

The Scholar Stones Series

Niu An, 2016

The Scholar Stones series explores an important philosophical question: "Where do I come from?" I hope to learn the language of the stones and turn it into my own language. Every stone has a different expression, which is something difficult to describe. In these paintings, you can find all kinds of emotions — they are the manifestations of the paintbrush. I used different techniques and strokes from Chinese calligraphy, creating not a character, but a painting. Although the structures of these paintings seem very spontaneous, not one careless stroke can be found. While painting the stones, I did not wish to only admire them, depicting them as the ancients did; nor did I want to conquer them, creating something completely unrecognizable. I was trying to feel them, to paint what I understood about them. It is kind of interesting to depict the stones as "thin," "open," "perforated," and "wrinkled," as well as "ugly," "majestic," "strange," and "clumsy." Nonetheless, the stones' happiness and sadness should also be depicted. The only way to capture the beauty of the stones is to let them be free. The Scholar Stones series is about the deep attachment that the people from Jiangnan have for their homeland, which I believe will always be a source of inspiration for artists.

Selected Image:



Niu An (b.1968), *Taoist on the Scholar Stone*, 2017, Acrylic on canvas, 79 x 56 inches (200 x 142 cm)

《石在系列》

牛安，2016

《石在系列》是在回答一個重要的哲學問題：“我從哪裏來”。領略石頭的語言，然後化成自己的語言。每塊石頭的表情都不一樣的，雖然你很難表達清楚，但在繪畫中，一定有其抑揚頓挫的情感流露出來，都是筆的表情。我將書法裏的一撇一捺，側鋒、中鋒等筆法用進畫裏，但最後出來的不是一個字，而是一張畫。這張畫雖然構圖很自由，但沒有一筆是草率的。我畫石頭的時候，不準備只是欣賞它，像古人一樣地描繪它；也不想征服它，搞出面目全非的作品。我是在感受著石頭，把理解的石頭畫出來。畫太湖石的“瘦、漏、透、皺”，還有“醜、雄、奇、拙”，都是很有勁的，還要畫出它的喜、怒、哀、樂。要把它畫得美，唯一的辦法就是讓它獲得更大的自由。《石在系列》是身處江南的中國人的一份鄉愁，我覺得這份鄉愁永遠是一個藝術家的靈感源泉。

作品節選：



牛安 (b.1968), 石上道者, 2017, 丙烯畫布, 79 x 56 英尺 (200 x 142 釐米)