

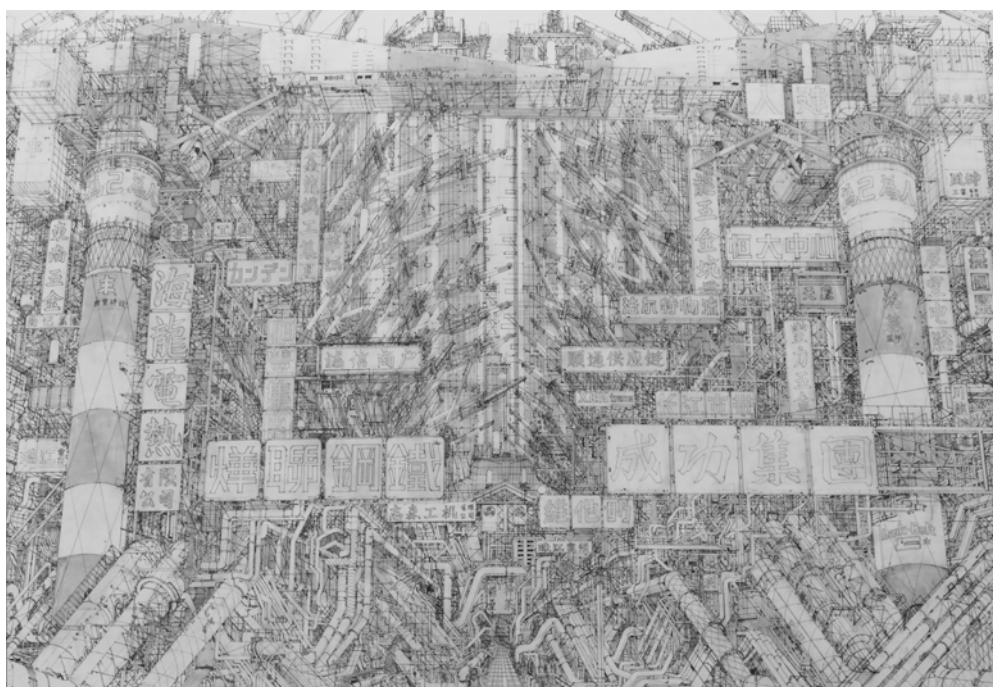


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Over the Influence Presents Group Exhibition

### CONNECTIONS

#### Meditating on Urbanization and Contemporary Human Conditions



Daisuke Tajima, *The Gate*, 2020

Ink on Paper, 80.3 x 116.7 cm 31 5/8 x 46 in

Courtesy of the Artist and Over the Influence

**Exhibition Dates:** 29 May – 2 July 2020 (Tuesday – Saturday, 11 AM – 7 PM)

**Address:** Over the Influence, G/F, 159 Hollywood Road, Central, Hong Kong

18 May, 2020, Hong Kong - **Over the Influence** is pleased to present group exhibition *CONNECTIONS*, opening on 28th May 2020 at the gallery's recently extended space. Exploring current issues of our time with a focus on urbanization and the human condition, the show will feature new and iconic works by Liu Bolin, Taku Obata, Daisuke Tajima, and Alexandre Farto aka Vhils. *CONNECTIONS* will be on view from 29 May – 2 July 2020 (Tuesday – Saturday, 11 AM – 7 PM). In lieu of an opening reception the gallery will be open all day on Thursday 28 May from 11 AM – 7 PM.



Each artist approaches the connection between humans and the urban environment through varying practices. **Liu Bolin** discusses global social concerns through his artistic practice, most prominently through his 'camouflage' installations. Traversing mediums such as performance, photography, Liu Bolin dissects the tense relationship between the individual and society by 'disappearing' into environments which are sites of contention and criticism.

Japanese artist **Taku Obata** is well-known for creating life-sized sculptures of geometric subjects that glean inspiration from hip-hop and breakdance cultures. For this exhibition Obata captures, exaggerates and deforms the human body in dancing movement, emphasizing the bodies' shapes, poses, and physiques in new works on paper. The movement captured in space, particularly in connection with urban culture and cityscapes brings the intrinsic physical connections of humans and cities to the surface.

Known for his highly detailed and serried style in monochrome, **Daisuke Tajima** builds an imaginary world of endless cityscapes, urban structures, and machinery. Appearing industrial and emotionless, the imaginary cities evoke a strong sense of isolation, while their density and pace also provoke the feeling of restlessness and excitement.

An ongoing reflection on identity, on life in contemporary urban societies and their saturated environments, **Vhils'** work explores themes such as the struggle between the aspirations of the individual and the demands of everyday life, or the erosion of cultural uniqueness in the face of the dominant model of globalised development and the increasingly uniform reality it has been imposing around the world.

In a time when we are forced to reflect on the current state of our globalized economy and the social fabrics of our towns and cities, the complicated view of contemporary society shared by the artworks calls for our meditation on potential ways going forward.

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**Media Inquiry:**

For high-res images and interview with artists and/or **Julliana Choi, Director of *Over the Influence***, please contact:

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## **Notes to editors:**

### **Liu Bolin**

Liu Bolin was born in 1973 in Shandong, China and studied sculpture at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, graduating with an MFA in 2001.

His “Hiding in the City” series has been displayed in numerous museums and institutions across the globe. Inspired by his powerful visual messages, artists and institutions and organizations such as The Louvre (Paris, France), Harper’s Bazaar Magazine, JR, Carlos Cruz-Diez, Jon Bon Jovi and Kenny Scharf have invited Liu Bolin to collaborate on creative projects.

### **Taku Obata**

Taku Obata was born in 1980 in Saitama, Japan. After graduation from the Department of Sculpture in Tokyo University of the Arts (TUA), he completed the Special Graduate Course (sculpture) at TUA in 2008. That same year, he won the best award (3D and installation category) in Tokyo Wonder Wall 2008. He has presented solo exhibitions in the Nakamura Keith Haring Collection in 2012, Jonathan LeVine Gallery in 2014, and Watarium Museum of Contemporary Art in Tokyo in 2018. Taku Obata is also a breakdancer and is active as a founding member of UNITYSELECTIONS hip-hop team (organized in 1999) and BBOYGER tactical hip-hop unit (organized in 2007).

### **Daisuke Tajima**

Born in 1993, in Nara Japan, Tajima received his Master’s in Sculpture from the Aichi University of the Arts, Department of Fine Arts in 2015. He is the 2015 recipient of the Tokyo Midtown Grand Prize and the 2016 recipient of the Young Art Taipei – Young Artist Award.

### **Alexandre Farto AKA Vhils**

Vhils was born in 1987 in Lisbon, Portugal. He attended the University of the Arts London – Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design. He currently divides his time between Lisbon, Portugal, and Hong Kong.

Vhils has been the subject of numerous solo and group exhibitions, including at the CAFA Art Museum – China Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, China; EDP Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal; and the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego, CA, USA. In addition, he has created site-specific art interventions and projects in various contexts, bringing his footprint to over 30 countries around the world. His works are included in numerous public and private collections internationally, including Hyundai Art Collection, Seoul, South Korea; MAR – Museu de Arte do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Museum of Contemporary



Art San Diego, San Diego, CA, USA; Perez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL, USA; Urban Nation Museum for Urban Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany; and Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK.

### **About Over the Influence**

Over the Influence was founded in Hong Kong in 2015 and expanded to Los Angeles in 2018. The gallery represents an international roster of emerging and established artists working across different mediums and disciplines. OTI is dedicated to championing artists who challenge traditional approaches to studio practice and presents a dynamic program that explores the intersection of contemporary art, architecture, design, music, fashion and other forms of visual expression.

Address: G/F & 1/F, 159 Hollywood Road, Central, Hong Kong

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 11 AM – 7 PM

Stay connected:

#OTIHK #OTILA #OTIConnections #Liubolin #TakuObata #DaisukeTejima #Vhils

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### **Gallery Contact**

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