



LAU Siu Chung: Let's go somewhere

12 February – 12 March, 2022

For the first time at Gallery EXIT, Lau Siu Chung exhibits a new series of large-scale oil paintings, created from everyday sceneries around the artist, who has captured his impressions of the momentous urban landscapes and street happenings, bringing a unique viewing experience with constantly changing lines and layered compositions. The exhibition runs from 12 February to 12 March, 2022.

Let's go somewhere, as suggested by the exhibition title, is about the artist's personal travel experience, and how living in a busy city, he has a particular yearning for nature in the countryside due to recent changes in the mode of travel as a result of the pandemic.

Some of the works are based on the Hong Kong cityscape inhabited by the artist, whose persona often figures in the paintings, leading the viewers into the busy streets from a first-person perspective. At the same time, natural elements such as trees and parks are constant motifs in the artist's creation.

Other works highlight Lau's family outings and the natural landscapes perceived therein. The series resembles a portrait of the artist's everyday life, reflecting his change of mood as he traverses from city to nature.

The large-scale oil painting *The Hiking Fever* is the first completed work in this series, rendered from a urban perspective, overlooking the neighbouring hills. Large swaths of hillside occupy the central pane, looming large amidst the surrounding city architecture, echoing the artist's yearning for the countryside while exhibiting the unique landscape of Hong Kong where the boundary between urban and rural is often blurred.

The *Enclosure* series documents the park facilities frequented by the artist and his daughter, which are sealed off with barricade tape during the pandemic, when the most ordinary of daily activities are forcefully ground to a halt. The park facilities are right there, yet out of reach.

In *High Island Reservoir East Dam*, Lau extends his landscape to the suburbs of Sai Kung in the New Territories, where the pleasant sojourn to High Island Reservoir East Dam with family and friends is portrayed in pastel tones. On the upper left, the disproportionately giant kite is particularly eye-catching. Together with the enlarged dolos blocks on the breakwater, they constitute the most poignant details in the artist's memory. Yet even here barricade tapes find their way into the countryside: Even when one escapes into the wild, there is no ridding of the constraints of reality.



劉兆聰:《外邊走走》

2022年2月12日至2022年3月12日

劉兆聰首次於安全口畫廊展出一系列大篇幅油畫新作，創作從身邊的日常景物出發，捕捉當下對城市景觀、街角事物的光影印像，以多變的線條及層疊構圖帶來獨特的觀看體驗。展期為2022年2月12日至2022年3月12日。

展覽主題《外邊走走》顧名思義是關於藝術家的個人遊歷經驗，以及居於城中鬧市，近年因疫情外遊模式的改變，對郊外大自然世界尤其嚮往。

部份作品取材自藝術家周遭的香港城市景觀，藝術家本人亦經常置身畫作中，以第一身的視覺帶領觀眾走進繁喧的街道。與此同時，大自然的完素如樹木公園等題材亦是藝術家創作的其中一個重點。

其他作品聚焦劉氏與家人外出郊遊的時光，以及當下感受到的大自然景觀。一系列作品有如藝術家的生活寫照，反映著藝術家從城市來到自然環境後豁然開朗的心境變化。

大型油畫作品《行山熱》是此系列第一幅完成的作品，展現城市當中眺望毗鄰山郊的視覺。大片山坡處於構圖中心，在周邊鬧市建築物的圍繞下尤其顯得龐大，反映藝術家對郊野的嚮往，亦展示香港城鄉邊界模糊的獨有都市景觀。

《公園封咗》系列記錄藝術家與女兒經常前往遊玩的公園設施，在疫情期間被膠帶圍封，以往平常不過的日常活動無奈被迫暫停。遊樂設施伸手可見，但又遙不可及。

《萬宜水庫東壩》中，劉氏景觀伸延至新界西貢郊區，以粉色主調描繪與親友到東壩郊遊時的愉快情景。畫中左上角不合符畫面比例的巨型風箏尤其引人注目，連同巨形化的錨形石（防波堤），都是藝術家記憶中最为深刻的細節。但身處郊外，圍封膠帶仍然出現：雖然「出走」至郊外，現實的束縛依然存在。