The dynamic duo behind Australian gallery Sullivan+Strumpf are preparing for their first solo show featuring acclaimed Australian artist Sam Leach in their new Gillman Barracks space in Singapore. “Gravity Tractor” will present the artist’s recent series of paintings from July 21 through August 25.

Sullivan+Strumpf is the first Australian gallery to establish itself in the Asian art scene in order to develop and strengthen its presence in the vast Southeast Asian community and region.

After their inaugural group show “Arrival,” which explored themes of identity, materiality, and construction of memory, the gallery’s upcoming exhibition with Sam Leach delves into matters of art and science.

The winner of the Archibald Prize, Sam Leach is recognized for coalescing art and science together, notably for investigating the found connections between humans and animals. Leach portrays these creatures against a figurative landscape, yet deconstructs it with bursts of neon-colored abstract forms which mirror the visual language of data, graphics, and technology.

As a continuation of this, Leach presents a new series of paintings featuring bucolic landscapes, reminiscent of 17th century Dutch aesthetics with added rock and stone structures. Believing that charts, diagrams, and geometry are a way of understanding the world, in these new paintings Leach
studies geological past rocks to analyze and find new meanings.

In line with the title of the exhibition, Leach's new body of works possesses an astrological and geological element as he examines the connections between celestial bodies and their effect on the shaping and destruction of the planet. Accordingly, the representations of rocks in his paintings act as a metaphor, owing to the fact that they have “endured the passing of time; as silent witnesses they collect the stories of civilization,” as quoted in a press release.

These works are then injected with round magenta-colored shapes, as it is a non-spectral color absent from the visible spectrum of light.

BLOUIN ARTINFO asked the gallerist duo Ursula Sullivan and Joanna Strumpf about their thoughts on the exhibition and the market for Australian art in Asia.

“Gravity Tractor” is a new show after your inaugural exhibition in June, showcasing your new space in Gillman Barracks. Here you will be introducing acclaimed Australian artist Sam Leach. How do you think his fusion of art and science in his landscape paintings will be received in Singapore?

Sam has exhibited a number of times in Singapore already – once with Future Perfect and a number of times at Art Stage Singapore – so we know he has a following. Audiences connect on a few different levels: some connect with the sheer beauty of the work, others connect conceptually (he has a wonderful Utopian vision), and some connect on both levels. It’s a recipe for success!

How is the market for Australian art in Asia at the moment? Could you give us any examples of Australian artists who are doing well in the region or are favored by Asian buyers?

The artists that are doing really well are the ones that are talking about universal themes. We find that collectors are not so concerned with where the artist is from, it’s more artists such as Sam Leach, Alex Seton, Sam Jinks, and eX de Medici who are talking about ideas that sit outside a geographical context, such as worldviews, refugees, emotional relationships, aesthetics. These are not specific to one country; they are global conversations.

What are your thoughts on the current Singaporean/Southeast Asian art market?

There is an openness and excitement about the region that is very important to a dynamic art scene.

Do you have any exciting plans or projects in the pipeline for this year or in 2017?

We have two really big shows coming up: Alex Seton, whose exquisite carved marble work is sublime; and Sam Jinks, whose show will coincide with Art Stage Singapore, is working on some truly incredible new work that will have people raving.