

WKM GALLERY



Kuo Yen Fu Take the Field, Take the Stage

9 January 2024, Hong Kong

WKM Gallery is pleased to present artist Kuo Yen Fu's inaugural solo exhibition in Hong Kong, titled "Take the Field, Take the Stage". This exhibition showcases the selected paintings from Kuo on the themes of athletes and films in the past two years. Like many artists, Kuo draws inspiration from his life experiences and personal journeys. Years of being an athlete and later pursuing a career in the entertainment business have deepened his understanding of the contrasting realities under the spotlight and behind the camera, as well as the various facets of life.

Growing up in Taiwan during the vibrant 80s and 90s, a time when popular culture and celebrity culture thrived alongside widespread media dissemination. As a student undergoing athletics training, he was fascinated by the athletes on the competition field. He would emulate the movements of renowned athlete Carl Lewis, nurturing his aspirations and longing for the future. Since then, he has collected a number of hard-earned newspaper and magazine clippings, meticulously preserving reports on sports events. With his family running a video rental store at the time, films naturally

became a part of his upbringing and enlightenment, opening doors to a world beyond sports.

Painting is formed through observation and contemplation. Since his student days, Kuo's study of athletes' movements and appreciation of films have become the foundation of his creativity. In the series depicting athletes, muscles and lines develop and extend following the movement. Years of athletic training and motion analysis have enabled the artist to grasp the expression of body dynamics and muscles in different stages of exercise. The tension and explosiveness, calmness and convergence, and the brushstrokes that oscillate between outburst and restraint are reflections of logic and self-cultivation in the creative process.

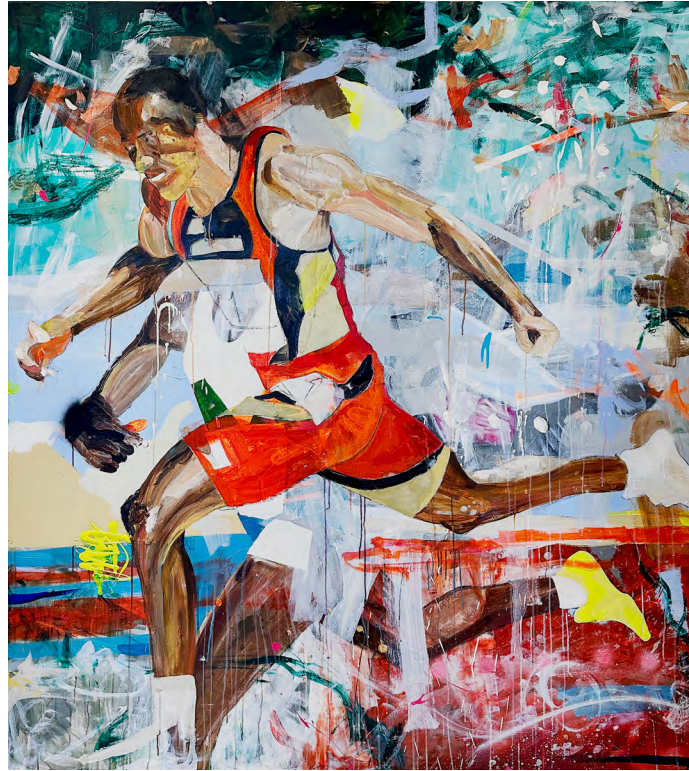
The portrayal of human muscles in art history has a classical aesthetic background, on the other hand, contemporary films carry diverse cultural aesthetics from different



Kuo Yen Fu, *News Footage*, 2023, Mixed Media on Canvas, 140 x 120 cm, 55 3/25 x 47 6/25 in. Courtesy of the artist and WKM Gallery.

eras and regions, even influencing the development of aesthetic values. Unlike the athlete series, Kuo's paintings inspired by films reflect his contemplation of popular culture and stereotypes. The works reveal a humorous and playful aspect, showcasing the translation and reinterpretation of filmic images and cultural symbols. They also seem to embody the artist's introspection on his experiences in the entertainment business, exploring how to maintain composure in the dazzling world in front of the camera.

Each trajectory is the accumulation of countless moments, and each photograph or image holds its significance. Whether documenting important moments in sports history or the audio-visual and conceptual influence brought by popular and artistic films, through the 'absence', the viewers construct multiple interpretations and imaginations through imagery. The composition on the canvas is a re-creation of visual resources, especially through the changing perspectives, the stacking of



Kuo Yen Fu, *Man Sprint*, 2022, Mixed Media on Canvas, 190 x 170 cm, 74 4/5 x 66 93/100 in.
Courtesy of the artist and WKM Gallery.

colours and brushstrokes to create a dramatic sense of speed and power, and to form a surreal environment in which the subject exists. Kuo attempts to record memories and eras through painting, utilising specific, explicit, and sometimes intentionally blurred subject images and symbols. The structures within his creations inspire viewers to reflect upon similar or different past experiences, or the accumulated collective memories of the late 20th century.

Since dedicating himself to artistic creation in 2015, Kuo has continuously developed new forms for his artistic language. He shares that he has never ceased engaging in painting since his childhood, and now he sees it as a moment of reorganisation - an attempt to integrate, transform, and pass on the dreams and passions from his past experiences. It is also a testament to the artist's will. 'Life is a tragedy when seen in close-up, but a comedy in long-shot,' as famously said by Charlie Chaplin, still holds an intriguing meaning today. Both as an athlete and an actor, these roles share a common trait of constantly challenging oneself physically and mentally. When the artist reflects upon himself, he also encourages viewers that every individual is creating a unique life trajectory on their own stage.

About the Artist

Kuo Yen Fu
Born 1979, Yunlin, Taiwan
Lives and works in Taipei, Taiwan

Kuo Yen Fu is a self-taught artist who draws inspiration from his everyday life and childhood memories. His passion for painting began at a young age, and he has since developed a solid foundation upon which he has built his artistic style. Through dynamic brushstrokes and vibrant colour palettes evoke a strong sense of energy and emotion, Kuo reflects his unique perspective on the modern world by capturing the essence of his subjects and creates a captivating journey of self-discovery and exploration.

Kuo has been exhibited in Taiwan, United States, China, Korea, Italy, and France, amongst other locations.

Media Preview *

19 January 2023, 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Opening Reception *

20 January 2023, 4 – 7 pm

Exhibition Dates

20 January – 2 March 2024

* In the presence of the artist

For media enquiries:

Ella Tse
T +852-9858-3509
ella@wkm.gallery

Address:

20/F, Coda Designer Centre
62 Wong Chuk Hang Road
Hong Kong

Contact:

T +852-2866-3199
info@wkm.gallery
www.wkm.gallery

About WKM Gallery

WKM Gallery, founded by William Kayne Mukai, is a dynamic and innovative art space in Hong Kong. With a unique background encompassing French and Japanese roots, William is dedicated to bridging cultures and championing talented artists from around the world. The gallery offers a platform for both emerging and established artists, fostering creativity and cultural exchange. WKM Gallery curates exceptional exhibitions that transcend boundaries, inspire creativity, and enrich the global art community.

WKM GALLERY



郭彥甫 「矚目」

香港, 2024 年 1 月 9 日

WKM Gallery 欣然呈獻藝術家郭彥甫於香港的首個個展「矚目」，展出藝術家近兩年以運動員以及電影為主題的繪畫作品。生命經驗與歷程經常是藝術家創作的靈感來源，對於郭彥甫而言亦如是。多年身為運動員及爾後演藝事業的經歷，使他對於鎂光燈下、攝影機外的虛實反差以及人生百態產生更深刻的體認。

郭彥甫成長於大眾文化與明星文化隨著媒體傳播而蓬勃發展的 80、90 年代台灣。學生時期受田徑運動訓練的他，在跑道上模仿田徑好手卡爾·劉易斯奔跑的身影，懷揣對未來的憧憬與嚮往；對競賽場上運動員的身影特別著迷，總要千方百計蒐集當時得來不易的報章雜誌，將賽事報導剪報做記錄。當時家中經營錄影帶出租店，電影也很自然地成為他成長啟蒙的一部份，在運動之外開啟連接世界的大門。

繪畫是通過觀察與縝密思考所凝結而成，學生時期以來對運動員的研究以及電影欣賞，遂成為郭彥甫創造力的根基。描繪運動員時，肌肉與線條依循身體的變化而發展延伸，長年的運動員訓練和動作分析，使得藝術家更能夠掌握身體動態及肌肉在不同運動階段的表現，其中的張力與爆發、冷靜與收斂，畫筆遊走於奔放與節制之間，也是創作過程中反覆的邏輯推敲和自我修煉。藝術史中

對於人體肌肉的描繪有其古典美學背景，相較於此，當代電影承載不同時代與地區的多元文化美學，甚至引領審美價值的發展，與運動訓練的影響不同的是，郭彥甫受電影啟發的畫作蘊含著對大眾文化與刻板印象的思索，透露出幽默而具趣味的一面，在作品裡可見到影視形象及文化符號的轉譯和重塑，彷彿也呈現藝術家對演藝經驗的沈澱，面對紛繁華麗的幕前世界如何自持。

每一道軌跡歷程都是無數個瞬間所積攢而成，每一禎相片或影像都有其意義。無論是記錄運動史上的重要時刻、或是通俗與藝術電影帶來的視聽與觀念衝擊，透過影像，觀者的「不在場」卻建構出更多的詮釋和想像。畫布上的構圖是對影像資料的再創作，尤其透過變換視角、色彩與筆觸的堆疊運用，塑造速度、力量的戲劇感，帶入主體所存在環境的非現實感。郭彥甫試圖以繪畫記錄回憶與時代，透過特定或外顯、甚或相反地刻意模糊的主體形象與象徵，他的創作結構召喚觀者思索雷同或迥異的過往經驗，或是20世紀後期積累的時代回憶。

自 2015 年開始全心投注藝術創作，並持續發展自身藝術語言的新表達方式。郭彥甫分享從童年時期開始從未離開繪畫創作，目前正是重整的時刻，嘗試融合並轉換、繼而傳承過往生命經驗中



郭彥甫, 新聞鏡頭, 2023, 混合媒體, 140 x 120 cm, 55 3/25 x 47 6/25 in. 圖片由藝術家及 WKM Gallery 提供.

的夢想與熱情，也是藝術家個人意志的證明。「人生近看是悲劇，但遠看是喜劇。」差利·卓別靈的名言放在當代仍觸動人心。從運動員到演員身份，兩者都有通過不斷挑戰自我身體與精神的共通特質，藝術家反觀自照之時，也鼓舞觀者，每個人都在屬於自己的舞台上，創造獨一無二的生命軌跡。

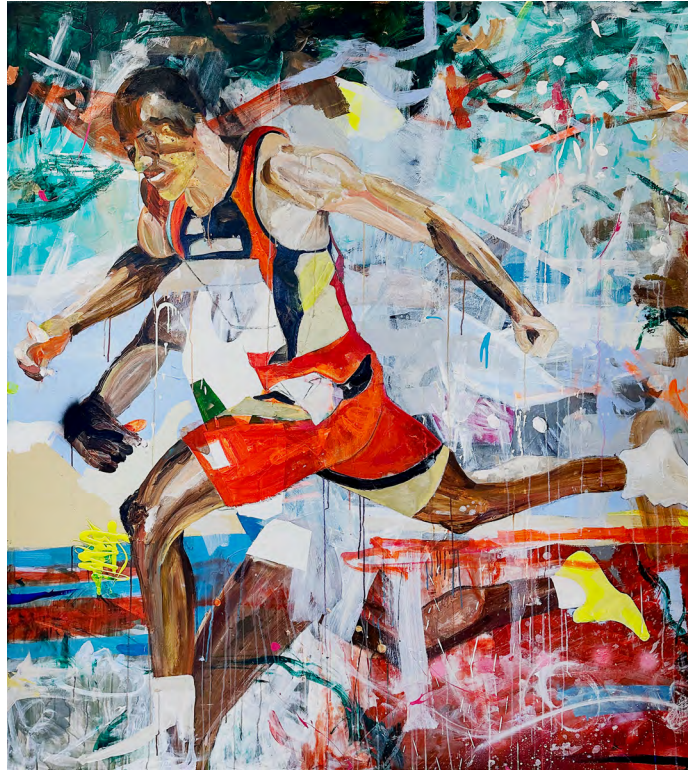
關於藝術家

郭彥甫

1979 年出生於台灣雲林

目前工作與生活於台灣台北

郭彥甫自幼酷愛繪畫，儘管沒有接受過正規的學院訓練，不過長年的研究也為自己的藝術風格奠定了堅實的基礎。郭從生活日常和童年記憶中搜集素材，以動感和充滿能量的繪畫筆觸，加上充滿活力又平衡的色調，透過繪畫行動描繪現代世界，提供觀眾深入探索自我的旅程，是一種能量和情感的表述。



郭彥甫, 男人衝刺, 2023, 混合媒體, 190 x 170 cm, 74 4/5 x 66 93/100 in. 圖片由藝術家及 WKM Gallery 提供.

郭彥甫曾在本地及國際不同地方展出，包括台灣、美國、中國、韓國、意大利和法國等。

媒體預覽*

2024年1月19日，下午4:30 – 5:30時

開幕酒會*

2024年1月20日，下午4 – 7時

展覽日期

2024年1月20日至3月2日

* 藝術家將出席媒體預覽及開幕酒會

傳媒垂詢，請聯絡：

Ella Tse
T +852-9858-3509
ella@wkm.gallery

地址：

香港黃竹坑道62號科達設計師中心20樓

聯絡：

T +852-2866-3199
info@wkm.gallery
www.wkm.gallery

關於 WKM Gallery

WKM Gallery 由 William Kayne Mukai 創立，是香港一個充滿活力和創新的藝術空間。William 擁有法國和日本的獨特背景，致力於支持來自世界各地的才華橫溢的藝術家。畫廊為新晉和知名藝術家提供文化交流平台，促進創造力。WKM Gallery 策劃超越界限及激發創意的展覽。