

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# VILLEPIN

## *L'éternité*

March 16, 2023 – April 16, 2023  
G-2/F, 53-55 Hollywood Road  
Central, Hong Kong

*“It’s been found again.  
What? Eternity.  
It’s the sea uniting with the sun.”*  
Excerpt from *L'éternité* by Arthur Rimbaud



Myonghi Kang, *Pacific*, 2012. Oil on canvas, 288 x 500 cm

VILLEPIN is pleased to announce *L'éternité*, a group exhibition featuring our artists Zao Wou-Ki, Myonghi Kang, and Marie de Villepin, alongside works by Georges Mathieu, Miquel Barceló, and Ida Yukimasa among others.

Referencing Arthur Rimbaud’s poem “*L'éternité*”, the exhibition examines the temporal and ephemeral qualities of art throughout history. The speaker in the poem explores the concept of eternity through fleeting instants, specifically a delicate moment in passing when the sea unites with the sun, and eventually finds hope in his rediscovery. He learns that eternity can be found in daily observations and in memories.

Throughout history, eternity has also been widely discussed in tandem with art, where each work of art exists as a record of the maker’s expression and spirit at a single precise moment. Art historian Ernst Gombrich discusses the notion of art for eternity in the earliest creations of monuments and portraiture in Egyptian art, in which the artist tries to preserve a fleeting expression through the observation of nature.



Zao Wou-Ki, *Les Poisson de Marie-Laure*, 2004. Oil on canvas, 150 x 162



Miquel Barceló, *Pieuvre*, 2011. Mixed media on canvas, 190 x 240 cm

*L'éternité* rediscovers the concept of eternity through each artist's visual dynamism across multiple generations. After the pandemic, we have become more aware of the fragility of time and life. Each artist featured in the exhibition transcends the passage of time as they use different techniques to convey a sense of motion, change, and transience. Whether it is within the structured stanza of a poem, or a frame of a canvas, each selection of a word and a brushstroke becomes a physical embodiment of a continuing process. Deciphering sensations around nature and eternity, the exhibition examines our changing attitudes toward the perception of time.

Transformed into a collector's home, each floor of the gallery will employ a different setting of an open house with artworks, furniture, and objects. The exhibition tells the story of our gallery since its inception in 2020, which focuses on thematic exhibitions, collection building, and art advising. Celebrating our third anniversary, we will officially launch our Collector's Lounge, which will adopt a permanent space in the gallery. The Collector's Lounge will regularly showcase a selection of works by notable and sought-after artists, and serve as a physical platform for current and future clients to exhibit their collections.

We are also pleased to announce the launch of the Zao Wou-Ki Editions retail website as a tribute to the artist in partnership with Ms. Françoise Marquet-Zao, wife of the artist and Chairperson of the Zao Wou-Ki Foundation. The online shop will feature curated lithographs, ceramics, and collectibles. The dedicated shop continues our mission to realize a full spectrum of honoring the modern master's estate and preserving his legacy.

On the occasion of the city's art month returning full-scale in March, we are honored to invite Ms. Françoise Marquet-Zao, Mr. Yann Hendgen, Art Director of the Zao Wou-Ki Foundation, and artist Ms. Myonghi Kang, to join us in Hong Kong during the week of Art Basel for the celebration of the launch.

Zao Wou-Ki, *Sièle Delille n° 8 (noir et rouge)*, édition 2/8, 2007



## About Villepin

Shaped by Dominique and Arthur de Villepin's passion for art, Villepin is a new gallery model created by collectors for collectors. Founded in 2019 in Hong Kong, Villepin is specialized in selected important artists, estates and foundations, advocating their work through carefully curated exhibitions while bridging them with the leading collectors and institutions in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world. Beyond its gallery walls, Villepin also acts as curator for exhibitions in museums and institutions.

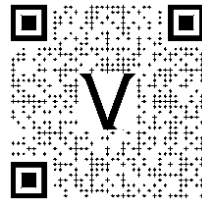
Each exhibition at Villepin is based on in-depth scholarship and offers a unique experience to immerse visitors in the life and art of each artist. Previous exhibitions have also produced special bilingual publications that include original essays and curatorial research. Artists presented by Villepin include Zao Wou-Ki, Myonghi Kang, Pierre Soulages, Georges Mathieu and Hans Hartung among others.

As curator and advisor to a close community of collectors, Villepin is focused on education and promoting scholarship of its artists through intimate salons and collaborations with leading institutions, foundations, universities and museums. Through their extensive experience in building close friendships with artists, the father-son partnership aims to share their expertise, encourage dialogue, and support collectors in building long-lasting relationships with artists, who are at the heart of Villepin's initiatives.

### Opening hours

Sunday – Wednesday | 11am – 6pm (By appointment only; book a guided tour via [info@villepinart.com](mailto:info@villepinart.com))

Thursday – Saturday | 11am – 7pm (Open to Public)



www.villepinart.com | Instagram: [villepin\\_art](https://www.instagram.com/villepin_art) | WeChat:

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