

# osage

CONTEMPORARY ART AND IDEAS  
HONG KONG BEIJING SINGAPORE SHANGHAI

Osage Soho  
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## Press Release

Attention Arts and Features Editors

13 January 2011  
For immediate release

### *Mortal Coil*

20.01.2011 – 27.02.2011

Private View and Reception: Wednesday, 19.01.2011, 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Curator: David CHAN

Artist: Wilson SHIEH

“Ay, there's the rub,  
For in that sleep of death what dreams may come,  
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,  
Must give us pause.”

[Excerpts from Hamlet, William Shakespeare]

Maybe sleeping and dying are not that different after all, as the act of dreaming frees us temporarily from the confines of our body but the eventual return to reality forces us to come to terms with our own mortality. The frustration of being human is that whenever we question our existence, we realize life will cease at some point; and the question is how to make the best out of this tragedy with the remaining time left.

Preoccupied with pop culture and its different forms of manifestation, Hong Kong artist Wilson Shieh gives us a pause for reflecting on the paradox of contemporary culture. The term “mortal coil” is fitting, for “mortal” is directed at our physical bodies and its characterization, and “coil” conveys an emotional vessel that is compressed and requires disentanglement.



Wilson Shieh, *World artists A – Z*, 2010,  
Colour pencil on watercolour paper, 65cm X 65cm

Influenced by Chinese gongbi painting technique and known for his meticulous rendering of figure and ground, many have overlooked Shieh's dark humor that functions as a critique of celebrity culture. Shieh's overtly decorative style in fact expresses the society's infatuation with fame and fortune. As much as we are captivated by the images of the key protagonists of our time, we only want to see what they represent but have no idea of who these characters really are. By borrowing the power of celebrities as the object for our spectacle to draw our attention, Shieh reverses their gaze back to the consumers.

For this exhibition, Shieh presents three series of drawings as a trajectory to investigate how cultural icons can develop into legends and subsequently historical figures. The Icon Archive Series depicts famous singers, actors, politicians of our time; the Legends of Hong Kong series illustrates in a comic style wealthy individuals and their longing for spiritual fulfillment; and The Artist Index Series is a compilation of canonical artists selected from an art historical perspective.



Wilson Shieh, *Rock and Roll Heaven*, 2010,  
Colour pencil on archival paper, 50cm X 100cm

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**ABOUT MORTAL COIL**

Curator: David Chan  
 Artists: Wilson Shieh  
 Venue: Osage Soho  
 Address: 45 Cain Road, L/G Shop 1, Corner Old Bailey Street  
 Soho, Central, Hong Kong  
 Exhibition Duration: 20 Jan 2011 till 27 Feb 2011  
 Tel: (852) 2537 0688

[ENCL.]

**APPENDIX A: ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

**APPENDIX B: PRESS IMAGES**

## **ABOUT OSAGE GALLERY**

Osage Gallery is an international gallery group devoted to the exhibition and promotion of international and Asian contemporary visual arts, operating major spaces in Hong Kong, Shanghai and a presence in Beijing. Osage Gallery's network of spaces across Asia functions synergistically to explore the diverse and complex artistic relationships between the different regions of Asia, and beyond that, of the artistic relationships between Asia and other parts of the world. The spaces provide an Asian-wide platform for the artists represented by the gallery, who are some of the most exciting and significant in the region. The gallery also works closely with international critics and curators to present exhibitions and projects that address themes and issues relevant to our times.

In addition to organising major group and thematic exhibitions, Osage Gallery has organised solo exhibitions by some of the most significant artists in Asia, such as Sun Yuan and Peng Yu, Shen Shaomin and Jiang Zhi from China, as well as other Asian artists such as Wilson Shieh (Hong Kong), Nipan Oranniwesna (Thailand) and Charwei Tsai (Taiwan).

### **Upcoming Exhibitions**

Osage Kwun Tong

*'Watching Soaps (I can't recall the day that I last heard from you.)'*

Curated by David Chan

Artist: Lee Kit

22.01.2011 – 21.02.2011

Opening reception: 21.01.2011, 6.00pm – 8.00pm

Osage Kwun Tong

*A Lesson in the Extremes*

Curated by Pauline J. Yao

Artists: Hu Xiangqian, Tsui Kuang-Yu, WAZA Group, Jun Yang

22.01.2011 – 21.02.2011

Opening reception: 21.01.2011

Institute of Contemporary Arts, Singapore, LASALLE College of the Arts (ICAS)

*To Be Continued*

by Osage Art Foundation, ICAS, and King Kong Arts Projects Unlimited

Curated by Nilo Llarde, Ringo Bunoan and Isabel Ching

Artist: Roberto Chabet

14.01.2011 – 12.02.2011

Opening Reception: 13.02.2011, 6:30pm

Institute of Contemporary Arts, Singapore, LASALLE College of the Arts (ICAS)

*Complete and Unabridged, Part I*

by Osage Art Foundation, ICAS, and King Kong Arts Projects Unlimited

Curated by Gary Pastrana, Ringo Bunoan and Isabel Ching

Artists: Agnes Arellano, Bernardo Pacquing, Bert Antonio, Crispin Villanueva Jr., Dan Raralio, Elaine Roberto-Navas, Felix Bacolor, Francesca Enriquez, Gaston Damag, Gerardo Tan, Jet Melencio, Jojo Serrano, Jonathan Olazo, Juan Alcazaren, Juni Salvador, Lani Maestro, Mona Santos, Nilo Ilarde, Pardo de Leon, Popo San Pascual, Raul Rodriguez, RM de Leon, Roberto Chabet, Rock Drilon, Ronald Achacoso, Soler Santos, Retired Artist, Trek Valdizno, Waling Waling Gorospe, Yolanda Perez-Johnson

18.02.2011 – 26.03.2011

Opening Reception: 17.02.2011, 6:30pm

Osage Kwun Tong

*Complete and Unabridged, Part II*

by Osage Art Foundation, ICAS & King Kong Arts Projects Unlimited

Curated by Gary Pastrana, Ringo Bunoan and Isabel Ching

Artists: Aba Lluch Dalena, Al Cruz, Alvin Villaruel, Alvin Zafra, Amy Aragon, Annie Cabigting, Argie Bandoy, Bea Camacho, Bembol de la Cruz, Cocoy Lumbao, Erik Sausa, Ernest Concepcion, Gary-Ross Pastrana, Geraldine Javier, Jayson Oliveria, Jay Ticar, Jed Escueta, Jonathan Ching, Jucar Raquepo, Kaloy Olavides, Katya Guerrero, Keiye Miranda, Kiri Lluch Dalena, Kreskin Sugay, Lea Lim, Lena Cobangbang, Louie Cordero, Lui Medina, Maria Taniguchi, Mariano Ching, Mawen Ong, Mike Crisostomo, Miko Sandejas, MM Yu, Nona Garcia, Norberto Roldan, Patricia Eustaquio, Paul Mondok, Paulo Vinluan, Pipo Alido, Poklong Anading, Pow Martinez, Ranelle Dial, Reg Yuson, Ringo Bunoan, Robert Langenegger, Roberto Chabet, Romeo Lee, Sam Kiyoumars, Wire Tuazon, Yasmin Sison, Yason Banal

05.03.2011 – 09.05.2011

Opening Reception: 04.03.2011, 6pm

Osage Soho

*Intermediate Geography*

Curated by Nilo Ilarde

Artist: Roberto Chabet

05.03.2011 – 09.05.2011

### **Current Exhibitions**

Osage Soho

*Pyramid*

till 14.01.2011

Artists: Bea Camacho & Maria Taniguchi

Osage Kwun Tong

*An Unexpected Turn of Events*

till 16.01.2011

Artists: Chen Shaoxiong & Tsuyoshi Ozawa

Osage Shanghai

*Inventory Show*

till 10.02.2011

Please visit [www.osagegallery.com](http://www.osagegallery.com) for more information.

**MEDIA ENQUIRY**

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## **APPENDIX A: ABOUT THE ARTIST**

**Wilson SHIEH** (b. 1970 Hong Kong)

Wilson Shieh is a painter trained in Chinese fine-brush (gongbi) technique whose work media range from Chinese ink drawing on silk to acrylic on canvas to paper cutout collage. In particular, he focuses on human bodies as his theme for narration. Transforming figuration by means of tailor-made costumes, the identity of modern people is always in query in his art world. His recent exhibitions include 7th International Ink Painting Biennial of Shenzhen, Shenzhen Fine Art Institute, Guan Shanyue Museum of Art, The OCT Art and Design Gallery, Shenzhen, China, (2010); Legacy and Creations - Art vs Art, Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai, China (2010); and Hong Kong Contemporary Art Biennial Awards 2009, Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong, China (2010).

APPENDIX B: PRESS IMAGES



Wilson Shieh, *Famous Hong Kong Film Actors*, 2010,  
Colour pencil on archival cardboard, 50cm X 100cm



Wilson Shieh, *Wealth & Position are like Floating Clouds*, 2010,  
Colour pencil on acid-free drawing paper, 42cm X 30cm