

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MACHINES OF DESIRE



22 JULY - 24 AUGUST 2022
PRIVATE VIEW: THURSDAY 21 JULY 6 - 8 PM
SIMON LEE GALLERY (LONDON)

23 JULY - 10 SEPTEMBER 2022
PRIVATE VIEW: FRIDAY 22 JULY 5 - 8 PM
SIMON LEE GALLERY (HONG KONG)

JOEUN KIM AATCHIM | MICHELLE BLADE | ANGELA BULLOCH | LEONORA CARRINGTON | M. FLORINE DÉMOSTHÈNE | SHANA HOEHN | PARKER ITO | HORTENSIA MI KAFCHIN | YAYA YAJIE LIANG | JESSIE MAKINSON | PAULINA OLOWSKA | CATALINA OUYANG | JACOPO PAGIN | MAI-THU PERRET | MIGUEL ANGEL PAYANO JR. | PABLO PICASSO | ROKSANA PIROUZMAND | PAULO NIMER PJOTA | ANDREW SENDOR | JIM SHAW | KIKI SMITH | ALDO URBANO | ASTRA HUIMENG WANG | MARNIE WEBER | XU YANG | XIE LEI | XIN LIU | YURI YUAN | GUIMI YOU

How do we find a way to expand the fabric of space and time? Can we defy the physics of reality through the innate drive of desire? Rather than create a world apart from our own, the exhibition *Machines of Desire* summons a vision of a parallel universe that exists as a palimpsest on our current reality, writing and rewriting the codes of memory and existence through artmaking across different generations.

Curated by Emilia Yin and Kat Sopera, the group exhibition *Machines of Desire* pursues the idea of “the desire machine” as a metaphor for the transcendent, glitch-triggering effect that art in the modern era can engender. With a focus on both historical and contemporary artists whose works play with and complicate familiar aesthetic languages and functions, *Machines of Desire* seeks to encourage a reading of art as a mode of contemporary mythology or folklore, a space where shared documents of memory metamorphose into forms previously unrealised.

Looking at and beyond the impact of Surrealism, the artists in this exhibition utilise the energy of their personal and collated memories to create material that subverts reality, and in doing so, allows new possibilities to spill into the visible world and collective consciousness.

A journey through the layers of images and emotions that are invoked through the magic of artmaking, *Machines of Desire* asks viewers to interrogate the ways in which art can conjure, keep, and project souvenirs of the past, present, future – whether they be real or imagined.

Machines of Desire opens at Simon Lee Gallery in London and Hong Kong on the 21st July (London) / 22nd July (Hong Kong) and runs to the 24th August (London) / 10th September (Hong Kong).

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About Simon Lee Gallery

Founded in London in 2002, Simon Lee Gallery represents artists of diverse generations whose practices explore a wide range of media, from sculpture and painting to video and photography, and who share a broad interest in an exploration of the conceptual. Aiming to provide a significant international audience for its artists, the gallery also regularly punctuates its programme with historical exhibitions and curated group shows, which present shifts in contemporary art practice and thought, whilst broadening the dialogue with artists outside of the gallery's core programme. In addition to its UK activity, in 2012 the gallery opened a space in Hong Kong, which introduced its artists to a wider public in Asia, with a fully independent programme.

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter: @SimonLeeGallery
www.simonleegallery.com

Image: Jessie Makinson, *Hisses & Kisses*, 2022. Oil on canvas. 120 x 200 cm (47 1/4 x 78 3/4 in.) Courtesy of the artist and Simon Lee Gallery.

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