osage

**osage hong kong**

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PRESS RELEASE
To Arts and Features Editors
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
22nd December, 2015

**Osage Gallery presents**

# WORKS BY NG JOON KIAT

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| Exhibition Period | 28.12.2015 – 23.01.2016 |
| Opening Hours | Mon – Sat: 10:30 am – 6:30 pm<br>Sun: 2:30 – 6:30 pm<br><br>Except the following days with special opening hours:<br><br>Dec 31, 2015: 10:30 am – 3:00 pm<br>Jan 1, 2016: CLOSED<br><br>Open to special appointments during these times. |
| Venue | 4/F, 20 Hing Yip Street, Kwun Tong, Hong Kong |

Ng Joon Kiat is a painter who refers to archives of disciplines such as geography, microscopic science, history, cartography and city-planning to inform his practice. His works push painting in explorations of the imaginary and invisible complexities of maps of cities and earth spaces.

For the artist, maps are manifest with past and present political, cultural, social and economic negotiations. The solo exhibition will include works from his series *Green Series: Nature and Borders*, which, "engages thinking and questioning

about the sense of demarcating of territory, land identity and the impossibility of doing so. [The] works use painting and its material complexes to looks at the sense of border-marking as a visual sense of endless pursuits for the imaginaries, spatial creation and spatial meaning-making in human experiences" (Artist Statement, 2012). In these paintings, there are tensions between movement and stillness, control and chaos. While Ng's earlier works in part functioned as critiques to moving images, in other words, the high speed production of multiple images, and aimed to interrograte a position for painting and for stillness, *Green Series: Nature and Borders* attempts to recuperate a sense of narrative and content back within the paintings. The notion of the "flat image" is a consistent topic of investigation for the artist; in particular, "flatness" as an analogy for monopolies that emerge in globalized cities. The artist aims to take a closer look at what exactly comprises this "flatness" or these cities. The use of maps in Ng's works can therefore be seen as a questioning of a set of relations.

On view will also be *Border Series: the Unspoken and Nature*, which looks at "the subtle counter tensions between earth spaces as fixed territories with defined borders and the natural changing character of earth spaces…[the artist probes] how the unspoken character of nature takes action as it pleases and disregards man-defined spaces" (Artist Statement, 2013). On the other hand, stemming from a concern with materiality and the alchemy of paper and drawing materials, the series, *Memory of Surfaces,* will also be exhibited.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ng Joon Kiat (b. 1976, Singapore) graduated from Singapore's LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts and received a MA from the University of Kent at Canterbury in 2002 with a Shell-NAC scholarship. He has been widely exhibited internationally. Notable exhibitions include, *Going, Going Until I Meet the Tide* (Busan Biennale – Asian Curatorial Special Exhibition, Kiswire Factory, Busan, South Korea, 2014), *Market Forces – Erasure: From Conceptualism to Abstraction* (Osage Gallery; City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, 2014), *Poetics of Materiality* (Osage Hong Kong, 2014), *Works by Ng Joon Kiat* (Osage Atelier, Hong Kong, 2013), Singapore Biennale 2013 (Singapore Art Museum, Singapore, 2013), *Local Futures* (He Xiangning Art Museum, Shenzhen, China, 2013), *Green City II: A Collective Memory of Moving Images in Contemporary Painting* (Jendela, Esplanade, Singapore, 2010) and *Imagining a Geographical Presence: A Study of the Horizon in Contemporary Painting* (National Museum of Singapore, 2007). Notable acquisitions of his works include the URA, Aspen-Re Art Collection and the National Art Gallery of Singapore.

## ABOUT OSAGE GALLERY

Osage Gallery was established in Hong Kong in 2004 and grew quickly to become one of Asia's largest commercial gallery groups. Osage has become

well known in the art world for its uncompromising support for the most challenging and critically thought-provoking contemporary art.

Osage Gallery is curatorially driven with a particular focus on contemporary Asian arts. It aims to be a catalyst for the creative expression of the artists and the active engagement of audiences by embracing a global, multidisciplinary and diverse approach to the creation, presentation and interpretation of a diverse network of practices and works. It examines the questions that shape and inspire us as individuals, and our cultures and communities through high quality programmes of research, exhibition and publication.

Osage Gallery has gained wide international recognition for the quality of its programmes and was the first Hong Kong gallery to feature at the Statements section of Art Basel, Basel in 2011, the Spotlight section at Frieze Masters in London in 2012, Arte Fiera in Bologna, Italy, 2014, Art Cologne in Germany, 2014, and is one of the first Hong Kong galleries to participate in Moving Image New York, 2014. Osage has also participated in Art Hong Kong from 2008 – 2012 and at Art Basel, Hong Kong since 2013.

www.osagegallery.com

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Please download high res images from the following links:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uc7frrr8hep64g2/AACrlWhV_5uNhMyPjnJQ4XAva?dl=0

Ng Joon Kiat
*Green Series: Nature and Borders*
2012
acrylic on canvas
80 x 60 cm

Image courtesy of the artist and Osage Gallery

Ng Joon Kiat
*Green Series: Nature and Borders*
2012
acrylic on canvas
80 x 60 cm

Image courtesy of the artist and Osage Gallery

Ng Joon Kiat
*Border Series: the Unspoken and Nature*
2013
acrylic on cloth
80 x 60 cm

Image courtesy of the artist and Osage Gallery

Ng Joon Kiat
From the series *Memory of Surfaces*
2014
mixed media on paper
77cm X 57cm

Image courtesy of the artist and Osage Gallery