PODIUM

Halfway Across 未竟之渡 the Rubicon

路易斯・西爾圖
Luis Xertu

Date: 19 September—21 November 2026
Opening: 19 September 2026, 2-7 PM
Artist: Luis Xertu

Please visit the link HERE to download all media-related materials.

LUIS XERTU. *Conversation in Purple*, Material transformation initiated 2026; ongoing natural chromatic shift.
Acrylic and organic materials on canvas, 105 x 150 cm | 41.3 x 59.1 in.
© Luis Xertu (2026). Courtesy of the artist and PODIUM, Hong Kong.

PODIUM is proud to present 'Halfway Across the Rubicon', Rotterdam-based artist **Luis Xertu**'s first solo exhibition with the gallery and his debut in Asia. The exhibition opens on 19 September (Sat) 2–7 PM, and runs through 21 November (Sat). In this new body of paintings, Xertu constructs a luminous, intimate world shaped by the fleeting nature of love, beauty, and youth. His compositions attend to subtle emotional registers—friendship, desire, and quiet attachment—where tensions remain understated yet persistent. These works dwell in moments that resist resolution, where feeling surfaces indirectly through gesture, proximity, and atmosphere.

Central to Xertu's practice is a sensitivity to time and transformation. Incorporating dried flora and foliage that naturally shift in tone over time, his paintings unfold like slowed cinematic sequences—a sensibility informed by his background in theatre and dance. Figures often appear suspended beneath translucent gel surfaces that alternately suggest water, depth, and diffusion, creating a visual language poised between emergence and dissolution. Recurring black-box-like settings lend a

performative stillness to the compositions, while in his recent works, the use of cream, violet, and rose palette introduces a new tonal lightness. The new pictorial experiments further explore the tension between control and intuition, combining silkscreen processes with painterly interventions, as liquid ink is repeatedly printed onto damp canvas until each surface reaches a delicate equilibrium.

The exhibition title references the Rubicon as both a historical boundary and a poetic threshold. Here, it signals a suspended moment between becoming and arrival—when intimacy has begun to take form but remains unresolved. It also suggests a point of no return, where emotional commitment renders any retreat impossible. This duality of hesitation and inevitability reflects Xertu's ongoing interest in states of transition, where feeling moves from the barely perceptible to the irrevocably present.

Notes to editors
'Halfway across the Rubicon' is Rotterdam-based artist **Luis Xertu**'s first solo presentation with the gallery and in Asia. In this new body of paintings, Xertu constructs a luminous, intimate world shaped by the fleeting nature of love, beauty, and youth. His compositions attend to subtle emotional registers—friendship, desire, and quiet attachment—where tensions remain understated yet persistent. The exhibition opens on 19 September (Sat), from 2 to 7 PM, and remains on view through 21 November (Sat).

For further information, please contact **Cusson Cheng**, *Co-founder and Curatorial Director*, at cusson@podiumgallery.com, or call +852 3165 1452.

About Luis Xertu
Through his phantasmagorical paintings inhabited by poetic waterscapes, fauna, and figures, **Luis Xertu** (b. 1985, lives and works in Rotterdam) constructs an immersive visual language that intertwines temporality and transformation. Incorporating dried flora and foliage—materials that gradually shift from verdant greens to autumnal tones—his works unfold like decelerated motion pictures shaped by his decade-long background in theatre and dance. Choreographing figures within atmospheric spaces, Xertu explores intimacy, belonging, and estrangement, while drawing upon photographic and digital studies to interweave history, mythology, and personal memory.

Xertu has held solo and duo exhibitions at NL=US Art Gallery, Rotterdam (2024); TORCH Gallery, Amsterdam (2020, 2023, 2025); and Art Island, Amsterdam (2023), among others. His work was featured in group exhibitions at PODIUM, Hong Kong (2024, 2026); Fragment Gallery, New York (2022); BRUTUS, Rotterdam (2022); Museum of Young Art, Oosterhout (2021); Royal Palace, Amsterdam (2019); WTC Rotterdam Gallery, Rotterdam (2019), among others. Xertu's works are included in the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Bangkok and Stichting Kunstcollectie KPMG, the Netherlands.

About PODIUM
Established in 2024, Hong Kong-based contemporary art gallery PODIUM operates as a robust platform for underrepresented emerging and mid-career artists whose creative practices reflect idiosyncratic aesthetics and resonate with current social discourses. Through dynamic exhibition programmes, publications, and institutional collaborations, the gallery remains steadfast in fostering transnational dialogues and synergic and experimental growth among the international artistic community.

Website: www.podiumgallery.com
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