

# 繪 胎 剖

The Xevarion Institute is delighted to present **PAIN**ting, a group exhibition with Masaya Nakahara (Violent Onsen Geisha/ Hair Stylistics), Jordi Valls (Vagina Dentata Organ), Overloaddance and avant-garde calligrapher PETER, to celebrate the launch of their new art space, The Catalyst, on no.2 Po Yan Street, Sheung Wan, opening in October 2020.

**PAIN**ting is a collection of apocalyptic creativities that embraces parallel aesthetics. The artists presented here are not only from different corners of the earth, but they are of different generations and from diverse backgrounds, brought together here under the same abjective, which aims to provoke the primitive instincts hidden beneath the civilised social veneer to describe a radical new way of seeing, at the same time acting as a beacon that guides us to learn to survive the creative entropy that is increasingly felt within our contemporary culture over the past decades.

Just as Antonin Artaud once proclaimed that "no one has ever written, painted, sculpted, modelled, built, or invented except literally to get out of hell", **PAIN**ting engages the viewers with the artists' varied, progressive-despotic approaches that appear to run through the show, establishing a renewed artistic conflict (though paradoxically acting as a return to an inward examining, self-contemplative process) where artists struggle to exorcise, or simply come to terms with, as well as rearrange their inner 'derangements' through their arts. It is worth noting that the artists presented in **PAIN**ting are not painters by default: Masaya Nakahara is known for his genre-defying music since the late 80s' and as an accomplished novelist who has won the Yukio Mishima Prize (2001) and nominated for the Noma Literature Prize (2006). Nakahara's cult status was further enshrined into art history with his collaboration with Paul McCarthy and Mike Kelly at the Royal/T gallery L.A. in 2008, and he continues to push the cultural boundaries with his unique 'backhand' assault; Jordi Valls, an indestructible alternative music figure, has worked with legendary groups such as Throbbing Gristle, Whitehouse and The New Blockaders, to name but a few. The Catalan performer has been working extensively as Vagina Dentata Organ and performing live with baseball bat at the Pompidou in Paris, and also at TATE Modern, London, while possessing a distinctive visual sensibility and imagination that is unparalleled - the original 'Blood on Canvas' series were recognised and appreciated so much that they were exhibited at the l'Ecole Supérieure d'Art de Grenoble in France; Overloaddance, Hong Kong based comic artist and graphic designer, whose uncanny imageries often deal with challenging (oversized) subject matters by illustrating extra-large features: obese and tumorous bodies, ambiguous facial expressions, uncomfortable laughs and confusing smiles, in an attempt to overload, blur, and short-circuit our common perceptions of beauty and desire by substituting them with madness and grotesque debility. PETER, a contemporary calligrapher as well as a formidable advocator of Hong Kong independent arts, will complete the future anthropology of **PAIN**ting with his exquisitely executed plaques (Bian, 匾) written with his own blood.

*"There is in every madman  
a misunderstood genius  
whose idea  
shining in his head  
frightened people  
and for whom delirium was the  
only solution  
to the strangulation  
that life had prepared for him."*

*- Antonin Artaud*

**PAIN**ting seizes in extremis the visions as presented by these artists who, through their artistic endeavours, desolate themselves by their own choice of oblivion in the face of existing forms of social tactics and strategy. As Pascal had once put it so eloquently: "Men are so necessarily mad, that not to be mad would amount to another form of madness."