

HADRIENDE MONTFERRAND GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

OPENING : 15 OCTOBER 2016

DIALOGUE | DING YI ELIAS CRESPIN



Elias Crespin, *Plano flexionante 7* (detail), 2016



Ding Yi, *Appearance of Crosses 2016 - B28* (detail), 2016



Elias Crespin, *Gran 16 cubos 8 x 2* (detail), 2014

Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery is delighted to present an exhibition featuring two major artists of the international contemporary art scene: Ding Yi and Elias Crespin. For the first time, these two artists are invited to interact with, and create a dialogue of their works. Different in their formal aspects, their works converge in a reflection about space, lines and sobriety. Elias Crespin's grand kinetic installations will be shown side by side with the works on paper of Ding Yi, the pioneer of abstraction in China.

Ding Yi (b.1962), the leader of China's new abstraction in the 1980s, led the way by creating two repetitive patterns "+" and "x". Separated from any representation of political or historical meaning, they are considered a symbol of a new freedom. Ding Yi is thus detached from the figurative and expressionist movements of some of his contemporaries. His crosses form a dense and complex network developed for almost 30 years in different colour compositions, alternatively using pigments, pens, markers, acrylic, pastels, on various media ranging from canvas to paper through cardboard and tapestry. For the artist this repetitive and obsessive use of the same motifs is a way to go beyond the brush strokes of ancient Chinese art, beyond tradition and furthermore to reflect on early modern European Art. Ding Yi makes this method a philosophy. The formal constraint eventually allows him to emancipate from the sociocultural references of many of his peers.

Ding Yi lives and works in Shanghai. Internationally recognized, he participated in the Venice Biennale (1993), the Yokohama Triennial (2001) and the Guangzhou Biennale (2002). In 2008, the Museum of Modern Art of Bologna in Italy devoted a major solo exhibition to him. His works are included in numerous collections, among which Centre Pompidou in Paris; Daimler Art Collection in Berlin; DSL Collection in Paris; Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art in Seoul; Long Museum in Shanghai; M + in Hong Kong; Uli Sigg Collection in Switzerland; Yuz Museum in Shanghai.

Born in Caracas of Venezuela in 1965, Elias Crespin first studied computer engineering and integrated both science and art into his artistic practice. He thus produces moving sculptures made of suspended metal mesh or rods that float in space, leading a dance of subtle colour and movements animated by small engines and a sophisticated technological device.

Crespin also plays with materials - steel, plexiglass and nylon - transparency and shadows. An heir to the South American kinetic art movement he developed a very personal line with his poetic mechanism of geometry. Crespin has captured the attention of some important institutions since he was included in the exhibitions *Dynamo* at the Grand Palais (2013), *Turbulence* at the Cultural Space of Louis Vuitton (2012), the *Busan Biennale* (2014) or in the Boghossian foundation. Galerie Denise René, the major gallery for abstract artists in the 20th century, supports his work since its inception. His works are included in some important collections including the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, the Museo del Barrio in New York and the MALBA in Buenos Aires.

In this exhibition we can find an exchange about the line and simple geometric shapes with special attention paid to the structure and movement fixed on paper or in action in space. Ding Yi's repetitive patterns of cross co-exist naturally with Crespin's aerial stems and wires, which is a real delight to the visitors grabbed by a playful, meditative and soothing mood.

With special thanks to ShanghART.



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

infos@hdemontferrand.com

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

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

(Or by appointment)

www.hdemontferrand.com



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