

PODIUM

Ballet with the Devil

Date: 07 June—16 August 2025

Opening: 07 June, 2:00—7:00 PM

Artists: João Gabriel, Shimon Kamada, Dew Kim, Jaewon Kim, Joy Li, Tao Siqi

Please visit the link [HERE](#) to download all media-related materials.



TAO SIQI. *Savoring*, 2025, Oil on canvas, 60 x 90 cm (23.6 x 35.4 in).

© Tao Siqi (2025), Courtesy of the artist, Capsule Shanghai and PODIUM, Hong Kong

PODIUM is delighted to present 'Ballet with the Devil', a group exhibition that employs the metaphor of a treacherous yet seductive dance with the diabolical to probe humanity's entanglement and complex interplay with desire. Through the lens of Lacanian psychoanalysis, the artists, including **João Gabriel**, **Shimon Kamada**, **Dew Kim**, **Jaewon Kim**, **Joy Li**, and **Tao Siqi**, dissect and unveil the intrinsic unattainability of human yearnings, and explore the potential transcendence of its ensnarement. Navigating the precarious terrain where fantasy and materiality converge, the works compel the viewer to reevaluate the agency of one's subjectivity when confronted by manifestations of trauma and anxiety rooted in the psyche. The exhibition opens on 07 June 2025 (Sat) from 2 to 7 PM and is on view till 16 August 2025 (Sat).

Drawing from pre-AIDS, 1970s gay pornographic imagery, Portuguese painter **João Gabriel** creates works that are pervaded with desire, loss, and nostalgia through feathery, dream-like brushstrokes, visualising the inherited trauma and questioning the boundaries of joy, fear, and sexuality in contemporary queer culture. His works were collected by Sunpride Foundation, Hong Kong. Contextualising his sentimental photo archives, **Shimon Kamada** constructs layered compositions that fuse figuration with abstraction, exploring the fragility of time, the inevitability of loss, and the elusiveness of memory. Kamada invites multiple, often ambiguous interpretations, transforming intimate recollections into universal meditations on nostalgia, alienation, and the porous boundary between reality and dream.

PODIUM

Dew Kim integrates K-pop aesthetics and shamanistic motifs in his multidisciplinary practice spanning videos, installations, and sculptures to address themes such as organised religion, folk beliefs, the body, and queer sexuality. By constructing a theatrical realm of gender fluidity, Kim maneuvers the notions of eroticism and desire to question religious taboos and embrace an idiosyncratic view of pleasure and pain. He previously exhibited in the Museum of Contemporary Art, Busan (2024), Alternative Space Loop, Seoul (2023), Para Site, Hong Kong (2022) and Documenta15, Kassel (2022), among others. His works were recently collected by the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul (2025) and Sunpride Foundation, Hong Kong (2024). Meanwhile, **Jaewon Kim** utilises video, photography, and writing to further explore the discourses regarding queerness and HIV/AIDS. Contextualising the past, present, and future as multi-layered experiences, his works question and trace how the force of the disease reshapes the significance of, and the encounters with the invisible and excluded. His works are in the collection of the Ulsan Art Museum, Korea.

Joy Li explores the tensions in the interactions between everyday objects, animals, and the human body through sculpture and installation. Simplifying while exaggerating the daily mundane items and scenes by recontextualisation, her works intrigue the audience with the carefully staged theatricality and absurdity, allowing them to re-experience and interact with familiar objects in uncanny manners. Lastly, **Tao Siqi** delves into the desire of all forms through her intense colors, delicate brushstrokes, and characteristic close-up perspective. Her paintings are rooted in her fascination with the body and flesh as a medium of sensibility and sexuality. By creating a tension between beauty and destruction, tenderness and violence, temptation and taboo, her surreal scenes inspire a provocative viewing experience and conjure emotional unease, flickering between pleasure and pain.

Supported by | 資助



Notes to editors

'Ballet with the Devil' employs the metaphor of a treacherous yet seductive dance with the diabolical to probe humanity's entanglement and complex interplay with desire. The participating artists, including **João Gabriel, Shimon Kamada, Dew Kim, Jaewon Kim, Joy Li, Tao Siqi** dissect, unveil the intrinsic unattainability of human yearnings, and explore the potential transcendence of its ensnarement. The exhibition opens on 07 June (Sat) from 2 to 7 PM and is on view till 16 August (Sat).

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

About PODIUM

Founded in 2023, 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

Instagram, Facebook, WeChat: @podiumgallery

info@podiumgallery.com | +852 3165 1452

UNIT 9D, E TAT FACTORY BUILDING, 4 HEUNG YIP ROAD, WONG CHUK HANG, HONG KONG