



For immediate release

## **Hola Barna**

Afa Annfa, Arisa Nakahara, Barminski, Cynthia Mak, feebee, Jackie Lam a.k.a. 009, Lokz Phoenix, MOMO YAMA, Okokume, Okrabelo, Paul Hunter Speagle, Peep, Prodip, Ricko Leung, Shigeki Matsuyama, Shoko Mihira, T9G, Tse Yim On and Wilson Shieh

9 October - 6 November, 2023 (By Appointment Only)

Opening Reception: Friday, 6 October, 6pm till late



Hola Barna! JPS Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of our first permanent gallery space in the vibrant city of Barcelona, opening on 6 October 2023 and the launch of our artist residency program. Nestled within the heart of this cultural hub rich with artistic and architectural heritage, JPS Gallery Barcelona will comprise a meticulously crafted exhibition space and a world-class studio facility.

The brand-new space and artist residency program is designed to offer unparalleled support to artists of all disciplines and nationalities, providing them with exceptional studio facilities and a creative community that will enable them to cultivate their artistic practices whilst establishing a strong professional network. The residency program is an excellent opportunity for artists looking to expand their horizons and gain new perspectives on their work while immersing themselves in a city known for its artistic vitality and supreme exhibits.

To celebrate the inauguration of JPS Gallery Barcelona, we are proud to present a groundbreaking group exhibition showcasing a stunning series of works by globally renowned artists, **Afa Annfa, Arisa Nakahara, Barminski, Cynthia Mak, feebee, Jackie Lam a.k.a. 009,**



Lokz Phoenix, MOMO YAMA, Okokume, Okrabelo, Paul Hunter Speagle, Peep, Prodip, Ricko Leung, Shigeki Matsuyama, Shoko Mihira, T9G, Tse Yim On and Wilson Shieh. The *Hola Barna* exhibition brings together a culturally diverse group of artists working with various mediums, scales and concepts, showcasing the true essence of contemporary art as well as highlighting its importance in promoting cross-cultural understanding and artistic innovation.

With our new permanent gallery space and artist residency program, we are committed to opening up new avenues of creative exploration and actively promoting outstanding contemporary artists to enrich further the interconnection between cultures, temporalities and artistic expressions.

## **Participating Artists**

### **About Afa Annfa (b.1983, Hong Kong)**

Afa Annfa's works probe the complexities of human emotions and our connection with one another, capturing tensions between the human psyche and worldly materials. Her practice recalls the style of Japanese Ukiyo-e and irregular comics, depicting figures that seem to be fictional in an atmospheric environment yet remain substantial and grounded. Afa creates narratives and a unique language to manifest her inner visions through images adapted from popular culture.

### **About Arisa Nakahara (b.1984, Japan)**

Academically trained in traditional Japanese painting, Arisa synthesises traditional painting techniques with lived experience. Pushing the limitations of traditional paintings with contemporary perception, she has recently begun transferring her intricate fine-brush techniques to acrylic on canvas. By weaving the cultural influences of the East and West together, Arisa creates imageries that exemplify her position as a woman in the globalised world.

### **About Barminski (b.1962, United States)**

Barminski is an extraordinarily prolific and influential multimedia artist working across painting, interactive media and graphic design. He is most known for his paper sculptures of everyday objects, recreating mundane objects such as shoes, spray cans and furniture in three-dimensional drawing-like sculptures.

### **About Cynthia Mak (b.1987, Hong Kong)**

Cynthia Mak's abstract paintings composed of geometric shapes cleverly arranged into unique compositions have become her signature artistic style. Working with a minimal number of shapes and forms, her endless imaginings and experimentation with line work and colours have resulted in countless picturesque scenes of life exuding a pleasant atmosphere that draws in viewers.



### **About feebee (Japan)**

Feebee is a talented artist with a diverse portfolio of works. Her creations include a series of mythical beasts, which are based on legendary creatures but presented from a modern perspective. These works are characterised by a simplistic and flat style, which adds a contemporary touch to the traditional subject matter.

### **About Jackie Lam a.k.a. 009 (b.1979, Hong Kong)**

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. 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.

### **About Lokz Phoenix (b.1986, Hong Kong)**

Inspired by the female body as it is part of her identity and a visual language that best represents her, Lokz's artworks offer an intimate view into the emotion, power and sensitivity within them. By exaggerating the movement of her characters and striking their faces, viewers can attain a deeper understanding of relationships and emotions through their body language. The sense of femininity instilled within her ceramics and oil paintings reveals Lokz's intention to provide viewers with an opportunity to appreciate the beauty of the female body through different mediums.

### **About MOMO YAMA (b.1941, Japan)**

Born in Shanghai and raised in Japan, MOMO YAMA presents a unique set of works that fuse multiple cultures such as fashion, fine art, street art and entertainment. MOMO YAMA is known as the "Modern Lautrec" in the art society because his artistic style is full of aesthetic sensibilities in combination with the melancholy of life. He is also a fashion icon admired by the younger generation and called a "Harajuku legend". The melancholic, elegant and somewhat mysterious women within his works take viewers on a trip back to Paris in the 1920s, Morocco and the Aegean Sea, where these women live.

### **About Okokume (b.1985, Spain)**

Okokume is best known for her iconic character Cosmic Girl. The pink-haired spirit with turquoise skin is the universe's messenger who emphasises the importance of protecting the environment. She travels in space and tends to planets in need by restoring them to their former glory. Her Lowbrow inspired painting style reflects the influence of Japanese manga, American cartoons and street culture. Her gleeful and colourful works transport the audience into the universe of Cosmic Girl and her companions, spreading positive messages they believe in.



### **About Okrabelo (b.1984, Spain)**

In his boldly coloured paintings, Okrabelo uses the contrasting elements in fine art and street art to incorporate the three-dimensional reality of everyday life into his dynamic works. Drawing inspiration from urban life, his subjects span from the latest fashion 'it' item to roadside wildflowers. With a background in street art, his works not only retain the visual elements and techniques of the genre, but he also brings the defiant spirit of graffiti to his studio works. His signature 'drip spray paint' motif brings a sense of eruption to the otherwise calm composition.

### **About Paul Hunter Speagle (b.1982, United States)**

Taking inspiration from life, love and religion, Paul Hunter Speagle creates expressive and colourful works that reflect his passions and beliefs. Speagle's canvases are filled with intense colouration that heightens a pervasion tension—evoking urban and rural environments of the US while experimenting with internal painterly dynamics around light, brushwork and compositions.

### **About Peep (b.1991, Hong Kong)**

Peep draws influence from her personal experience and reflects the world seen through her lens as a contemporary woman. The delicate and vibrant paintings of women reveal an unfettered utopia of female leisure and joy, at times featuring animals representing the feelings and stories of people from different walks of life. Her works are often infused with a dash of cuteness in hopes of bringing joy and positive energy to the chaos in this world.

### **About Prodip (b.1966, Hong Kong)**

Painter, illustrator and graphic designer, Prodip is one of the most versatile artists in Hong Kong. His experimental works span across mediums, cultures and philosophies, creating compelling visual imagery that is populated by mythical monsters, aliens and spiritual beings. Using line art drawing methods, Prodip depicts aliens and ancient civilisations through his eyes. His works are a marriage of the rebellious spirit and dark humour, using supernatural creatures to reflect on human lives and philosophies.

### **About Ricko Leung (b.1987, Hong Kong)**

Ricko Leung is a visual artist and independent curator living and working in Paris since 2014. Born and raised in Hong Kong, she draws inspiration from her multicultural identity and quotidian observations. Her artwork explores the complex relationship between personal experiences and wider social, political and natural environments, raising awareness and fostering dialogue about key issues that shape our society. Using various mediums such as ceramic, textile, photography and text, her artwork delves into topics such as fear and control, cultural identity and post-colonialism, trauma and healing, as well as our relationship with nature.



### **About Shigeki Matsuyama (b.1973, Japan)**

Since 1998, Shigeki Matsuyama has worked as an illustrator, producing illustrations for advertisements and products. Since 2011, he transitioned to be an artist in order to produce more conceptual artworks, and currently exhibits his paintings, sculptures and installations at galleries in Japan and abroad. He creates artworks in a camouflage-style that feature black and white stripes, thus visualising his exploration of the invisible distortions and tensions of modern life.

### **About Shoko Mihira (b.1979, Tokyo)**

Shoko Mihira is a Japanese glass artist who creates a universe of unique and captivating monsters reflecting his inner emotions and experiences from his daily life. Shoko's uncanny monsters possess a distinct style that effortlessly combines rough aesthetics with playful elements, revealing the adorable yet enigmatic nature of the creatures portrayed, all while utilising dark and muted tones to significant effect. This harmonious blend of elements gives rise to Shoko's distinctive style that effortlessly showcases the whimsical nature of these creatures and his deep understanding of the interplay between emotions, materials, and form.

### **About T9G (b.1975, Japan)**

T9G is a Japanese sculptor whose artistic practice consists of soft vinyl works, sculptures and paintings. He is best known for being a sculptor who specialises in character modelling, following the theme of the Showa era with a nostalgic and tasteful style. T9G has created many characters throughout his career, and many of them have received immense popularity. Over the years, T9G has consistently reintroduced his signature character Rangeas in new and innovative ways.

### **About Tse Yim On (b.1974, Hong Kong)**

Tse Yim On is one of the most controversial and daring artists in his native hometown, Hong Kong. Growing up in the Generation-X era, Tse was heavily influenced by the rise of titillating, pseudo-violent cartoons, especially the heavily caricatured style of Japanese anime. Using a highly coloured lens of cartoonish visuals and a pop culture aesthetic, his art is satirical and wildly fantastic, unabashedly addressing societal and political issues through a uniquely quirky perspective.

### **About Wilson Shieh (b.1970, Hong Kong)**

Wilson Shieh transfers his intricate Chinese fine-brush, gongbi, painting technique to his various media of choice, ranging from ink on silk, acrylic on canvas to paper cutout collage, filtering the traditional Chinese ink painting through a contemporary lens. Best known for his figurative paintings, Wilson uses traditional brushwork techniques to depict themes and narratives derived from the popular culture of East Asia and his immediate environment in Hong Kong. In his acclaimed Architectural Series, he transforms the Hong Kong skyscrapers into figures donning tailor-made costumes.



## 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

Carrer de Llull, 48, 4th Floor - 2nd Door, 08005 Barcelona, Spain

## Media Enquiry

For media enquires and press preview, please contact

Zoe Ho | [zoe@jpsgallery.com](mailto:zoe@jpsgallery.com)

## Social Media Hashtags

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