

For immediate release

## **Jackie Lam a.k.a. 009**

### ***Inner Dialogue***

1 - 30 June, 2023

Opening Reception: Wednesday, 31 May, 2023, 6 - 9 pm (Artist will be present)



*Lunar Tide* (月潮), 2023, acrylic on canvas, 85 by 100 cm; 88.5 by 103 cm (framed).

Courtesy of the artist and JPS Gallery.

Jackie Lam a.k.a. 009, one of the central figures in autobiographical art in Hong Kong, unveils a suite of new paintings in an intimate presentation at JPS Gallery Paris, marking the artist's first solo exhibition in Europe. *Inner Dialogue* will explore the interplay between the conscious and subconscious realms of the human psyche, inviting viewers to consider their own inner workings and question how these two realms influence their thoughts, emotions, and behaviours.

The exhibition curation and presented works draw inspiration from the theories of Sigmund Freud, a renowned psychoanalyst who famously likened the mind to an iceberg, suggesting that the



conscious mind is only the tip of the iceberg visible above the surface of the water, while the subconscious mind is the vast portion hidden beneath. The exhibition will unfold over the two gallery floors, beginning at the gallery's ground floor, where viewers will first encounter 009's signature character, astronaut Unio guiding them through a series of paintings mapping out the artist's conscious mind. A spiral staircase will lead them down to the basement, transformed into an underwater adventure where viewers can dive into 009's subconscious and engage with paintings revealing humankind's primal instincts in their rawest forms.

Although 009's works have always been a testament to his personal growth and unique experiences, his unconscious mind has yet to be unveiled until now as it is not directly accessible to ordinary introspection. 009's recent experiences with self-hypnosis enabled him to become aware of destructive patterns and beliefs he holds on a subconscious level. Therefore, his use of bold and vibrant colours in some of his works represents the conscious mind's overt expressions. In contrast, others are painted in muted tones to convey the subtler and more elusive workings of the subconscious. Another exhibition highlight is his paintings on coffee bags purchased on a recent trip to Japan. His playful take on coffee carries on in his canvas paintings as 009 believes that a cup of coffee is what separates us from a being awake or asleep, a state of consciousness and unconsciousness.

*Inner Dialogue* offers a thought-provoking look into one of humanity's most enduring mysteries, our minds. By exploring this topic through various mediums and perspectives, 009 sheds new light on the ways in which we experience the world around us.

### **About Jackie Lam a.k.a. 009**

009 engages in the dialogue between reality and fantasy in a distinct international style, exploring philosophy and psychology topics while making frequent references to specific environments and locations.

The artist's love for comics is reflected in his endearingly eccentric works and in his artist name 009, which is a homage to the manga series *Cyborg 009* by legendary manga artist Shotaro Ishinomori. He draws inspiration from Japanese manga, comics and European modernist movements, wielding these various methods to create emotionally saturated visuals manifested through his vivid and vibrant works. There is a unique warmth to his work that is endearing, relatable, yet reflective to many.

009 graduated from the First Institute of Art and Design and worked as a toy designer and theme park architect before beginning his artistic journey as an illustrator and cartoonist. In 2009, he published his first illustration book *Drawin' Life*. Besides painting, 009 also produces art toys, including his most recent character, astronaut Unio, that were met with immense popularity across Asia.



## **About JPS Gallery**

Established in Hong Kong in 2014 and later in Japan, Paris and Barcelona, JPS 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.

We are committed to supporting the culture and art scene in Asia and Europe, creating a vibrant local art community. The gallery regularly presents works of emerging artists in our gallery spaces in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Paris 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**

12 rue Notre-Dame de Nazareth, 75003 Paris

## **Media Enquiry**

For media enquires and press preview, please contact  
Mika Chen | [mika@jpsgallery.com](mailto:mika@jpsgallery.com)

## **Social Media Hashtags**

@009lifejam @jpsgallery  
#innerdialogue #jackielam009 #009 #jpsgallery