

HADRIENDE MONTFERRAND GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

OPENING : 28 OCTOBER 2017

BARTHÉLÉMY TOGUO | FRAGILE BODY CURATOR: ZHU ZHU 2017.10.28 – 12.31



Fragile Body No.11, 2017



Fragile Body No.1, 2017



Fragile Body No.17, 2017

“ It is obvious that Toguo does not belong to the artistic type that goes in for profundity and complexity. His pieces retain an enthusiasm which is poised to take action at any time. The conceptual framing sets brings about distinct effects of tension rather than merely grafting on slogans, news reports and calls-to-arms. In *Fragile Body* his choice of the ceramic medium, in and of itself, goes a long way toward explaining his message: life itself is lustrous but fragile. What is more, he places a porcelain rendering of his own head at the mouth of a bottle. Not only does this highlight a lyrical impulse to merge with dreams, it also indicates an individual’ s tininess, finitude and fragility. Our environment in the current world is narrowing like a bottle, within which the corporeal body of each individual is confined.”

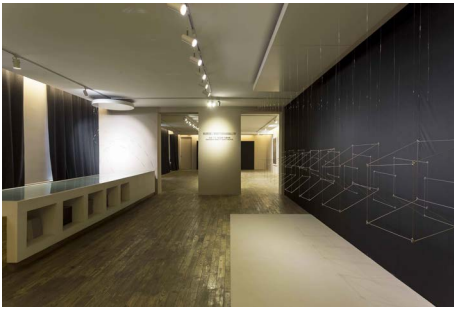
— Zhu Zhu

Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery is pleased to present “*Fragile Body*”, a solo exhibition of Barthélémy Toguo. The show will open on October 28th and close on December 31st 2017. This is the first solo exhibition of the artist with the gallery following a dual show with Chinese artist Guo Wei in 2010. Curated by Zhu Zhu, the show will include ceramics produced by Barthelemy Toguo in Jingdezhen as well as a group of works on paper.

Entitled “*Fragile Body*”, the exhibition focuses on the frailty of human beings. From birth to death, humans are constantly prey to illness, natural disaster, grief and loss. Despite technological advances and a sophisticated lifestyle, civilizations have not managed to protect themselves from epidemics, hurricanes, floods and diseases. In the current show, Barthelemy Toguo seeks to portray this fragility and instability using materials directly linked to China’ s artistic history: ceramics, paper and ink.

Born in 1967 in Cameroon, Barthelemy Toguo has been widely exhibited in solo presentations including at the Uppsala Museum, Sweden, Centre for Contemporary Art, Newcastle and Palais de Tokyo, Paris. He has been nominated for the 2017 Prix Marcel Duchamp and included group shows at the Venice Biennale, the Foundation Louis Vuitton, Sydney Biennale and Centre Georges Pompidou.

Zhu Zhu, poet, art curator, art critic, was born in September 1969. He won the Second Anne-Kao Poetry Prize and the third Chinese Contemporary Art Critic Award (CCAA). He is the author of collection of poems, essays and art reviews, including Franch version poetry ‘*Blue Smoke*’ (2004, French version, translator: Chantal Chen—Andro), ‘*Gray Carnival: Chinese Contemporary Art Since 2000*’ (Collection of ‘*Imagist*’ by Guangxi Normal University Press in 2013, published by ARTCO Journal in 2016). The English version poetry anthology ‘*The Wild Great Wall*’ will be published in 2017 by Phoneme Media in United States.



HADRIEN DE MONTFERRAND GALLERY

HDM Gallery is a contemporary and modern art gallery with a special focus on Chinese contemporary art. Founded in Beijing by Hadrien de Montferrand in 2009, it opened a second space in Hangzhou in 2013 headed by Olivier Hervet. A third space will open in London in October 2017.

Since its inception, the gallery has hosted solo shows of established Chinese artists including He An, Zhao Zhao and Jiang Zhi. It also launched the careers of younger artists such as Lu Chao, Wang Yi and Zhu Rixin. To broaden their audience, the gallery has tried to form partnerships for their promotion abroad. Thus, He An presented 2 solo shows at Galerie Daniel Templon in Paris and Brussels, Lu Chao's work was the object of a solo show at Galerie Nathalie Obadia in 2016 and Wang Xiaoshuang will exhibit his work at Galerie Diane de Polignac in October 2017.

Besides, the gallery has sought to bring Western artists to a new audience in Asia, often by presenting them alongside well-known Chinese artists. Dual shows of Venezuelan artist Elias Crespin with Ding Yi, of Cameroonian artist Barthélemy Toguo with Guo Wei and French artist Jean-Charles Blais with Wang Keping are part of this logic.

Finally, the gallery devotes some of its roster to widening the appeal of 20th Century art. It thus presented shows of works on paper by modern masters and two group exhibitions of preparatory sketches for propaganda paintings entitled "History in the Making".



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 HDM 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.



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Duration: 28 October - 31 December 2017

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

(Or by appointment)

www.hdemontferrand.com



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