

# HADRIENDE MONTFERRAND GALLERY

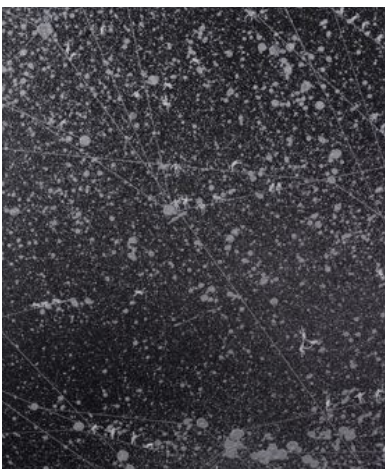
PRESS RELEASE

OPENING : 11 MARCH 2017

## LU CHAO | BLACK BOX



*Black Light No.4 (detail), 2016*



*Man on Wire No.5 (detail), 2016*



*Funambulist No.1 (detail), 2016*

Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery is delighted to announce a solo show of Lu Chao entitled "Black Box" on March 11 featuring more than 10 recent works of the artist including oil paintings, works on paper and paintings on wood board. Following on the solo shows "Black Forest", "Black Mirror" and "Black Light", this is the fourth cooperation of the artist with the gallery. The artist uses painting to express feelings of mystery and strangeness.

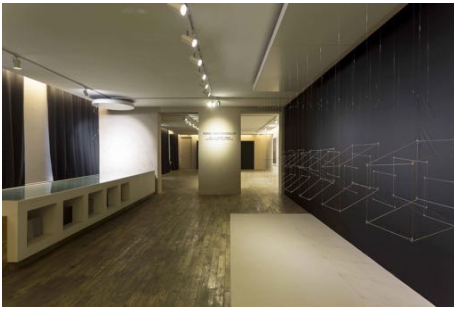
"The faces in the paintings are strangers met at random and stored in my memory. Every face can express an emotion, a story and each small-sized person is a key to a story. The unknown things of our lives attract me. The unknown is a beautiful state, like the black box of a human being; you can know what 'really happened' in the black box. I try to express a sense of unknown and strangeness through my paintings. It's the estrangement that people feel about the world and about themselves. As Socrates said: 'The only thing I know is that I know nothing.' I would rather express an attitude of curiosity, of admiration and of reverence rather than setting up a correct answer in the painting. I hope that every viewer could see himself in my painting."

In traditional Chinese culture, "black" is not a pleasant color. But in Lu Chao's mind it is the richest and densest color. The present exhibition carries over the previous three shows' title and themes by having "black" as its starting point and as its conclusion, as its simplest and most complex element. Therefore the artist hopes to continue exploring this system, and to investigate it in a persistent and meaningful manner. With regards to Lu Chao's subjects, he operates a transition of his focus from "people" to the more general topic of "life".

Worthy of mention is the fact that this exhibition features the first 10 meters long painting of the artist. Regardless of the pictorial dialectic or the subject of the works, they all possess a more meaningful content as well as a more open outlook than before, leaving a profound impression on the viewer.

We specially invited critic Sun Dongdong to interview Lu Chao. Sun Dongdong mentioned that "Lu Chao is a conventional artist and a 'historical' person who narrates in an ambiguous way, although his works never show an actual event. In his paintings, our sense of history is the experience of the cycle of life which, encountered in certain scenes, can evolve into a general sense of reality. Thus, Lu Chao is obsessed with the portrayal of crowds. For him, numerous people reflect more closely the truthfulness of life. This so-called 'reality' suggests an order of human affairs. When Lu Chao creates a natural and cruel environment for his paintings, it suggests that he is aware of the essence of modernity—we can say that the transformation of Lu Chao as a painter begins here, but this transformation doesn't come from the painting itself, but from his understanding of the meaning of illusion in a dialectical way."

Born in 1988 in Shenyang, Lu Chao is a graduate from the Central Academy of Fine Arts and of the Royal Academy of Art in London. Lu Chao's works are neither fashionable nor academic, they gracefully use a subtle technique to prompt a profound feeling of mystery and imagination. Received numerous supports and have been widely exhibited in galleries and institutions in China and abroad. Recent exhibitions held in London, Paris and Beijing were widely acclaimed including at Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery in Beijing, Galerie Nathalie Obadia in Paris, Rosenfeld Porcini Gallery in London, in the Museum of Contemporary Art Chengdu, the Today Art Museum, at Art Basel in Hong Kong, Art Chicago, Art Geneva, Art Brussels etc. He was recently nominated at the Saatchi New Sensation and the England's Painter-Stainers Goron Luton awards among others.



## HADRIEN DE MONTFERRAND GALLERY

Established in 2009, Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery was the first gallery in China entirely dedicated to original works on paper. "A drawing shows the first outburst, the expression of passion" says Hadrien de Montferrand. Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery has developed its exhibition roster to showcase young Chinese creators and international contemporary artists. In 2013, the gallery opened a second space in Hangzhou. This first international gallery in Zhejiang allows us to feature young promising artists.



## FOUNDERS

Hadrien de Montferrand has long served as a bridge between the Art worlds of China and Europe. His more than 15 years experience in the Art World, at various auction houses and Art institutions included roles as marketing director for ARTCURIAL, the largest French auction house, and the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing. Hadrien has lived and worked in China for more than 10 years.

An entrepreneur to the core, Laurent Dassault has expressed great support for Hadrien's initiative in China. Laurent serves as the administrator of the "Friends of Pompidou Museum's Association" in Paris, and heads the development committee for ARTCURIAL, auction house.

"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."

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. He opened HDM Gallery in Hangzhou in November 2013 offering a platform for the development of China's young creation.



### Gallery Contact:

+86 10 59789320

[hdm\\_gallery@163.com](mailto:hdm_gallery@163.com)

798 Art District, No.4 Jiuxianqiao Lu

Chaoyang District, Beijing, China

Duration: 11 March - 8 April 2017

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday from 11am to 6pm

(Or by appointment)

[www.hdemontferrand.com](http://www.hdemontferrand.com)



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