

For immediate release

## **TIME TRAVEL**

### **Cope2 x Afa Annfa x Chino Lam**

18 March – 16 May 2021



Courtesy to artists and JPS Art Gallery.

JPS Art Gallery is delighted to present a crossover project titled “Time Travel” with BELOWGROUND featuring the works of two rising local artists, Afa Annfa, Chino Lam, and street art legend, Cope2. The show is presenting in tandem with the solo exhibition of Cope2, on view in the gallery’s location in LANDMARK, complimenting the oeuvre of the artist.

The exhibition is a celebration of street culture and its legacy. Inspired by the concept of the 1980s cinematic classic *Somewhere in Time*, where the main character travelled back in time with the right environment and mentality, the exhibition sets the scene for meditation, allowing the audience to travel back in time. The modern subway doors act as the portal of time that brings the audience back to the late 1980s, a golden age of street art in New York City, a time when Cope2 and his crew were bombing the streets and the subways of the city with their distinctive tags and graffiti.

The seven large-scale collaborative paintings and murals set in the station symbolize the unity of the two generations. The collaborative works feature the artists’ distinctive styles, incorporating Afa’s delicate artistic language and Chino’s signature character, Jiro, with the virtuoso graffiti of

Cope2. With their contemporary expressions, Afa and Chino reimagine this epoch in history and view it in the light of today's context. The shift in time and environment represents the rapid development of street art and the popularization of the subculture as well as its international influence. The exhibition also features Afa's reinterpretation of the original movie poster *Somewhere in Time* in her signature figurative painting, echoing the narrative of the show.

The artistic oeuvres of Afa and Chino are influenced by popular and street culture. Their enigmatic cross medium and discipline works challenge the canonical art historical codes and conventions, pushing boundaries and reworking traditions, echoing the rebellious spirit and defiant attitude of street art. By bringing artists of the different generations in concert, the exhibition is a salutation to the pinnacle point of the graffiti boom while breathing new life into the art form.

## **About Cope2**

One of New York City's most prolific graffiti artists, Cope2 is a self-taught celebrated legend who has been contributing to graffiti and street-art culture for over 35 years.

He began tagging his name in South Bronx in 1978. The distinctive and authentically raw style in his works, made Cope2 an ambassador of the New York City graffiti productions in the 1980s and 90s. He is best known for his large-scale murals and paintings on the city's subway lines. From the 2000s, Cope2 has turned his sights to the gallery setting, bringing his raw energy intertwined with his trademark bubble letters and tags onto canvases. Cope2 pushes the boundaries of graffiti art and continues to make waves in crossing between the art world, mainstream and street culture.

Born 1968 as Fernando Carlo, Jr. in New York City, Cope2 began his career as a street artist under his cousin's influence. In 1982, he was active in the street scene as the founding member of artist group Kids Destroyer, later known as Kings Destroyer. The work of Cope2 has also been featured in various pop culture outlets, including the formative 1983 graffiti documentary, *Style Wars*; his tags are also included in the Grand Theft Auto IV video games and feature films like *Shrek the Third*. He has also worked with numerous international brands for product design collaborations, including Adidas, Converse, Time Life and Footlocker to name but a few.

## **About Afa Annfa**

Afa Annfa is one of the emerging stars in the local art scene. Her works probe the complexities of human emotions and our connection with one another, capturing tensions between the human psyche and worldly materials.

Afa approaches painting with her visceral meditation and observation that evoke sentiments and feelings. Her practice recalls the style of Japanese Ukiyo-e and irregular comic, depicting figures that seem to be fictional in an atmospheric environment yet remain to be substantial and grounded. Through images adapted from popular culture, Afa creates narratives and a unique language to manifest her inner visions.

Afa was born in 1983 in Hong Kong. She earned a BA degree from Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Before becoming a full-time artist, she worked in one of the biggest advertising agencies in Hong Kong. She enjoyed a successful career as a commercial illustrator collaborating with international as well as local brands and musicians. In 2018, Afa was awarded the CreateSmart Young Design Talent Award from the DFA Hong Kong Design Talent Award. She is also a founding member of Eaton Workshop. In 2020, Afa started to gain more momentum and recognition by participating in various charity auctions including *The Extraordinary Exhibition* with Karen Leung Foundation at Phillips, and the HKAGA fundraiser event at Christie's.

## **About Chino Lam**

Chino Lam rose to prominence in the 2010s as part of the new generation of local artists exploring the relationship between fine art and pop culture. He is one of the founders of the brand Mame Moyashi and once worked for the renowned Japanese toy brand Bandai. In 2017 and 2018, he was awarded the "Oscar" in the toy industry, American Toy Award "Designer Toy Awards".

Driven by his passion for sashimi and aquatic creatures, he created a series of original characters featuring sea animals with human attributes, including his signature character Jiro. When rendered with traditional mediums such as calligraphy and Ukiyo-e, these cute and monstrous creatures evoke a sense of mismatched aesthetic, emanating a distinct aura that reminisces with street culture spiced up with dark humor.

Lam's unique graphic style and fascinating imagination resonates with and captures the hearts of many and the popularity of his works in Asia rocketed within a short time frame.

## **About JPS Art Gallery**

Established in 2014 in Hong Kong, JPS Art Gallery is an independent contemporary art gallery presenting works of emerging and established artists from around the world.

The gallery is founded with a passionate spirit that dedicates to the new digital age and the exploration of the world of fine art and pop culture. We aim to create an innovative environment for a new generation of artists and collectors, fostering a creative space for all. We focus on fun and playful works of the era that spans across different mediums and disciplines, showcasing a discerning selection of works that embody the aesthetics of today.

in our gallery spaces in Tokyo and Hong Kong as well as international art fairs, giving them a platform to gain global exposure, supporting young artists to launch their careers. JPS has also been an active contributor to society and the local art scene by sponsoring various charity events and auctions.

## **Location**

BELOWGROUND, Basement, 15 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong

## **Press Preview**

17 March 2021 (Wednesday)

## **Media Inquiry**

For high-res images or interview with artists, **Afa Annfa** and / or **Chino Lam**, please contact Angela Tam | [angela@jpsgallery.com](mailto:angela@jpsgallery.com)

即時發佈

## 「逆時車站」

Cope2 x 李思汝 x 林輝

2021年3月18日至5月16日



圖片由藝術家和JPS畫廊提供。

JPS畫廊隆重鉅獻由新晉藝術家李思汝 (Afa Annfa)、林輝 (Chino Lam) 和街頭藝術傳奇Cope2在置地廣場中庭BELOWGROUND聯手展出的「逆時車站」。與此同時，位於置地廣場二樓的JPS畫廊也會展出Cope2的個人展覽，向塗鴉界鬼才Cope2致敬，肯定他把街頭藝術帶入主流藝術的成就。

是次展覽旨在歌頌街頭藝術及其影響往後藝術發展的重要性。展覽靈感來自1980年的經典電影《時光倒流七十年》，主角在環境與精神的配合下穿越時空。因此展覽為觀眾營造出當年的環境設置，渲染懷舊氣氛，讓觀眾以冥想回到舊時。觀眾只要穿過現代的車門，踏進車廂，便可時光倒流四十年，回到那個街頭藝術發展蓬勃的美國八十年代末，體驗當年被Cope2和他的團員以狂野塗鴉稱霸的紐約地下鐵車站和車廂。

車站內的七幅大型畫作和巨型壁畫，喻意跨世代的融合。這些合作作品融合了Afa細膩的藝術語言，Chino的標誌性人物Jiro與鬼才Cope2的塗鴉元素，展示了三位藝術家的獨特風格。Afa和Chino以當代藝術衝擊當年紐約的塗鴉，以現代眼光重新審視那段輝煌的歷史。

時至今日，時代和環境的改變印證了八十年代街頭藝術的蓬勃發展和次文化的流行。展覽還展示了Afa一幅以《時光倒流七十年》原版電影海報為藍本的新作，以她標誌性的人物畫與展覽敘述相呼應。

Afa和Chino的藝術風格也同樣受到流行和街頭文化影響，他們以跨媒介、跨類別的創作挑戰藝術殿堂對歷史的定型，顛覆傳統，從中尋找個性與自我，為自己在藝術歷史洪流中定位。展覽藉匯聚這三位不同年代的藝術家，捕捉塗鴉熱潮的頂峰時期，向街頭藝術忠於自我、堅持反叛的精神致敬，並為這一種藝術形式注入新時代的活力。

## 關於Cope2

Cope2是現今紐約最多產量的街頭塗鴉藝術家之一，這三十多年來在紐約街頭留下大量的筆觸。

自一九七八年起，Cope2開始在紐約南布朗士簽名（tag）。他率性狂野的風格使他成為八十、九十年代紐約街頭塗鴉鮮明的代表。他在紐約街頭和地下鐵路的大型壁畫和塗鴉成為他最著名的作品之一。由二零零零年起，Cope2由街頭轉戰畫廊，把他塗鴉作品中具有標誌性的泡泡字體和簽名由牆壁轉移到畫布上，超越了塗鴉原本以牆壁為載體的語境，為藝術世界、主流文化和街頭文化帶來衝擊。

Cope2生於一九六八年紐約，原名為 Fernando Carlo, Jr.。他在表親Chris的薰陶下開始創作塗鴉，其後在一九八二年成立畫家組織Kids Destroyer，亦即後來的Kings Destroyer。Cope2的作品在潮流文化中占有一席之地，曾被探討美國嘻哈文化的紀錄片《Style Wars》收錄，亦在電子遊戲《Grand Theft Auto IV》和電影《Shrek the Third》中出現。不少國際時尚品牌例如 Adidas、Converse、Time Life和Footlocker等也曾與Cope2 聯乘出品設計。

## 關於李思汝

李思汝(Afa Annfa)是香港藝術界後起之秀，她擅於刻畫人類複雜細膩的情感和人際關係，捕捉個體心靈與世俗物質之間的角力。

Afa從對日常生活的觀察之中獲得啟發創作的情感和氛圍。她的畫風趣怪，帶有日本浮世繪和誌異漫畫的味道。她筆下塑造出來的虛構人物角色性格鮮明，形象立體。她以獨特的敘事角度把流行文化的圖像挪用到虛構人物身上，以此表達她內心對外在世界的反思。

Afa生於一九八三年香港。她從香港理工大學畢業並獲得文學士學位。畢業後，她曾以商業插畫家的身份在大型廣告公司工作，合作品牌和對象囊括本土及國際品牌和音樂家。二零一八年，Afa榮獲DFA香港青年設計才俊獎的創意智優青年設計才俊獎。二零二零年，Afa積極參與慈善拍賣，包括與梁愷田婦癌基金會於富藝斯協辦的「普通不過...展覽」，以及香港畫廊協會於佳士得舉辦的籌款活動，反映她在藝術市場上越來越受到認可。

## 關於林輝

林輝(Chino Lam)於二零一零年間冒起，成為新一代遊走於流行文化與藝術之間的本地藝術家。他是玩具品牌 Mame Moyashi 的創始人之一，亦曾為日本玩具廠品牌Bandai出任香港設計師。於二零一七至二零一八年間，他更榮獲玩具界奧斯卡級殊榮——美國玩具大獎「Designer Toy Awards」，在玩具業界頗受肯定。

Chino喜愛魚生和水生物，因此他創作了一系列揉合人類特徵的海洋生物，而他的代表作角色山椒魚「JIRO 次郎」正是其中一員。除了製作搪膠玩具，他也有以傳統媒介如浮世繪和書法創作的作品。當這些傳統的元素遇上Chino創作的趣怪角色時，便產生出一種荒誕的錯置美學，使這些水生物隱含著詼諧的黑色幽默，也具有街頭文化的風格。

Chino別樹一幟的構思贏得了很多人的喜愛，使他的作品於短時間內橫掃亞洲玩具舞台。

## 關於JPS畫廊

JPS畫廊始創於二零一四年，主打當代藝術，先後在香港和東京開設畫廊，代理來自世界各地的新晉及知名藝術家。

畫廊旗下的藝術家大玩流行文化，從現代生活文化符號取材，以不同媒介創作出獨特的當代藝術品，趣致玩味，呈現當代美學。本畫廊不但為新一代藝術家提供自由的創作空間，亦為收藏家提供別樹一幟的藝術品，更為香港藝術品市場帶來緊貼時代潮流的作品。

我們矢志於推動香港和日本的文化與藝術界發展，為本地建立充滿活力的藝術社區。我們會定期為藝術家於東京和香港兩地的畫廊設置展覽，亦會安排他們的作品於國際藝術節展出，讓新晉藝術家得以於國際舞台上嶄露頭角，同時維持知名藝術家在全球藝術市場的熱度。除了貢獻本地藝術界，畫廊亦熱心公益，積極參與和贊助各項慈善和義賣活動以回饋社會。

## 地點

香港中環皇后大道中15號置地廣場中庭B樓

## 媒體預覽

2021年3月17日（星期三）

## 媒體查詢

有關高清圖像或安排藝術家李思汝(Afa Annfa)和林輝(Chino Lam)的採訪，請聯繫

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