

HdM GALLERY

IVAN MESSAC | MENTHE AND CAMEL
CURATOR | LU MINGJUN
2019.06.21-2019.08.10



Menthe et framboise, 162 × 130 cm, 2018



Tout ça pour du caramel, 100 × 81 cm, 2018



Nuage sur des horizons dénudés, 100 × 100 cm, 2018

HdM GALLERY is pleased to present 'Menthe and Caramel', the new solo show by French sculptor and painter Ivan Messac, and curated by Lu Mingjun. His second collaboration with the gallery following a successful show in London last year, this will be Messac's first exhibition at the HdM GALLERY Beijing space.

In the title of the exhibition, 'menthe' and 'caramel' are taken from the titles of Messac's works, as they convey the first emotion felt when we face his paintings. 'Menthe' and 'caramel' are two different foods, and they represent two perceptions of taste: menthe is fresh and transitory, while caramel is bitter, dark and sticky. Nevertheless, it is not just a visual experience, but embodies the inherent contradiction and conflict permeating Messac's Pop (or anti-Pop) images as well as his aesthetic and political practice.

A Pop Philosophy

A lead figure in the French 'Figuration Narrative' group of the 1970's, Messac gained a degree in Philosophy before turning his attentions to painting in 1969. The youngest member of this European cousin of the Pop Art movement, his work has been praised by leading critics, among which are Jean-Louis Pradel and Jose Pierre – the latter of which dedicated an article to Messac in his book 'Le Dictionnaire du Pop Art' (1975). A true polymath (Messac is also a published writer as well as a visual artist), his work draws on themes from literature and Greek Mythology as in the works 'A Nîme on a bonne mine' and 'Aubergine et cornichon', both on display in the exhibition, where figures from Classical mythology are given a Pop Art reworking in colourful acrylic on aluminium. The bold cut out forms, vivid colours and the use of stencilling all unite him with the Pop Art movement.

Classical Pop

Starting to work with sculpture in 1983, Messac spent time working in Carrara, the historic heart of Italian marble production before returning to his privileged medium of painting in 2000. The new exhibition combines recent paintings from 2018 with aluminium cut out sculptures from 2013 representing the breadth of Messac's oeuvre also in his eclectic choice of iconography. A cast of beauty queens, showgirls, astronauts and mythological figures feature in Messac's paintings which together with a zesty, bold colour palette and witty titling – 'She did too Much' and 'Clouds on Bare Horizons' - contribute to the irreverent playfulness of Messac's work.

About Artist

Ivan Messac was born in Caen, France in 1948. Self-taught in painting and sculpture. In 1969, Ivan both earned a Master of Philosophy and participated in an exhibition of Salon de la Jeune Peinture, the young artists' association created in the 50s. He now lives and works in Sens and Paris. Shown extensively in institutions and galleries, Messac exhibited his work at the Centre Georges Pompidou, at the Musée du Quai Branly, at the Centre d'Art Contemporain de Troyes, at la Patinoire Royale Bruxelles and at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts de Cherbourg.

About Curator

Lu Mingjun was born in 1978 and he obtained the PH.D in History from Sichuan University. He is currently an associate professor in the Department of Fine Arts, College of Art, Sichuan University, and mainly engaged in the research, teaching and practice of modern and contemporary art history, art criticism and theory. He has also served as the art director of Surplus Space since 2015. In the same year, he was the recipient of 'N. Ho Family Foundation Greater China Research Grant'. Also, he won 'YiShu Awards for Critical Writing on Contemporary Chinese Art' in 2016, 'Asian Cultural Council Fellowship' and 'The Sixth Chinese Contemporary Art Award' in 2017 and 'Annual Curator of the 13th Award of Art China' in 2019.



Beijing Space



London Space



HdM GALLERY

HdM GALLERY is a leading contemporary gallery with a special focus on Contemporary Chinese Art. Founded on a passion for Chinese art, the first HdM GALLERY was opened in Beijing in 2009 - the success of which leading to a subsequent gallery opening in Hangzhou in 2013. Founders and partners Hadrien de Montferrand, Laurent Dassault, and Olivier Hervet have garnered over 10 years of experience and understanding of the art market in China, witnessing first-hand China's rapidly evolving art ecosystem.

HdM GALLERY proudly represents a wealth of emerging Chinese artists among which are He An, Chen Han, Hao Shiming, and Wang Yi. Having established a reputation as a leading gallery in the field of Chinese contemporary art - working with established Chinese artists such as Mao Yan and Liu Xiaodong - HdM GALLERY is dedicated to using their expertise to nurture and develop the careers of these new artists. Exhibiting regularly at prominent fairs such as Art Brussels, Photo London and Art Basel Hong Kong, HdM introduces contemporary Chinese artists to a worldwide client base and broadens perceptions, understanding and appreciation of these engaging contemporary works.

Though initially specialising exclusively in Chinese Art, the ethos of the gallery has since seen a development. HdM has evolved to work with noted Western artists - often exhibiting their works alongside their Chinese contemporaries, bridging the Chinese and Western art markets through this previously unexplored approach. The result is an exhibition with a unique and thought-provoking fusion of influences and on this topic, founder Hadrien de Montferrand defines the identity of the gallery as 'an international gallery with strong Chinese DNA'. Western artists such as Martin Kollar, Ivan Messac, Romain Bernini, Manuel Mathieu and Barthélemy Toguero are currently represented by HdM GALLERY.

FOUNDERS

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

Laurent Dassault, an entrepreneur to the core, helped to found Arquana, 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 the auction house ARTCURIAL.

Olivier Hervet graduated with an MA in Classics from Oxford University in 2008. After working for Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery since its inception in 2009 where he developed the gallery's network of young collectors, he became a partner in 2012 with the goal of opening a second space in China.



Gallery Contact

+86 10 59789320

press@hdmgallery.com

798 Art District, No.4 Jiuxianqiao Lu
Chaoyang District, Beijing, China

Duration: 21 June 2019 - 10 August 2019

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday from 11am to 6pm
(Or by appointment)

www.hdmgallery.com



WeChat