

# CELESTIAL ECHOES

Curated by Whitney Ferrare

15 MAY - 14 JUNE 2025



Richard Lin, "Sun", 1958, Oil on canvas, 127 x 101.6 cm

## Celestial Echoes: Reflections of the Cosmos in Sinophone Art

The cosmos has long captured the imagination of humanity, inspiring countless artistic expressions. In Chinese art, celestial bodies—such as the sun, moon, and stars—carry rich symbolism intricately woven into the cultural and philosophical fabric of society. "Celestial Echoes: Reflections of the Cosmos in Sinophone Art" invites viewers to explore the profound connections between celestial entities and human experience as interpreted by a diverse collective of artists from China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. This exhibition features the works of Richard Lin, Lu Dadong, Irene Chou, Joseph Tong, Xie Fan, and Koon Wai Bong, each offering unique perspectives on the interplay of the cosmos and the human spirit.

Richard Lin's early 1958 paintings *Sun and Clear Sky* painted during his formative years in London, reflect an pivotal yet profound engagement with the elemental forces of nature, distilled through a minimalist lens. Rooted in abstraction and resonant with cosmological clarity, these works align seamlessly with the curatorial exhibition theme of *Celestial Echoes*, evoking the vastness and stillness of the sky. We are especially pleased to bring these rare early paintings back to London—where they were first created—for this exhibition, introducing Lin's work to a new generation of collectors and reaffirming his historically significant contributions to post-war abstraction.

The sun, a potent symbol of vitality, life, and strength, embodies the yang principle in Chinese culture, representing qualities such as masculinity, brightness, and action. In this exhibition, Lu Dadong's works reflect the sun's nurturing warmth, demonstrating how it acts as a life-giving source and a symbol of prosperity. His vibrant color palettes and dynamic compositions evoke the sun's energy, inviting viewers to feel its radiance and impact on life.

Opposite the sun, the moon serves as an emblem of femininity, intuition, and change, representing the yin principle. Irene Chou's artworks explore these lunar themes, channeling the moon's calming influence and its significance in representing beauty, love, and the passage of time. Through soft, ethereal tones and delicate forms, Chou draws viewers into the complex layers of emotional experiences associated with the moon, especially its role in celebrating family harmony during festivals such as the Mid-Autumn Festival.

Joseph Tong takes the exploration further through the representation of constellations in his work, which embody historical figures and moral virtues. Tong's arrangements of celestial patterns reflect the rich storytelling tradition inherent in Chinese culture. His innovative approach bridges the distance between ancient mythology and contemporary life, prompting dialogue about the significance of celestial navigation in shaping identities and destinies.

Xie Fan draws upon the Daoist philosophy of harmony between heaven and earth, illustrating the balance between yin and yang through his evocative landscapes. His art captures the serenity found in nature, underscoring the belief that humanity thrives when living in accordance with the cosmos. Xie's works invite viewers to contemplate their relationship with nature and the universe, emphasizing the importance of finding equilibrium in a fast-paced world.

Lastly, Koon Wai Bong's exploration of celestial imagery intersects with modern life's challenges, transforming symbols of harmony and beauty into reflections of contemporary experiences. His artistic interpretations resonate with issues surrounding identity, culture, and belonging, revealing how celestial themes continue to hold relevance in today's society. Nature and the earth are deeply rooted in the striking ink works of Taiwan-based artist Koon Wai Bong, whose depictions of lush greenery and plant life evoke a profound connection to the natural world—an enduring theme that spans millennia in the rich history of Sinophone art, where heaven, earth, and nature are inextricably intertwined.

"Celestial Echoes" serves as a bridge connecting varied Sinophone artistic expressions while celebrating the shared philosophical beliefs about the cosmos. By showcasing these artists at the Tristan Hoare Gallery in London, this exhibition invites viewers to not only observe the beauty of these celestial interpretations but also to reflect on their personal connections to the cosmos.

In conclusion, the exhibition "Celestial Echoes: Reflections of the Cosmos in Sinophone Art" highlights how the sun, moon, stars, and constellations are more than just heavenly bodies; they are powerful symbols woven into the narrative of human existence.

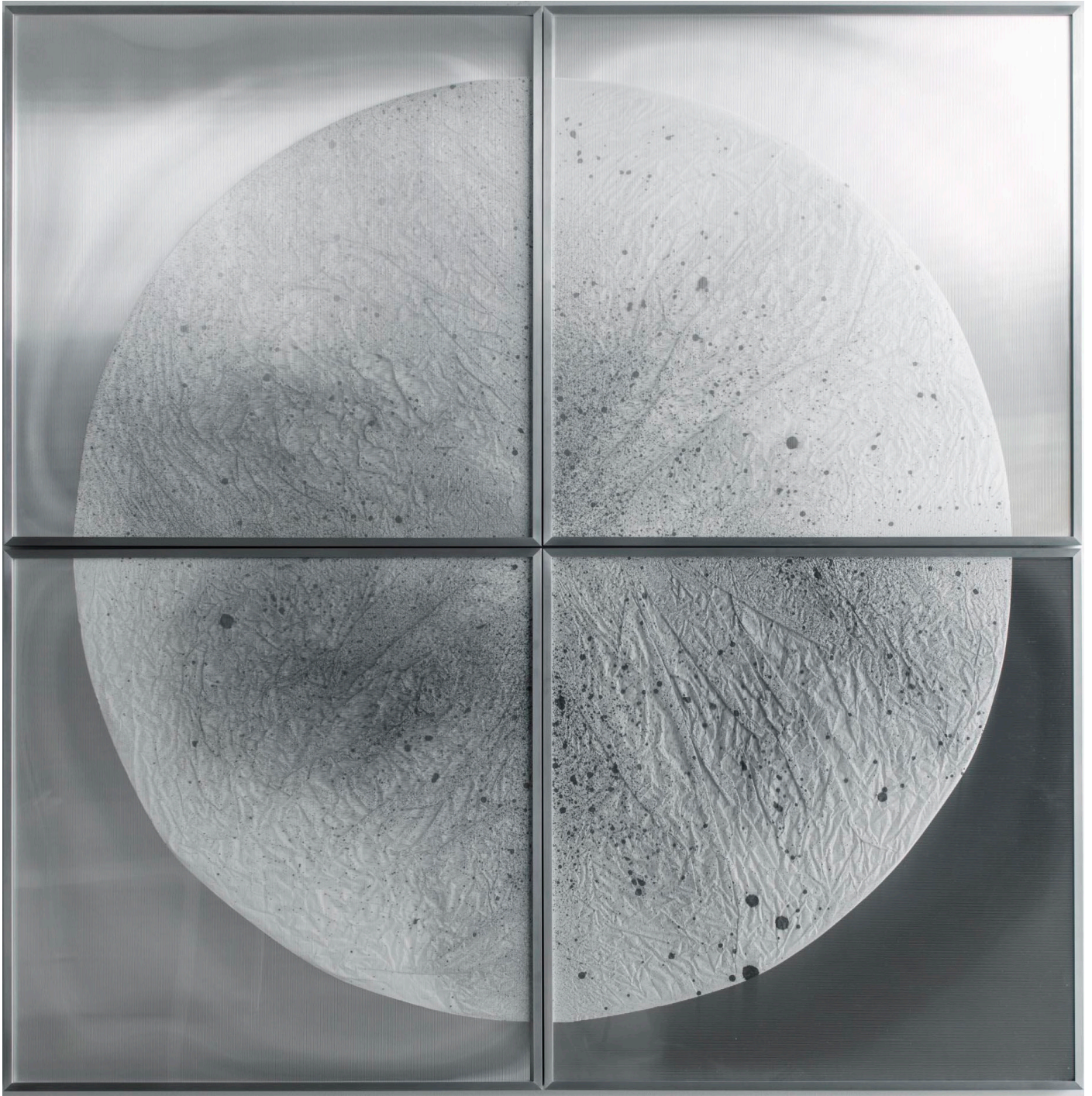
Through these six talented artists, the exhibition reveals the nuanced and layered ways in which celestial elements inform and inspire artistic practice, ultimately deepening our understanding of the universe and our place within it.

PRIVATE VIEW: 14 MAY, 6-8PM  
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Joseph Tong, "Verklarte Nacht (Transfigured Night) / Part IX (Quadriptych)", 2024  
Ink on Xuan paper on mirror beneath linear Plexiglas, aluminium frame  
184 x 184 cm (72 x 72 in)





Irene Chou, "Infinity Landscape: Flame 2", C. 1980  
Ink and colour on paper  
55.5 x 90 cm