

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yen Ching-Chieh : *Drifting in Exploration*

5 December 2019 - 18 January 2020

MEDIA PREVIEW: Thursday, 5 December, 2019, 2-6 PM

OPENING RECEPTION: Thursday, 5 December, 2019, 6-8 PM



A Concept Gallery Hong Kong presents **Drifting in Exploration**, solo exhibition of **Yen Ching-Chieh**. The exhibition features the imaginative oil painting, skillfully illustrates a post-human cli-fi world. The exhibition will be from 5 December to 18 January 2020. The opening reception will be held on 5 December from 6 pm to 8 pm. All are welcome to join.

The exhibition features selected artworks from Yen's series of *Journey of Exploration* which is the second volume of the cli-fi trilogy, *Drifting In the Future*. Since 2013, Yen Ching-Chieh became a cli-fi (or climate fiction), storyteller and combined the steampunk style with a fictional ecosystem to fantasize about an animal-centric world view in a future setting. The fictional world takes place in hundreds of years in the future, when the earth is no longer suitable for human habitation, and the creatures on the earth have evolved in order to survive in a hostile environment. Many animals have become gigantic and integrated with the natural environment. The land, sea and many living things on the earth evolve and cohabit into a never-before-seen manner. At the same time, the electricity, lights, machines and other technologies left by human ancestors are combined with the organism to form a new polymer of life.

As protagonists of the series, the gigantic animals are of the size of mountains. They integrate with artifacts, such as airplanes, roundabout, and light tower, and let smaller creatures to live in them. The organic structure of animals is like a battalion of *Drifting in Exploration*, cruising towards the uncertainty in the galaxy. The human figure is unsubstantial compared to the colossal animals. Whales, elephants, and jellyfishes are striding in elegant manner onwards with confidence. Although the destinations are uncertain, the adventurous spirit transcends spaces and is infectious to the viewers.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Yen Ching-Chieh was born in 1983 in Taipei. He obtained his BFA from the Department of Fine Arts at the National Taiwan University of Arts in 2006, and MFA in Western Painting from National Taiwan Normal University in 2010. The artist's exquisite painting technique allows him to display succinct visual effects that are very realistic. In recent years, he has been focused on depicting the delicate balance between nature and technology in order to illustrate reality and present the future world. Combining images of technology and animals, Yen builds a special symbolic system and an interpretation of the real world as seen by the artist. Yen was awarded according to the Young Artists Study Abroad Plan in 2008. His work "Journey of Life" was collected by the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts in 2010.

Image : Yen Ching-Chieh, *The Journey of Drifting on the Light island*, 2019, oil on canvas, 186 x 118 cm

For further press information, images and interview requests please contact: contact@aconceptgallery.com / +852 2547 9115