

# HdM GALLERY

## ROMAIN BERNINI | EXPENDED MINDS

08/11/2018 – 03/12/2018



Karmacosmicoma, 2018



Grans bwa XVI, 2018



Expecting to Fly IV, 2018

‘Harnessing the power of imagination, ecstasy and suspense, with artificial jungles, hallucinations and self-proclaimed Shamans, my painting represents a distant fantasy, a trip far removed from the artist’s studio.’ – Romain Bernini, 2018.

HdM GALLERY is proud to present ‘Expended Minds’ – a solo exhibition showcasing the most recent works of French Contemporary artist Romain Bernini. Born in 1979 in Montreuil, France, Bernini graduated with a Master of Fine Arts Degree from Sorbonne University, Paris, in 2004. Since then his work has garnered significant critical acclaim for its figurative painting style.

The works presented in ‘Expended Minds’ portray ethereal reflections on a dream-like and colourful world. Canvases burst with fantastical colours and looming figures that float against vivid marbled backgrounds. There is a note of suspension as these figures appear frozen in a moment of time, contextualised only by the shadows that anchor them to their uncanny environment. Bernini’s surreal works act almost as portals into alternate universes invoking a sense of excitement, mystery and inspiring the most basic instinct of discovery. Through the exploration of these strange utopias we see an eerie beauty in the work of Romain Bernini as he presents an indeterminate world, suspended like a dream in silent ecstasy.

The theme of depersonalisation rests at the core of Bernini’s works allowing the artist to explore the human condition in a more general way. His anonymous characters, often depicted wearing masks, represent a shedding of personal identity; the figure has transcended beyond the subjective to represent something greater than the individual, drawing into question the rationality of our contemporary society, which places such importance upon the ego and sense of self.

Furthermore, Bernini’s works represent a sense of borrowing from other cultures. Placing a number of his figures in Hopi Masks traditional to Native American culture, he ties this theme to that of depersonalisation, utilising the belief that when a Hopi man places a mask upon his head he overcomes the self and loses his personal identity – receiving instead a spirit which represents universally a thing of the natural world.

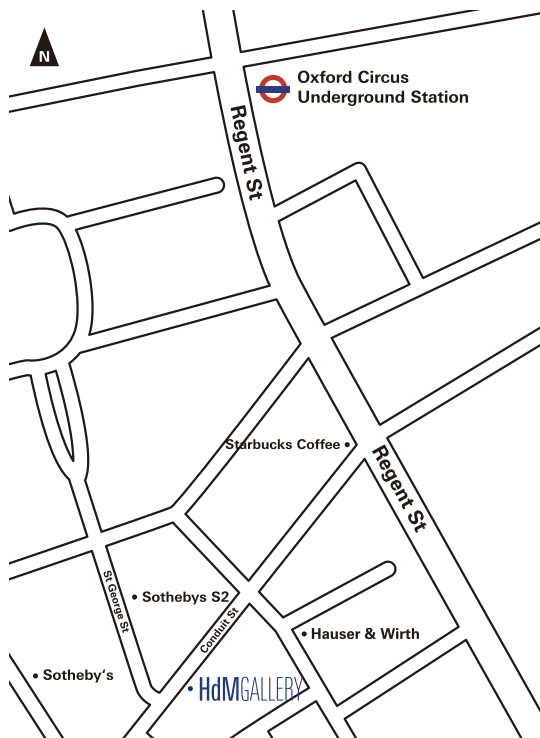
Widely collected and exhibited both domestically and internationally, Bernini’s works have been featured at notable institutions among which are listed: Académie des Beaux-arts, (Paris, FRANCE), Galerie Suzanne Tarasieva, (Paris, FRANCE), Collection d’Art Contemporain Société Générale (Puteaux, FRANCE), and Musée des Beaux-Arts de Chambéry (Chambéry, FRANCE).



Beijing space



London space



## HdM GALLERY

HdM GALLERY is a leading contemporary gallery with a special focus on Contemporary Chinese Art. Founded on a passion for Chinese art, the first HdM GALLERY was opened in Beijing in 2009 - the success of which leading to a subsequent gallery opening in Hangzhou in 2013. Founders and partners Hadrien de Montferrand, Laurant Dassault, and Olivier Hervet have garnered over 10 years of experience and understanding of the art market in China, witnessing first-hand China's rapidly evolving art ecosystem.

HdM GALLERY proudly represents a wealth of emerging Chinese artists among which are He An, Chen Han, Hao Shiming, and Wang Yi. Having established a reputation as a leading gallery in the field of Chinese contemporary art - working with established Chinese artists such as Mao Yan and Liu Xiaodong - HdM GALLERY is dedicated to using their expertise to nurture and develop the careers of these new artists. Exhibiting regularly at prominent fairs such as Art Brussels, Photo London and Art Basel Hong Kong, HdM introduces contemporary Chinese artists to a worldwide client base and broadens perceptions, understanding and appreciation of these engaging contemporary works.

Though initially specialising exclusively in Chinese Art, the ethos of the gallery has since seen a development. HdM has evolved to work with noted Western artists - often exhibiting their works alongside their Chinese contemporaries, bridging the Chinese and Western art markets through this previously unexplored approach. The result is an exhibition with a unique and thought-provoking fusion of influences and on this topic, founder Hadrien de Montferrand defines the identity of the gallery as 'an international gallery with strong Chinese DNA'. Western artists such as Martin Kollar, Ivan Messac, Romain Bernini, Manuel Mathieu and Barthélemy Togo are currently represented by HdM GALLERY.

## FOUNDERS

Hadrien de Montferrand has long served as a bridge between the Art worlds of China and Europe. His more than seven years at various auction houses and Art institutions included roles as marketing director for ARTCURIAL, the largest French auction house, and for the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing.

Laurent Dassault, an entrepreneur to the core, helped to found Arquana, continental Europe's leading horse auction house, in 2006. His entrepreneurial spirit extends to his charitable activities as well: Laurent serves as the administrator of the "Friends of Pompidou Museum's Association" in Paris, and heads the development committee for the auction house ARTCURIAL.

Olivier Hervet graduated with an MA in Classics from Oxford University in 2008. After working for Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery since its inception in 2009 where he developed the gallery's network of young collectors, he became a partner in 2012 with the goal of opening a second space in China.

## Gallery Contact

m@hdmgallery.com  
 1st Floor, 42 Conduit Street, Mayfair, London W1S 2YH  
 Opening Hours: Monday – Friday from 10 am to 6pm  
 (By appointment)  
 Follow us on Instagram: hdm\_gallery  
[www.hdmgallery.com](http://www.hdmgallery.com)