-1988, Marconi Studio (Studio Marconi), Milan
- 1987 Alisan Fine Arts, Hong Kong
- 1986 Nikolaj Contemporary Art Centre (Nikolaj Kunsthal), Copenhagen Mercato del Sale Gallery (Galleria Mercato del Sale), Milan
AM Niemeyer Gallery (Galería AM Niemeyer), Rio de Janeiro
- 1985 University of Messina (Università degli Studi di Messina), Messina
HSIAO CHIN Solo Exhibition - CHI, The Hong Kong Institute for Promotion of Chinese Culture, Hong Kong
Punto Gallery (Galería Punto), Valencia
Waterland Museum (Museum Waterland), Purmerend
HSIAO CHIN - WALASSE TING, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei
- 1984 Marconi Studio (Studio Marconi), Milan
- 1981 Apollo Art Gallery, Taipei
Pancheri Gallery (Galleria Pancheri), Rovereto
- 1980 Ideogram Gallery (Galleria Ideogramma), Turin
HSIAO CHIN Exhibition, Printmakers Art Gallery, Taipei
- 1979 Municipal Gallery of Macerata (Pinacoteca Comunale di Macerata), Macerata
- 1978 National Museum of History, Taipei Lung Men Art Gallery, Taipei
Kandinsky Gallery (Galería Kandinsky), Madrid
- 1977 Palace of Tourism (Palazzo del Turismo), Marconi Studio (Studio Marconi), and Zarathustra Gallery
(Galleria Zarathustra), Milan
- 1976 Punto Gallery (Galería Punto), Valencia
- 1975 Municipal Museum of Modern Art (Museo Civico d'Arte Moderna), Modena Palace of Diamond (Palazzo dei Diamanti), Ferrara
- 1974 Beaubourg Gallery (Galerie Beaubourg), Paris
- 1973 Schubert Gallery (Galleria Schubert), Milan
- 1972 T. Brechbuhl Gallery (Galerie T. Brechbühl), Grenchen

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- 1971 Gallery of Modern Art (Galleria d'Arte Moderna), Gaeta
- 1970 Orez Gallery (Galerie Orez), The Hague Fonke Gallery (Galerie Fonke), Gent Marconi Studio (Studio Marconi), Milan
Sant'Andrea Gallery (Galleria Sant'Andrea), Milan
- 1969 Marconi Studio (Studio Marconi), Milan Senatore Gallery (Galerie Senatore), Stuttgart
- 1968 The Pollock Gallery, Toronto
L. Stevens Gallery, Detroit
- 1967 T. Brechbuhl Gallery (Galerie T. Brechbühl), Grenchen Wirth Gallery (Galerie Wirth), Berlin
Marconi Studio (Studio Marconi), Milan Rose Fried Gallery, New York
- 1966 Il Canale Gallery (Galleria Il Canale), Venice Falazik Gallery (Galerie Falazik), Bochum
- 1965 Maribor Museum (Muzej Maribor), Maribor
- 1964 International Gallery of Contemporary Art (Galerie Internationale d'Art Contemporain), Paris
Ariete Gallery (Galleria Ariete), Milan
- 1962 S. Luca Gallery (Galleria S. Luca), Rome
- 1961 Trastevere Gallery (Galleria Trastevere), Rome
S. Matteo Gallery (Galleria S. Matteo), Genoa HILT Gallery (Galerie HILT), Basel
Salone Annunciata Gallery (Galleria Salone Annunciata), Milan Dorekens Gallery (Galerie Dorekens),
Antwerp
- 1960 Senatore Gallery (Galerie Senatore), Stuttgart
- 1959 Numero Gallery (Galleria Numero), Florence
Il Cavallino Gallery (Galleria Il Cavallino), Venice
- 1958 Fernando Fe' Gallery (Galería Fernando Fe'), Madrid
- 1957 Mataró Fine Arts Museum (Museo Municipal de Mataró), Mataró

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Group Exhibitions

- 2024 The Treasure House Fair, Royal Hospital Chelsea, London
Fifth Moon and Ton-Fan - The Birth of Modernist Art Movement in Taiwan, Taipei
- 2023 3812 Gallery Artists, The Treasure House Fair, London
As Water, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2022 Parallelism of Tao & Tao of Parallelism, QiongJiu Gallery, Beijing
Spirit and Landscape, 3812 Gallery, London
Masterpiece London Art Fair, London
Blessings, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2018 Pulse / Thread, Artists Group Exhibition, 2018 ART TAIPEI, Taipei World Trade Centre, Taipei
HSIA Yan and His Times, Eslite Gallery, Taipei
- 2017 From China to Taiwan: The First Avant-Garde Abstract 1955-1985 Exhibition, Museum of Ixelles (Musée d'Ixelles), Brussels
- 2016 3812 Artists Group Exhibition, Fine Art Asia 2016, HKCEC, Hong Kong Summer Show
Artists Group Exhibition, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2014 Abstract/Symbol/Oriental, Exhibition of Taiwan's Masters of Modern Art, Liang Gallery, Taipei
- 2012 Abstract art in Taiwan, Taipei Fine Art Museum, Taipei
- 2007 V Premio Internazionale Biennale d'Incisione, Contemporary and 1900s Art Museum (Museo di Arte Contemporanea e del Novecento), Monsummano Terme
- 2005 Identità e diversità, Contemporary Art Museum, Moscow
- 2004 Identità e diversità, Medici Riccardi Palace (Palazzo Medici Riccardi), Florence
- 2000 7th Biennale Architettura, Taiwan Pavilion, Venice Biennial (La Biennale di Venezia), Venice
- 1998 15th National Art Exhibition of the ROC, Taipei
98 Shanghai Art Biennial, Shanghai
Shanghai Art Museum (now renamed as China Art Museum), Shanghai
Liu Haisu Art Museum, Shanghai
1st International Ink Painting Biennial, Guan Shanyue Art Museum, Shenzhen
- 1997 Memory of Ton-Fan Group, Taipei
- 1996 Due secoli di Incisione, Brera Academy (Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera), Milan

- 1995 L'informale - Materia-Gesto-Segno, Municipal Museum of Modern Art (Civica Galleria d'Arte Moderna di Gallarate), Gallarate
Anni 90 - Arte a Milano, Milan
- 1991 Colore e Segno nella Materia, Varese
35th Anniversary Joint Exhibition of Ton-Fan & Fifth Moon Groups, Taipei
- 1990 Italian Contemporary Arts, Taiwan Provincial Museum of Art (now renamed as National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts), Taichung
1989-1993, 1990-1995, 1991, 1994 & 1988 International Shakti Exhibitions, Copenhagen, Aarhus, Gallarate and Milan Contemporary Italian Artists, Art Palace, Moscow
- 1987 Contemporary Chinese Painting, Hong Kong City Hall, Hong Kong
30th International Biennial Print Exhibition, Milan
- 1986 Itinerari d'arte Contemporanea, Lisbon and Porto
1985, 1987 & 1989 2nd, 3rd, 4th International Biennial Print Exhibition, Taipei
- 1985 XIII Premio Nazionale Arti Visive Città di Gallarate, Gallarate
- 1984 7th Norwegian International Print Biennial, Fredrikstad
- 1983 Italian Art, Berlin
3rd Biennial of European Graphic Art, Baden-Baden
Rigori Astratti della Ragione e Fantasia del Concreto, Ganna
- 1982 Omaggio a P. Matteo Ricci degli artisti cinesi, Macerata
The Chinese response - Paintings by Leading Overseas Artists, Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong
- 1981 25th Anniversary Joint Exhibition of Ton-Fan & Fifth Moon Groups, Taipei
- 1980 Contemporary International Original Prints Exhibition, Taipei
- 1978-79 Ancient Heritage, New Directions, New York
- 1978 Exhibition Surya, Milan and Macerata
Grafica '78 Internazionale, Messina
- 1977 X Quadriennale Nazionale d'arte, Rome
Grafici Italiani Contemporanei, Ljubljana
- 1975 Momenti e Tendenze del Costruttivismo, Milan
- 1974 Asia Oggi - Rassegna di Grafica Contemporanea, Milan
- 1971 Italian Painting, Dublin and Belfast

- 1970 III Salon International de Galeries Pilotes, Lausanne and Paris
1969 IX Festival de arte '69', Cali
- 1966 Musische Geometrie, Arts Society of Hannover (Kunstverein Hannover), Hannover
- 1965 VI Mostra Internazionale di Grafica, Ljubljana
- 1964 International Triennial of Colored Graphic Prints, Grenchen
III° premio Scipione nazionale di pittura, Macerata
- 1963 Chinesische Künstler der Gegenwart, Municipal Museum (Städtisches Museum), Leverkusen
Art Contemporain, Great Palace (Grand Palais), Paris
The 7th São Paulo Art Biennial, Sao Paulo
- 1961 The Pittsburgh International Exhibition, Pittsburgh
Grand Prix de peinture et sculpture, Monte Carlo
- 1960 International Malerei 1960-61, Eisenbach
- 1957-59 The 1st, 2nd and 3rd May Salon, Barcelona
- 1957 Jazz Salon, Barcelona

Public/Corporate Collections

A. Calderara Foundation (Fondazione A. Calderara), Vacciago
Antonio Mazzotta Foundation (Fondazione Antonio Mazzotta), Milan
Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto
Art Society of Dusseldorf (Kunstverein Düsseldorf), Dusseldorf
Cantonal Museum of Fine Arts (Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts), Lausanne
China Art Museum, Shanghai
Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit
Dimension Endowment of Art Foundation, Taipei
Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Gallery of Modern Art of San Marino (Galleria d'Arte Moderna di San Marino), City of San Marino
Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou
Guimet National Museum of Asian Art (Musée national des arts asiatiques Guimet), Paris
Haus Lange Museum (Museum Haus Lange), Krefeld
Historic Centre of Visual Art of the University of Parma (Centro Storico d'Arte Visiva dell'Università di Parma), Parma
Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong
Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung Long
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles
M+ Museum, Hong Kong
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
MGM Cotai Chairman's Collection, Macau
Monchengladbach Museum of Brindisi (Museo Brindisi), Brindisi
Municipal Museum (Städtisches Museum), Bochum
Municipal Museum (Städtisches Museum), Leverkusen
Municipal Museum and University of Macerata (Galleria Civica e Università di Macerata), Macerata Municipal
Municipal Museum of Art (Museo Civico d'Arte), Modena
Municipal Museum of Gibellina (Galleria Civica di Gibellina), Gibellina
Municipal Museum of Marsala (Galleria Civica di Marsala), Marsala
Museum of Cagliari (Galleria Civica di Cagliari), Cagliari
Museum of Contemporary Art (Museo de Arte Contemporáneo), Vilafames
Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona (Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona), Barcelona
Museum of Contemporary Art, Skopje
Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Museo d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea), San Gimignano
Museum of Modern Art, New York
National Art Museum of China, Beijing
National Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art (Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea), Rome
National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
National Museum of History, Taipei
National Museum of Wales, Cardiff
National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung
New York Public Library, New York
Palace of Diamond (Palazzo dei Diamanti), Ferrara
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia
Randers Museum of Art (Randers Kunstmuseum), Randers
Rose Art Museum, Waltham, Massachusetts
Song Museum, Beijing