osage
CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY

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Press Release

26 July 2011

Attention Arts and Features Editors | **For immediate release**

To Be Continued– Hong Kong
12.08.2011 – 21.9.2011
Reception: 12.08.2011, 6.00pm to 8.00pm
Osage Gallery, Kwun Tong

Imagined Geographies
13.08.2011 – 11.9.2011
Osage Gallery, Soho

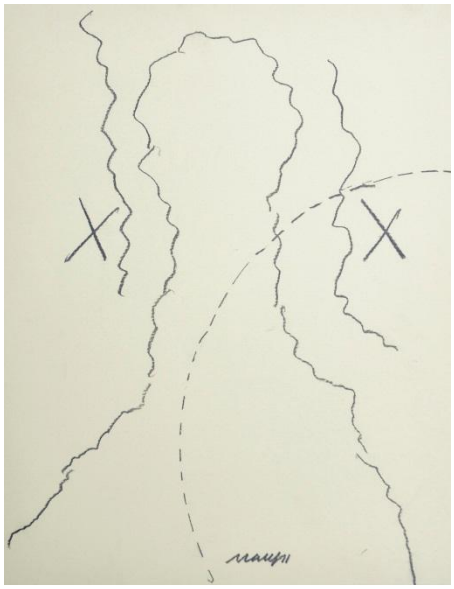
Artist: Roberto CHABET
Curators: Ringo BUNOAN and Nilo ILARDE

Roberto Chabet's 'To Be Continued: Hong Kong' brings together selected works by the artist from the 1980s to the present that utilize his signature materials - plywood, metal sheets and other common and found objects. Highlighting process and the provisional nature of these materials, the exhibition illuminates a key aspect of Chabet's practice, which gives precedence to the fugitive and contingent nature of art.

Included in the exhibition are works from 'To Be Continued', a landmark survey exhibition of Chabet's plywood works that was first presented in the Institute of Contemporary Art, Singapore - La Salle College of the Arts last January 2011. In these works, Chabet uses plywood panel boards, a material, which has become not only the surface and support of his paintings and installations, but to a large extent their subject matter and content.

Chabet pays homage to the breakthroughs in representation by the early avant-gardes and similarly extends the use of 'real materials in real space'. By doing so he dissolves the barrier between art and life and creates art that cuts through illusion. His aporetic use of objects and shelves attached onto wall panels blurs the distinction between the two-dimensional space of painting and the three-dimensionality of sculpture, presenting itself not just as a substitute for reality, but is actually reality itself.

His seemingly 'purely' geometric and abstract plywood constructions reveal finer hints. Often he would juxtapose them with particular everyday objects that would appear and re-appear in his other installations and become part of his familiar inventory of anxious objects—neon lights, clocks, boats, shells, clipboards, mirrors, maps, tables, parachutes, globes, walking canes, billiard balls—apparently random yet linked by the idea of temporality, process, voyage, and a fascination with history, time and space.



Displacement and shifts in meaning are recurring undertones in Chabet's vast body of works, and are heightened especially in his 'diptych' installations and companion pieces such as 'Intermediate Geography', a two-part installation first made in 2005, which is re-installed for the second time in Hong Kong this year. The work is a study of textures, angles, precision and contradictions, and other dichotomies. Here Chabet contrasts the blankness of raw, unpainted plywood boards with the undulating sheen of galvanized iron sheets and combines these with neon texts, a body bag stuffed with a velvet comforter, a photograph of a secret police archive reproduced in a book, paintings of the Unabomber's cabin, and several upturned houses whose insides are lined with mirrors.

'Onethingafteranother' (2011) is Chabet's largest and most recent installation using GI sheets laid out on the floor, industrial emergency lamps and neon texts - objects of physical and metaphorical illumination. Referring to the post-war utterance of Donald Judd, the work echoes the idea of seriality and progression in Minimal art, while signifying a continuum, which is constantly re-called, re-ordered, re-assembled - always in flux.

Similarly his new series of drawings, 'Imagined Geographies' (2011), exhibited simultaneously in Osage Soho, manifest an internal volatility, a precariousness that can be seen in the quivering pencil lines that delineate and demarcate spaces. Also installed one after the other, they reveal a process that belies our understanding of place, which for Chabet is neither fixed, nor predetermined, rather it is a fluid, ambiguous field that points to an elsewhere.

Roberto Chabet's 'To Be Continued: Hong Kong' is presented by Osage Art Foundation in cooperation with King Kong Art Projects Unlimited and is part of the 'Chabet: 50 Years' year-long series of exhibitions in various venues in Manila, Hong Kong and Singapore throughout 2011 - 2012. The series is organized by King Kong Art Projects Unlimited, an independent artist group based in Manila, in celebration of Roberto Chabet's fifty years of pioneering conceptual work and his role in shaping Philippine art. For more information, please visit www.kingkongartprojects.org.

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ABOUT *TO BE CONTINUED – HONG KONG*

Artist:	Roberto Chabet
Curators:	Ringo BUNOAN and Nilo ILARDE
Venue:	Osage Gallery, Kwun Tong
Address:	5/F, Kian Dai Industrial Building, 73-75 Hung To Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Tel:	(852) 2793 4817
Exhibition Duration:	12 August – 21 September 2011
Reception:	12 August 2011 (Friday), 6.00pm

ABOUT *IMAGINED GEOGRAPHIES*

Artist:	Roberto Chabet
Curators:	Ringo BUNOAN and Nilo ILARDE
Venue:	Osage Gallery, Kwun Tong
Address:	45 Caine Rd, Lwr Ground Shop 1, Cnr Old Bailey St, Soho Central, Hong Kong
Tel:	(852) 2537 0688
Exhibition Duration:	13 August – 11 September 2011

APPENDIX A: ABOUT THE ARTIST

Roberto Chabet

Roberto Chabet is a pioneering Filipino conceptual artist. Since his first exhibition in 1961, Chabet has questioned and critiqued modernity through his art, thereby establishing the foundations for contemporary art in the Philippines. His works, ranging from painting, drawing, collage, sculpture, and installation, resist easy categorization and oversimplified binary systems espoused by modern thought. Using mostly ordinary and found material, he insists on a more inclusive approach to art, a search for the sublime not just in abstract ideas but also in the immediacy of the quotidian and the commonplace.

Chabet studied Architecture at the University of Santo Tomas where he graduated in 1961. He had his first solo exhibition at the Luz Gallery in the same year. He was the founding Museum Director of the CCP from 1967 - 1970 where he initiated the first Thirteen Artists Awards with a goal in giving recognition to young artists whose works 'show a recentness, a turning away from the past and familiar modes of art-making'. He led the 1970s conceptual art group Shop 6 and taught for over thirty years at the UP College of Fine Arts, where he advocated a kind of practice that gave precedence to idea over form. Since the 1970s, he has also been organising landmark exhibitions featuring vanguard works by young artists, many of whom are among the most active and innovative artists in Manila today. He is the recipient of the 1972 Republic Cultural Heritage Award, the 1972 Araw ng Maynila Award for the Visual Arts and the 1998 Centennial Honor for the Arts.

APPENDIX B: PRESS IMAGES FOR
'TO BE CONTINUED – HONG KONG' AT OSAGE GALLERY, KWUN TONG

Right:

PIER AND OCEAN (1996/2010) by Roberto Chabet, Plywood, acrylic and hinges, 243.84cm X 670.56cm X 365.76cm

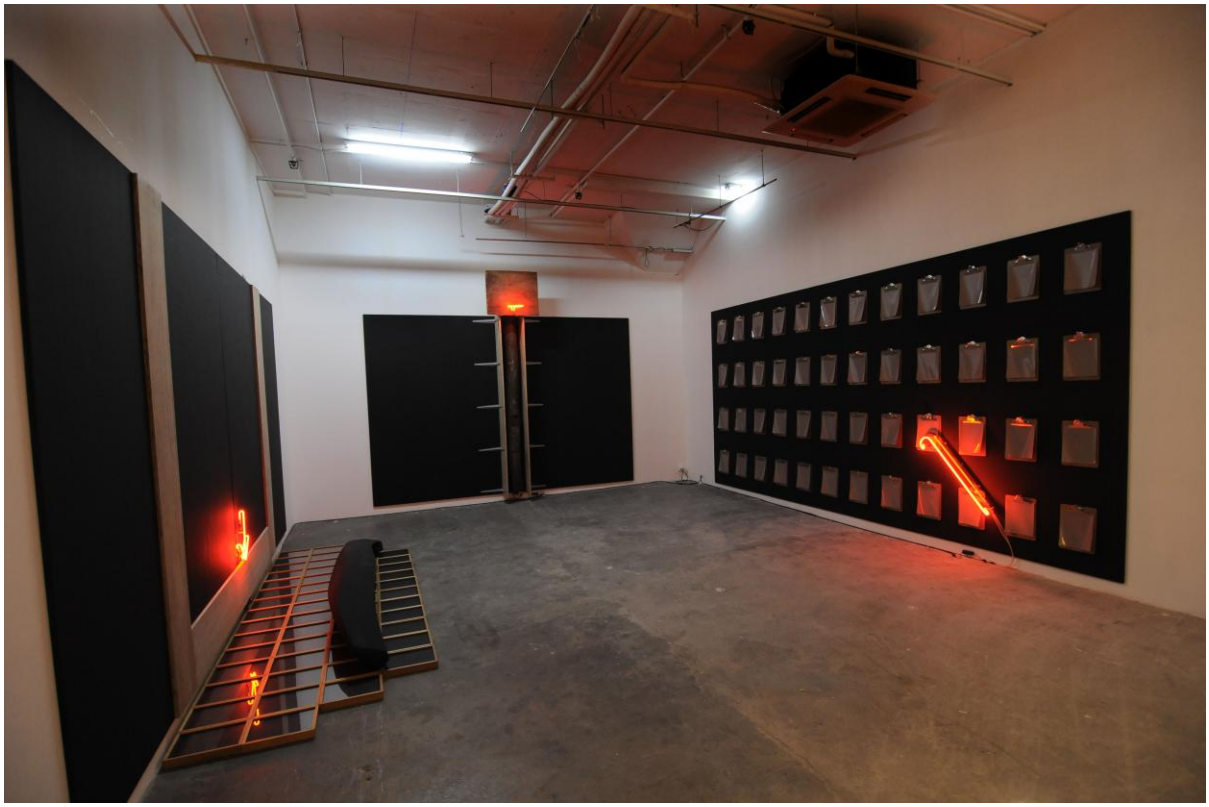
Left:

BOAT (1996/2010) by Roberto Chabet, Plywood, acrylic, boat and framed drawings, 243.84cm X 609.6cm X 487.68cm

CARGO AND DECOY (1989/2010) by Roberto Chabet, Plywood, acrylic, wooden sawhorses, Dimensions Variable

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY OF EVERYDAY LIFE 2.1 (1997/2010) by Roberto Chabet, Plywood, acrylic, metal pole, camouflage net, Dimensions variable

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY OF EVERYDAY LIFE 2.2 (1997/2010) by Roberto Chabet, Plywood, acrylic, army poncho, 182.88cm X 60.96cm X 15.24cm



Right:

OBSERVATORY 1 (2002/2010) by Roberto Chabet Plywood, acrylic, photo paper with braille on clipboards, neon, 2 panels, 243.84cm X 487.68cm

Middle:

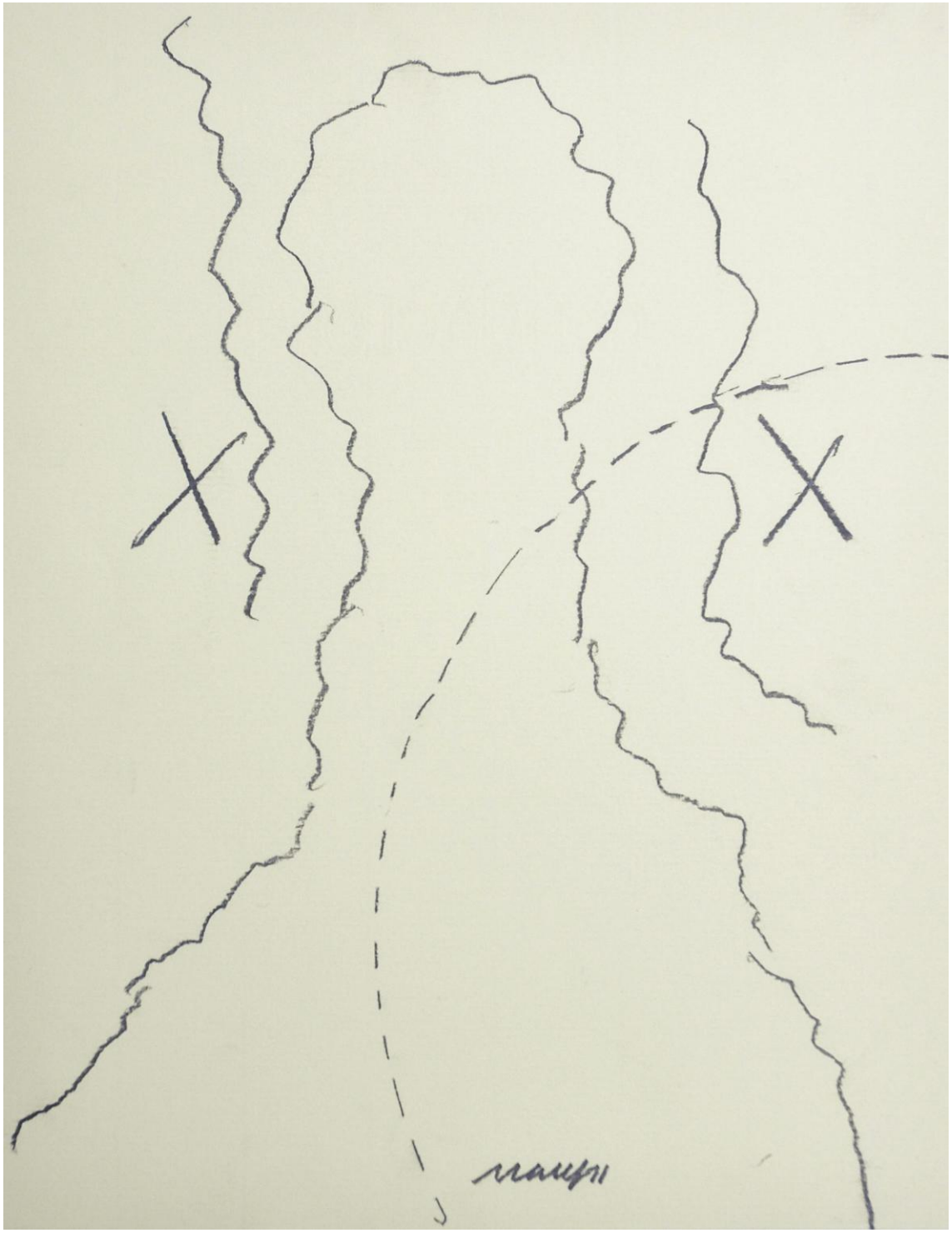
PICTURES IN ORDINARY TIMES (1992/2010) by Roberto Chabet, Tree trunk, plywood, acrylic, metal brackets, neon, 304.8cm X 365.76cm X 60.96cm

Left:

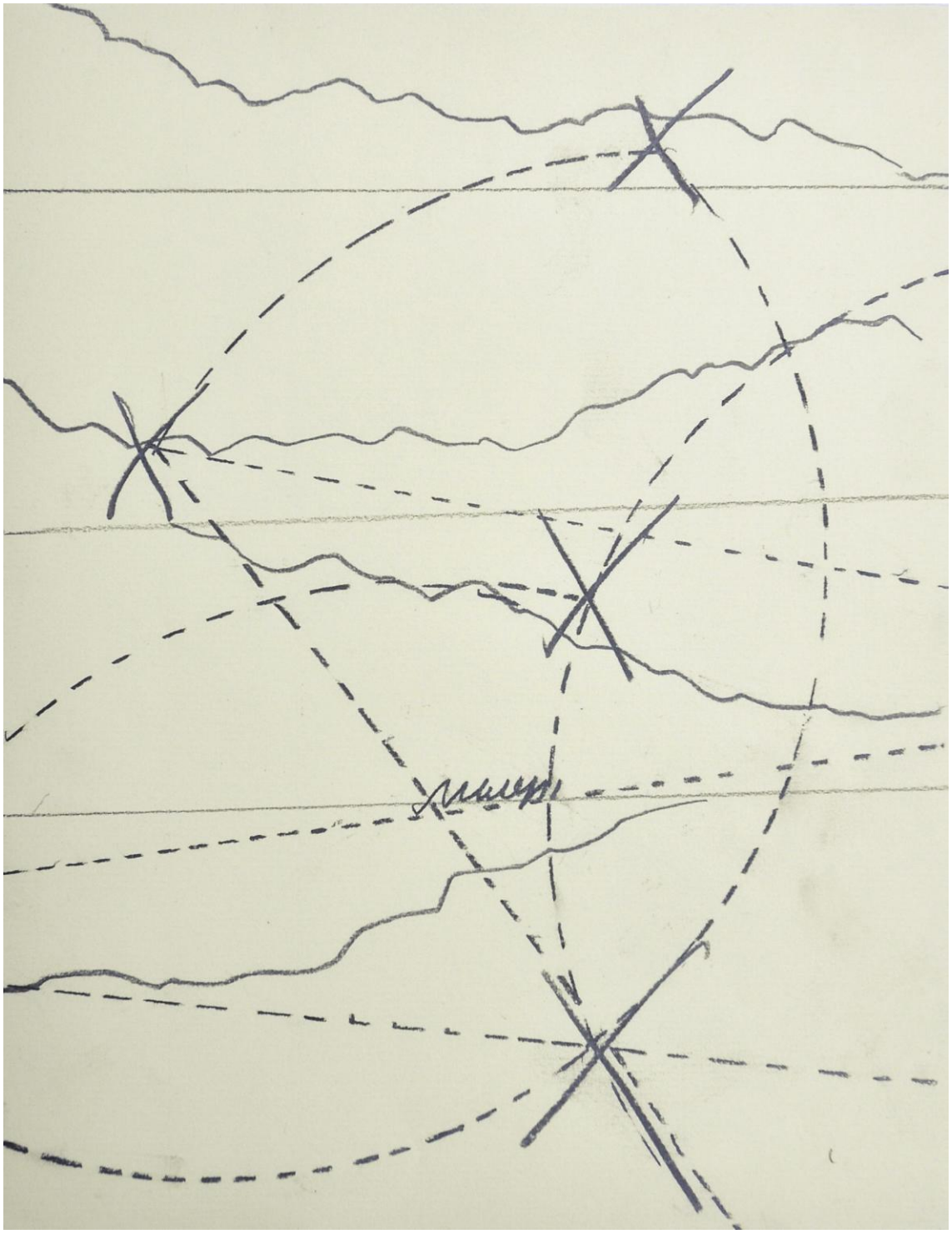
OBSERVATORY 2 (2002/2010) by Roberto Chabet, Plywood, acrylic, wooden boat, neon, framed drawings, 243.84cm x 487.68cm x 121.92 cm

INTERMEDIATE GEOGRAPHY (2005) by Roberto Chabet, installation, Dimensions Variable

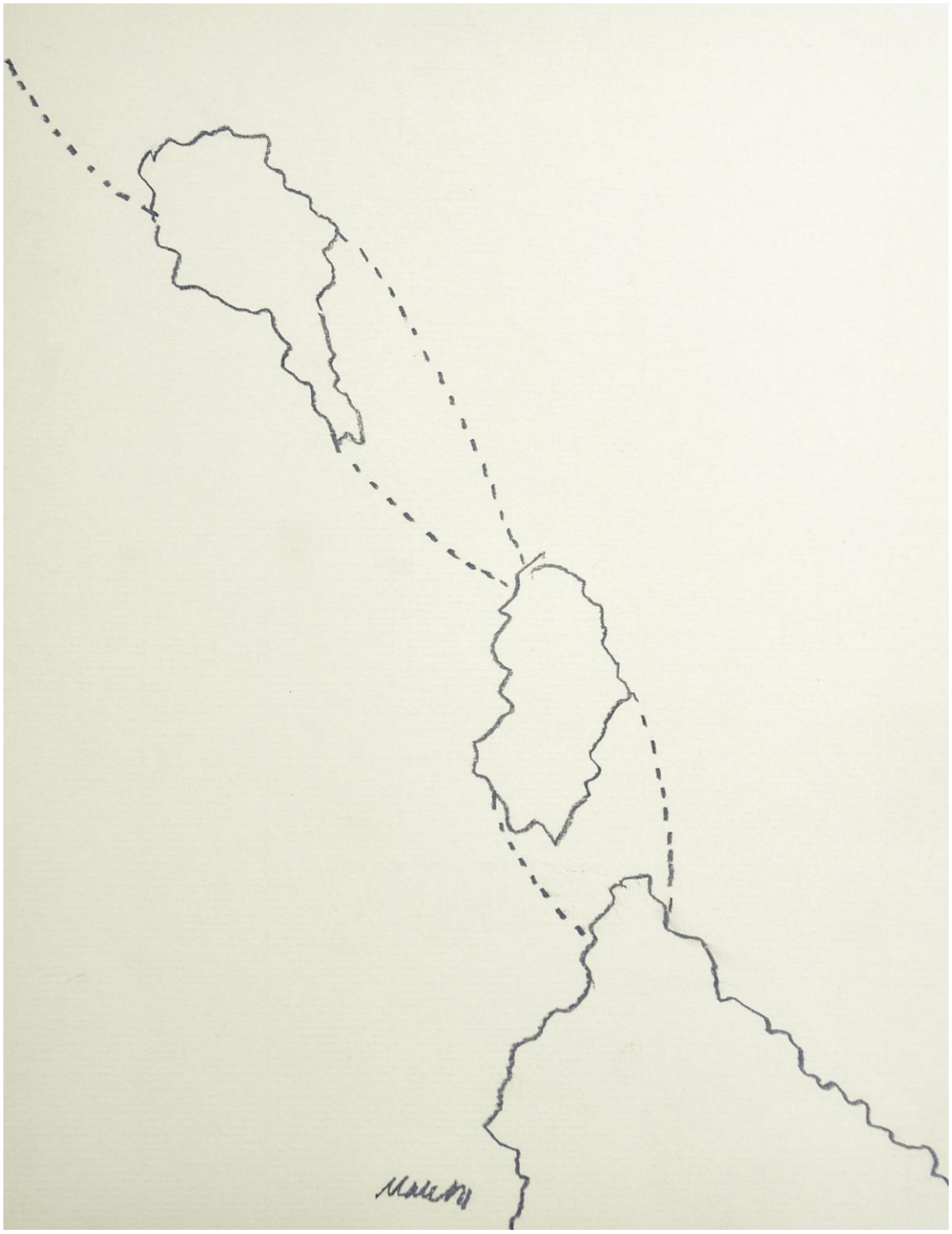
APPENDIX C: PRESS IMAGES FOR 'IMAGINED GEOGRAPHIES' AT OSAGE GALLERY, SOHO



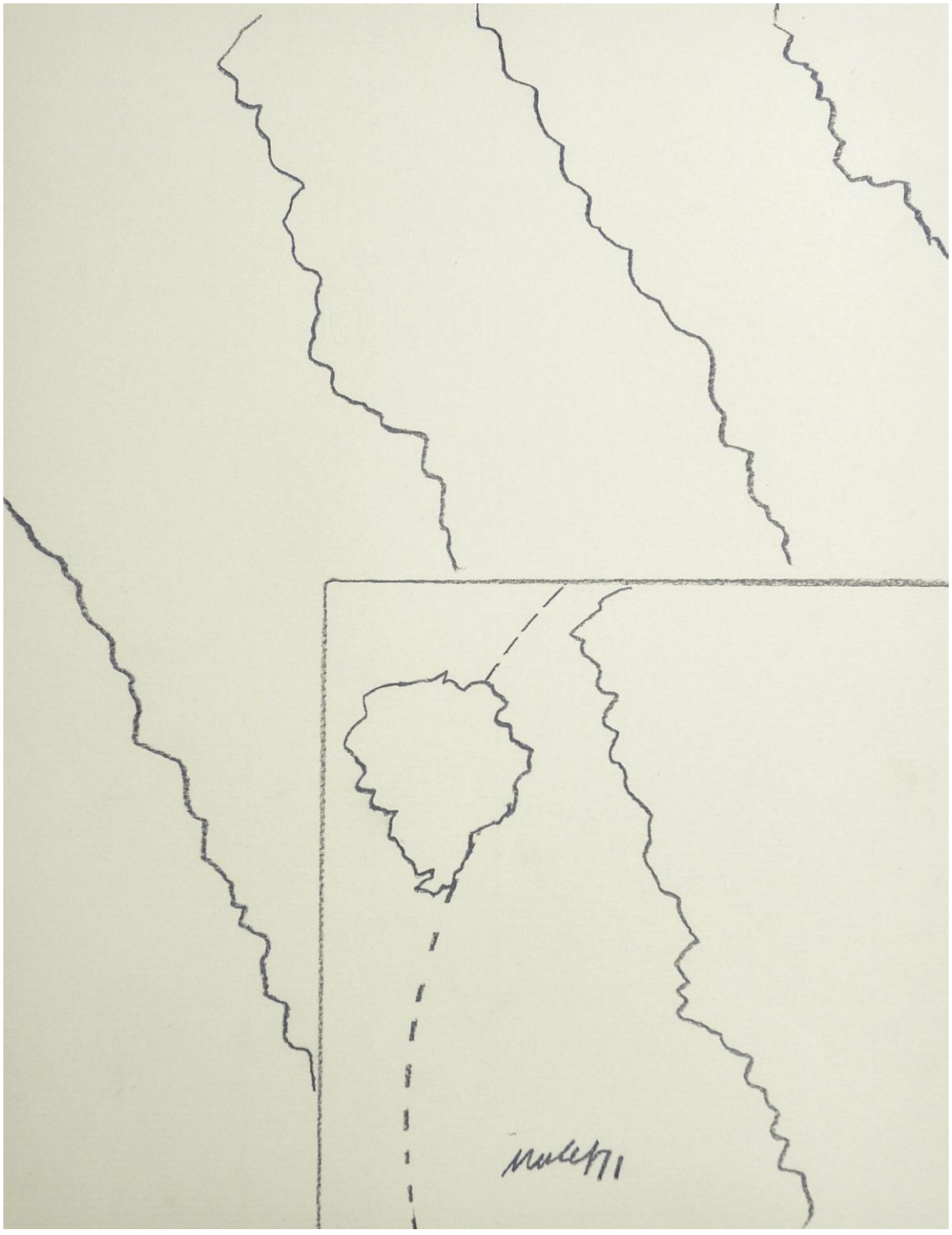
Roberto Chabet, Imagined Geographies (I.XXX) vi 2011, pencil on paper, 11 x 8.5 cm
Photograph: MM Yu, Courtesy the artist, King Kong Art Projects and Osage Gallery, Hong Kong



Roberto Chabet, Imagined Geographies (I.XXX) viii 2011, pencil on paper, 11 x 8.5 cm
Photograph: MM Yu, Courtesy the artist, King Kong Art Projects and Osage Gallery, Hong Kong



Roberto Chabet, Imagined Geographies (I.XXX) XXii 2011, pencil on paper, 11 x 8.5 cm
Photograph: MM Yu, Courtesy the artist, King Kong Art Projects and Osage Gallery, Hong Kong



Roberto Chabet, Imagined Geographies (I.XXX) xxvi 2011, pencil on paper, 11 x 8.5 cm
Photograph: MM Yu, Courtesy the artist, King Kong Art Projects and Osage Gallery, Hong Kong

ABOUT OSAGE GALLERY

Osage Gallery is devoted to the exhibition and promotion of international and Asian contemporary visual arts, exploring 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. Osage Gallery represents some of the most exciting and significant artists 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 Lee Kit (Hong Kong), Wilson Shieh (Hong Kong), Nipan Oranniwesna (Thailand) and Ho Tzu Nyen (Singapore).

Osage Gallery is part of the Osage Group www.osageartideas.com encompassing the Osage Art Foundation, Osage Art Consultancy and Osage Design.

Please visit www.osagegallery.com for more information.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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