

# Lead

## Lu Song

**MASSIMODECARLO** Beijing Pop Up presents *Lead*, an exhibition by Lu Song that brings into the physical space the narrative presented through the homonymous project the artist has curated for MASSIMODECARLO VSpace.

Moving from the virtual into the physical, Lu Song brings to his viewers a new series of works under the title Empty Space. The title originates from a book about Washitsu, referring to Japanese-style rooms. A Washitsu usually contains a tokonoma (an alcove), fusuma (sliding doors), and thin interior walls. In a Washitsu, the light delineates the room with shades and shadows: the tokonoma, as the focal point for the interior, serves as the darkest section, whereas the fusuma on the front becomes the brightest, and the walls indicate a certain degree of grayish shades.

The different parts have spatial interconnections perceptible from the light-and-dark relations. Here Lu Song sees an invisible power, a hidden truth, a truth that cannot be seen but is perceptible through the relationship between things. The Tokonoma is a particular type of niche dedicated to the family. It is the heart of the space in a Washitsu. The English term for tokonoma is Empty Space. Song thus reproduces the concept of tokonoma through his Empty Space.

Giving depth to the flat surfaces without using dark shadows but instead covering them with a layer of gauzy white, Song reveals a unique sort of texture that enhances the aerial perspective and makes the images seem shrouded in the mist. By partially hiding the space with colors and tree branches in the foreground, Lu Song blurs the back views and creates the illusion of distance in his paintings.

"For me, the open empty space is the embodiment of all uncertainties, and I make it visible by emphasizing the relationship between the known and the unknown".

With *Lead* MASSIMODECARLO presents an integration of physical and digital exhibitions, a new experimental format that originates from the gallery experience with virtual reality.

*Lead* will also be available to experience through Oculus VR technology across all MASSIMODECARLO galleries around the globe (Milano, London, Paris, and Hong Kong).

Lu Song (1982, Beijing, China) is an artist based in Beijing.

Graduated in 2006 from the Wimbledon College of Art London, he has exhibited all over the world since then with shows in Berlin, New York, London, Copenhagen, Sao Paulo in Brazil. His works are greatly influenced by the Western masters especially from the 19th century German romanticism period.

He paints surreal landscapes and urban scenes that are atmospheric and contemplative and addresses the co-existence of human and nature. Lu's painting is recognisable by his use of well tempered sepia tone colours and application of tonal range that he applies with bold sweeping brush strokes. The result is a visual experience that draws the viewers into the scene, evoking a certain mood that is contemplative and surreal.

He has exhibited all over the world with solo exhibitions in Hong Kong, Berlin, Sidney, Beijing. He exhibited with *Interni romani*, at the Mattatoio in Roma (2018) and with an important retrospective titled *Flow* at the OCAT Museum in Xi'an, China (2017). Song's group exhibitions include: *Keep Going 往前走* John Armleder & Lu Song (Special project), Westbund Shangai (2020), *Ulysses's Gaze – the Return of Painterliness and Soulful Contemplation*, Ginkgo Art Center, Beijing (2016); *China Arte* Brazil, Sao Paulo, Brazil (2014); *Das Ich im Anderen*, Mercator Foundation, Essen (2014).

His work is included in prominent collections such as the K11 Art Foundation in Hong Kong, the Akagawa Collection in Sao Paolo, Brazil, the Bronner/Philara Collection in Düsseldorf, Germany and the Dean Valentine Collection in Los Angeles, USA.