

# HADRIENDE MONTFERRAND GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

OPENING: 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016

## CHEN HAN | THE VAST DARKNESS



*Golden Age*(detail), 2015



*Helped me through the night*(detail), 2016



*Lie*(detail), 2015

Hadrien de Montferrand is pleased to present Chen Han' s solo show "The Vast Darkness" from June 11 to August 28 featuring oil paintings and watercolors on paper.

Born in Liaoning, Chen Han (b.1973) graduated in 2005 from the Lu Xun Academy of Fine Arts, an academy renowned for its realistic and figurative tradition. Over the last decade Chen Han has developed a very specific style inspired by film noir in which male and female characters interact in a dramatic way. Men whisper secrets and plots are formed in scenes where the spectator becomes a voyeur. The characters featured never look at each other in the face, they conspire together, they cry, they press themselves on each other, they turn their back at us.

Chen Han chooses to focus on specific parts of the body to express an emotion and zooms in on them to accentuate it. Chen Han portrays relationships, the contradictions inherent in all of us and he creates plots featuring uneasy characters that throw the spectator off balance.

A subtle evolution and a recurrent feature in his works have become obvious over the last few years: he first portrayed characters in boxes from the waist upwards to express a feeling of oppression or protection. He also depicted several people on the canvas to create tension and an overall narrative. He has also branched into morbid topics by portraying characters devoid of heads, arms or legs in surrealist compositions. The preponderance of dark colours with a thick impasto and a somber background give a funereal atmosphere to the scenes and sharpen our curiosity.

The works of Chen Han therefore give us a sense of uneasiness while at the same time making us partake into intimate moments. With his painterly portraits and still lives, Chen Han produces a crepuscular and private world for us to tiptoe through.

In 2014, Chen Han held his first solo exhibition at HDM Gallery in Hangzhou and since 1999, he was featured in both national and international group exhibitions, including at Art Brussels 2014 (Belgium) , Art Taipei 2013 (Taiwan), Gallery Beijing Space (Beijing 2013), Lu Xun Academy of Fine Arts Museum (Shenyang, 2012), Hongding Gallery (Beijing, 2011) and M50 Creative Garden Shanghai (Shanghai 2011).



## 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.



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Exhibition Dates: 11 June - 28 August 2016

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

(Or by appointment)

www.hdemontferrand.com



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