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STORY HEADLINE: Artwork from Olympian artists at heart of Olympic Agora digital programme for Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022

LOCATION: China, France, Great Britain, USA
DATE: 2 Feb 2022
LANGUAGE: English, French, Chinese

STORY SCRIPT:
Specially commissioned work from seven Olympian artists will feature in the second edition of the Olympic Agora to celebrate the upcoming start of Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022.

The Olympic Agora is a space to bring together sport, art and culture, inviting digital audiences to explore Olympic ideals and the global cultural and social impact of the games.

The Beijing Olympic Agora is put together by the Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage (OFCH) and follows the success of the inaugural Olympic Agora Tokyo 2020. Both programmes have been almost entirely digital due to Covid-19 pandemic safety.

The Beijing Olympic Agora features seven creative Olympians, whose artworks on the magic of winter sports are inspired by Olympic values. The work spans painting, art photography, graphic design and Chinese brush painting. The artists are:

- Christopher Coleman USA, Bobsleigh, Albertville 1992 and Lillehammer 1994
- Laurenne Ross USA, Skiing, Sochi 2014 and PyeongChang 2018
- Gao Min China, Diving, Seoul 1988 and Barcelona 1992
- Ye Qiaobo China, Speed Skating, Albertville 1992 and Lillehammer 1994
- Kader Klouchi Algeria, Long Jump, Barcelona 1992

The Olympic Agora also features two live educational events based on the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) led by Olympic artists Neil Eckersley and Kader Klouchi on 9 and 16 February. The curriculum uses art as an informal teaching approach to encourage children to explore Olympic values and ideals through creative expression.
Rounding off the Agora programme is a journey to the past: ‘Nostalgia’ is an online exhibition of rare, vintage, black-and-white photographs that capture the origins of the Olympic Winter Games from the first Winter Competitions held at London 1908. It includes Chamonix 1924 and Grenoble 1968. The photos are being publicly displayed for the first time.

**Olympian Artists-in-Residence**

Launched by the OFCH at PyeongChang 2018, the [Olympian Artists-in-Residence programme](#) celebrates the link between sport and culture by offering opportunities to athletes with artistic interests to produce and present new artworks during and between editions of the Olympic Games. Every edition of the programme is an opportunity for audiences to discover a community of multi-faceted Olympians and their inspirational stories.

**Olympic Values Education Programme**

OVEP is a set of free and accessible learning and teaching tools designed to inspire young people through the Olympic values of excellence, respect and friendship. Using the context of Olympic sports and the core principles of Olympism, the OVEP curriculum communicates the benefits of sport and physical activity, and their impact on individual health, enjoyment and social responsibility.

The Olympic Games Beijing 2022 will take place from 4 to 20 February 2022 and will be followed by the Paralympic Games from 4 to 13 March 2022.

**SHOT LIST:**

**Cameron Myler**

00:00 Cameron Myler preparing paint
00:09 Close-up, Myler mixing paint
00:11 Wide-shot, Myler painting on canvas
00:14 Close-up, Myler painting on canvas


“I love to have balance in my life as an athlete, as an artist, as a lawyer. I love trying to find that balance, which I think all Olympians do of body, mind and spirit. And I also have text incorporated, so the lawyer part of me, the one part of me that has respect for rules and the foundation of the Olympic Movement. We find it in the Olympic Charter, which starts with the fundamental principles, so it talks about: What is Olympism?’’

00:59 Believe, by Cameron Myler
01:03 Unite, by Cameron Myler

**Christopher Coleman**

01:10 Christopher Coleman, walking up a rocky verge
01:13 Close-up, Coleman using a camera
01:16 Low-high shot, Coleman walking up steps
01:19 Wide-pan, Coleman using a camera
01:22 Coleman reviewing photographs on laptop
01:24 Close-up, Coleman reviewing photographs on laptop
01:27 SOUNDBITE: Christopher Coleman, USA, Bobsleigh, Albertville 1992 and Lillehammer 1994

“Olympic values influence my work in a number of ways. The first thing that comes to mind is persistence. For this particular project, I’d be very persistent in going out to various venues, shooting that venue in morning light, in evening light, sometimes with a subject, sometimes without. Going back and trying to figure out exactly what I want to achieve and it’s about being persistent and trying different things over and over again, until I get the result I’m happy with.”

01:59 Pathway, by Christopher Coleman
02:02 One step at a time, by Christopher Coleman

Laurenne Ross
02:08 Zoom-in shot, property in a wooded area
02:10 Pan-shot, Laurenne Ross looking through images
02:14 Close-up, Ross looking through polaroid images
02:17 Ross sorting through artwork
02:22 Close-up, Ross cutting design with a knife
02:24 Aerial shot, Ross cutting design with a knife

02:28 SOUNDBITE: Laurenne Ross, USA, Skiing, Sochi 2014 and PyeongChang 2018

“All of my base images are frame photographs, most of them are double-exposures. And then from there, I will take a bunch of other film photo images I have taken and sort of collage them onto the base image. As well as, I’ve been using a lot of athletic figures on my pieces and trying to collage them within this whole scope of the scene. The fun element in my work comes from a sense of wanting to play, for me. Being an Olympic athlete of any kind and any sport is a really difficult, serious thing and it’s hard to remember we’re doing it for fun.”

03:12 Reminder, by Laurenne Ross
03:16 Amalgamate, by Laurenne Ross

Neil Eckersley
03:23 Walking-shot, Neil Eckersley
03:26 Eckersley entering property
03:27 Eckersley walking downstairs
03:29 Eckersley choosing paint
03:32 Close-up, Eckersley applying paint to cardboard
03:35 Eckersley painting on canvas
03:39 Low-high shot, Eckersley painting on canvas
03:41 Close-up, Eckersley painting on canvas


“So I’m classed as a cityscape artist. If you see a lot of my work you’ll see a lot of that theme through it. So to me Beijing was about actually trying to capture the actual city itself, and try and find a way of showing as an artist the vibrancy, the energy and the movement in the actual city itself. So bringing the Olympics together, is I kind of worked around a winter scene. So if you look at the artworks that I’ve produced, they’ve got lots of snow, lots of ice within those particular pieces to try and capture that particular moment in time.”

04:18 Beijing calling, by Neil Eckersley
04:22 Frozen in time, by Neil Eckersley
Gao Min
04:29 Close-up, Gao Min applying paint to brush
04:31 Gao Min painting
04:34 Close-up, Gao Min brush stroke
04:39 Close-up, Gao Min
04:42 Over-shoulder shot, Gao Min painting
04:47 Zoom-in shot, Gao Min painting
04:50 SOUNDBITE: Gao Min, China, Diving, Seoul 1988 and Barcelona 1992
(CHINESE LANGUAGE)
“The core of the Olympics are excellence, respect and friendship. In fact, it’s a life philosophy, which nicely integrates the human body, mind, and even spirit in a balanced way. I believe that the Olympic philosophy is actually to influence the development of mankind.”
05:10 Happy Fish, by Gao Min
05:15 Sports as the best of humankind, Gao Min

Ye Qiaobo
05:22 Close-up, Ye Qiaobo paint palettes
05:24 Zoom-out shot, Ye Qiaobo painting
05:31 Close-up, painting palettes
05:36 Close-up, brush stroke
05:41 Close-up, Ye Qiaobo
05:44 SOUNDBITE: Ye Qiaobo, China Speed Skating, Albertville 1992 and Lillehammer 1994 (CHINESE LANGUAGE)
“I don’t think there is another event in the world like the Olympic Games, which accepts all people, with all religions, beliefs, skin colours, and political backgrounds. The event can unite so many peace-loving people on such a big stage and allows people to share the beautiful spirit of sportsmanship in human nature.”
06:09 Plum Blossom, by Ye Qiaobo
06:14 Bamboo, by Ye Qiaobo

Kader Klouchi
06:21 Pan-shot, Kader Klouchi in studio
06:24 Close-up, artist's tools
06:26 Klouchi working on canvas
06:30 Close-up, Klouchi
06:31 Over-shoulder shot, Klouchi painting
06:34 Close-up, Klouchi painting
06:37 Kader works with Charlie Chaplin art in background
06:41 Close-up, Klouchi painting
06:47 SOUNDBITE: Kader Klouchi, Algerian, Long Jump, Barcelona 1992
(FRENCH LANGUAGE)
“I try to put myself in the place of the character. I try to experience what the character is experiencing because my painting borders between abstract and figurative, meaning that I don’t need to do fingers and noses, eyes, or anything, arm for example. When he is in a curve I can accentuate the line to give the effect of movement, speed. I think that the life in competition calls for pushing oneself beyond the limits. That is important, it helps but
Philosophically I always wanted to give my best, rather than just seeking victory over others. I wanted victory over myself. When you paint, when you create, you try to give your best.”

07:35 Multi event, by Kader Klouchi
07:40 Alpine skiing, by Kader Klouchi

-- ENDS --

Note to editors

Olympic Agora Beijing 2022
Organiser: The Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage
Location: Digital, Agora website
Date: 12 January onwards
Download the Press Kit here
You can follow all the Olympic Agora activities on The Olympic Museum's Twitter and Instagram accounts. Downloadable photos are available here.
For press enquiries about Olympic Agora, contact: tina.sharma@olympic.org
Watch a review of the Olympic Agora Tokyo 2020 programme here.

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