

# JACKY TSAI | 'Culture Clash'

An exhibition of new work by the London-based creator of the iconic Alexander McQueen floral skull

**New York City, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> - Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**



Detail from 'Plum Play', 2016

This September sees the first New York solo exhibition of work by **Jacky Tsai**, the London-based Chinese artist best known for his creation of the iconic Alexander McQueen floral skull illustration in 2008.

Having made a huge impact with his innovative 'Chinese Pop Art' works in London and Asia over the past five years, Eyestorm gallery is bringing Tsai to NYC with a collection of new, eye-catching works which will include original hand-crafted lacquer carvings, painting, embroidered silk, painted porcelain and limited edition screenprints.

Alongside his fine art, Tsai has always kept an interest in fashion, and set up his own label, Jacky Tsai, in 2011. A prolific artist whose energetic, collage-style art is constantly evolving, Tsai's imagery lends itself well to being reproduced onto clothing and accessories. In 2014 he collaborated with luxury brand Shanghai Tang to create a limited edition capsule collection ranging from luxurious Chinese style dresses and box clutches to delicate tableware and cashmere shawls.

In his imagery, Tsai seeks to combine traditional Chinese references with those from Western culture to create complex pieces that perform both artistically and conceptually. He states: "I want to create an engaging dialogue between traditional Eastern craft and a Western pop aesthetic".

In the new works for the exhibition, imagined scenes filled with symbolism and references are constructed in order to visually tell Tsai's desired narratives. His love for fashion and textile design comes through in his choice of medium for works such as 'Hyperreal Embrace', a silk and embroidery work featuring a mermaid and an astronaut holding each other while floating against an intricately patterned backdrop.



'Hyperreal Embrace', 2016



'Puppets', 2016

In the limited edition screenprint 'Puppets', Tsai plays with the idea of power, strength and control as a Chinese general performs a string puppet show in an Eastern theatre, where the characters are Western superheroes.

More comic book characters such as Batman and Wonder Woman appear in other works, and the porcelain piece 'Plum Play' portrays Star Wars storm troopers fishing for mermaids. In the lacquer carving 'The Last Chinese Tiger', Tsai confronts environmental issues, and a percentage of the sale of this piece will go to the 'Save Wild Tigers' charity.

Jacky Tsai: Culture Clash will take place Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> - Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> at 208 Bowery, 10012

Press Preview: Wed Sept 21<sup>st</sup> 4 - 6:00pm

Opening night: Thurs Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> 6 - 9:00pm

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#### **About the artist**

Born in China in 1984, Tsai grew up in Shanghai and after completing his BA at the China Academy of Art, moved to London to study MA Illustration at Central St Martin's, graduating in 2008. After gaining recognition for his creation of the iconic 'floral skull' emblem for British fashion designer Alexander McQueen while he was an intern at the fashion house, Tsai's debut London solo show took place in 2010. In the summer of the following year, Eyestorm showed and sold two of his works at a private event, and he has worked with Eyestorm ever since to create his limited editions. There have now been 25 exclusive Eyestorm Tsai editions to date. Jacky Tsai is one of Eyestorm's most widely collected artists, with his work selling regularly all over the world. He has had two solo shows in London (Scream, 2014 and The Fine Art Society, 2015), and one in Hong Kong (The Cat Street Gallery, 2015). 'Culture Clash' is his first solo exhibition in New York.

#### **About Eyestorm**

Eyestorm is a leading London-based gallery for contemporary art, specialising in limited print editions and offering work by both established and emerging artists. Initially set up to offer signed pieces by some of the world's most celebrated artists and photographers at an affordable price, over the past 16 years Eyestorm has worked with some of the most established names in the art world including Jeff Koons, Maurizio Cattelan, James Turrell and Ralph Gibson. Twelve Eyestorm artists have their work in the Whitney Museum's permanent collection. In addition to working with well-known artists, Eyestorm takes pride in showcasing work by the finest emerging talent, offering an opportunity to invest in an artist early on in their career. The slick and easy to use website allows visitors to browse and buy high quality art in the comfort of their own home, making buying affordable contemporary art even more accessible.