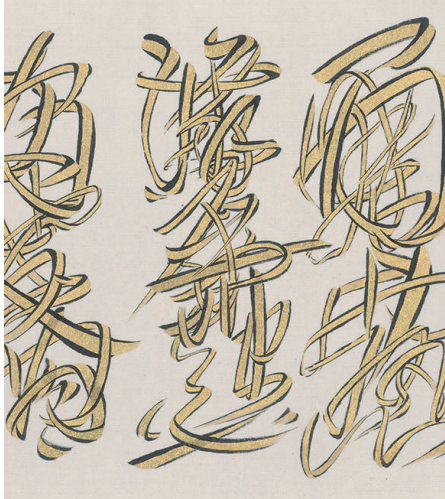


HADRIENDE MONTFERRAND GALLERY

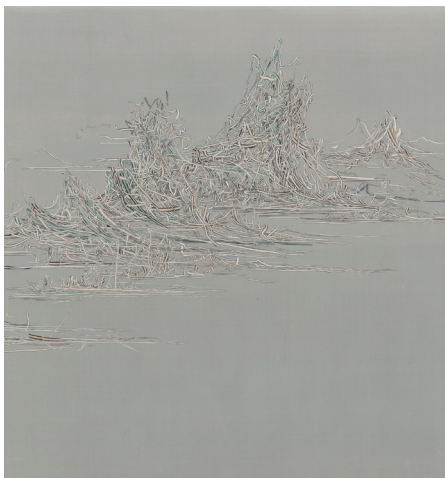
PRESS RELEASE

OPENING : 19TH SEPTEMBER 2015

HAO SHIMING | FOCUS



Hao Shiming, *Book of Jin 201503*, (detail), 2015



Hao Shiming, *Landscape 201501*, (detail), 2015



Hao Shiming, *Chi, Bi, Fei, Bao (A block of jade is no treasure)*, 2015

Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery is pleased to present "Focus", a solo show of Hao Shiming, from September 19th to November 3rd 2015. The show features a selection of 30 works with contemporary ink as its theme.

The last decade saw a surge of interest for ink artworks from artists and collectors. New practises have emerged, making use of traditional brushes, characters, water, paper and silk to deconstruct this artistic heritage. Classical themes and pictograms are reinterpreted, lines are redrawn and the tools themselves are subverted.

Hao Shiming (b.1977) is a talented representative of the new ink movement. He engages in questions of timelessness, of the link between tradition and modernity and identity. He feeds on classical culture and ancient Chinese texts to inspire his art.

Graduated from the traditional painting department of the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts in 2000, Hao Shiming spends the next few years perfecting his technique and ridding the canvas from unnecessary flourishes, limiting the materials used and moving away from figuration. He thus develops a very unique style, systematically doubling the strokes and filling the frame with numerous layers of characters. The resulting works are sophisticated and minimalist. His approach is tinted by several Chinese philosophies, by an interest in Buddhism and by a reflexion on ephemerality and renewal.

In this show, he focuses on his "The Thousand Character Classic" series started in 2014. It is a classical Chinese poem, dating back from the 6th century, commissioned by emperor Wu to the literati Zhou Xingsi so that the heir to the crown might practice calligraphy. The poem would later serve to teach characters to children and therefore belongs to the collective memory and cultural identity of China.

Hao Shiming recomposes each character of the poem with his own writing on 30 x 30 cm square frames. His stroke is laid directly on the silk, with no correction. The artist's 2 hours of daily calligraphy practice reinforce this creative process.

While most works use 2 colours, the artist also offers more colourful paintings in his other series ("Book of Jin", "Cursive Script in Tang Dynasty Style") by inserting golden or red ink touches, creating new contrasts. Landscapes and rocks in homage to the past or objects like chairs – a symbol of power – are also part of his artistic production and thought.

An important facet of contemporary artistic creation in China, contemporary ink has a legitimate place on the current Chinese artistic scene. The work of Hao Shiming thus helps us to better understand this movement which is today part of contemporary art in China.



Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery

Hadrien de Montferrand gallery was founded in 2009 and set up in 798 art district.

One of Beijing's leading contemporary galleries, Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery is the first in China to focus on contemporary works on paper. Through its exhibitions and unique relationship with international collectors, the Gallery promotes contemporary masters and emerging artists alike.

More than 30 exhibitions were organized, featuring both established artists (Liu Xiaodong, Sui Jianguo, Ding Yi, Wang Du, Mao Yan ...) or talented emerging artist exploring new paths such as contemporary ink (Lu Chao, Yu Jidong, Hao Shiming ...) as well as international artists (Fabien Méréille, Barthélémy Togu).

The gallery also builds links between international experts and Chinese Art collectors interested in Western Art. Hadrien de Montferrand gallery regularly participates to art fairs such as Art Basel Hong Kong, Art Brussels, Art Paris.

In November 2013 the gallery opened a second branch in Hangzhou, under the name of HDM Gallery (www.hdmgallery.com) promoting young artists working in all media.

The Founders

HADRIEN DE MONTFERRAND

Hadrien de Montferrand has long served as a bridge between the Art worlds of China and Europe. His more than twelve years at various auction houses and Art institutions included roles as marketing director for ARTCURIAL, France's largest auction house, and for the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing. Hadrien has lived and worked in China for more than seven years.

His passion for works of Art on paper stems from their affordability, honesty and lack of pretense. "You cannot lie with a drawing," says Hadrien. "It is either good or it is bad."

LAURENT DASSAULT

An entrepreneur to the core, Laurent Dassault helped to found ARQANA, continental Europe's leading horse auction house, in 2006. His entrepreneurial spirit extends to his charitable activities as well. Laurent serves as the administrator of the "Friends of Pompidou Museum's Association" in Paris, and heads the development committee for ARTCURIAL, auction house.

Himself an Art collector, Laurent has expressed great support for Hadrien's initiative in China. "When an economic zone develops, creativity always follows," he argues. "China's artists are the 21st century's great creators. It's a pleasure to be a part of this ambitious and thoroughly original project."

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Exhibition: 19 September - 3 November 2015
Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday from 11am to 6pm
(Or by appointment)
www.hdemontferrand.com