

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

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Jonas Wood and Shio Kusaka at Gagosian Hong Kong

Darryl Wee



*Jonas Wood, Red Studio Pot, 2014, Oil and acrylic on canvas, 72 x 72 inches
(Courtesy Gagosian Gallery)*

HONG KONG — Gagosian Hong Kong opens the first solo show in Asia of recent works by Los Angeles-based artist couple Jonas Wood and Shio Kusaka.

Sharing a studio located on LA’s Blackwelder Street, Wood and Kusaka have a mutually inspirational, symbiotic relationship that infiltrates every aspect of their creative output. Kusaka’s classically restrained but highly ornamented porcelain vessels offer a muse-like counterpoint to Wood’s depictions of spare, flattened interiors and semi-imagined Los Angeles landscapes rendered in impulsive color choices.

While Wood’s paintings deploy unsettling compressions of space and distorted perspective that recall Matisse or Hockney, his interiors and landscapes also demonstrate a peculiar sharply contoured cut-out quality. Kusaka’s porcelain and clay pieces, on the other hand, draw on ancient Japanese traditions while also invoking the repetitive, geometric motif making of Minimalism, combining them with eccentric flourishes like brontosaurus-shaped handles.

“Jonas Wood and Shio Kusaka: Blackwelder” runs at Gagosian Hong Kong from January 15 through February 28, 2015.