

Press Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHANSHAN SHENG: ALONG THE SILK ROAD

On View: May 5 – June 30, 2016

<http://www.wmingart.com/exhibitions/along-the-silk-road>



Shanshan Sheng (b. 1957), *Desert Oasis*, 2015, Oil and mixed media on canvas, 52 x 68 inches (132 x 173 cm)

New York, US – May 5, 2016 – W.Ming is pleased to announce the opening of “Along the Silk Road,” an exhibition of work by internationally recognized artist Shanshan Sheng. The show presents the a broad range of artist’s output, occurring in time from 1992 to 2016, and includes paintings and glass sculptures. The exhibition is specifically composed of eight paintings from the “Passage to Silk Road” series, as well glass works completed in the workshops on the island of Murano, close to Venice. This show will enable visitors to see the remarkable creativity of the Chinese-born, San Francisco-based artist.

Sheng's series of paintings develop a language close to the idiom of the New York School, in particular the work of Hans Hofmann. Also influential is the color theory of Joseph Albers. But truly these voluminous works refer to the history of abstract expressionism, in which feeling is expressed usually in inchoate masses of color, meant to bring out inner yearning and an awareness of the abstract potential of paint. Sheng is a highly developed artist in a technical sense, but most often her work is devoted to emotion and its capacity for communication with her audience.

At the same time, Sheng's Chinese background cannot be ruled out. Many of the paintings exhibit a close familiarity with Chinese calligraphy, whose innate expressiveness and structure allow the artist to address the expansiveness and vitality of large-scale abstract painting. In this way, she merges tradition and contemporaneity, forging a new path in a highly original manner. Actually, the work is deeply connected to the Chinese landscape: as Sheng herself comments, "The last ruins of the Great Wall, the vast Gobi Desert, the mysterious Dunhuang Caves, and the Flaming Mountains are deeply rooted in my mind when I paint, forming my artistic sensibility and practice.

In 2000 Sheng was the first Chinese artist to work in Murano. Working with artisans belonging to a thousand-year-old Italian glass-making tradition, the artist was able to merge her Asian background with the esthetic of the world's most famous center for the creation of art glass. Here Sheng brings her lively, colorful sensibility into works made of glass, whose transparency enables her to create a diffused, shimmering light, evident both in the smaller pieces and the public art for which she is so well known. Again, there is the meeting of Chinese esthetics and Western abstract expressionism; their connection brings about a merger that is not only beautiful, but speaks to the realities of today's multicultural environment.

Shanshan Sheng

Born in 1957 in Shanghai, Sheng was one of the first Chinese students in 1982 to win a full fine arts scholarship to America, attending Mount Holyoke and University of Massachusetts for studio art, with artist's residency at Harvard University. Sheng installed the first large-scale abstract paintings in China in 1999; her works were permanently installed in a series of China's tallest buildings and largest transit stations from 2000-2014, with recent works awarded public display in California, Germany, Italy, Hong Kong, and Shanghai. Her work "Open Wall" was installed at the 53rd Venice Biennale to warm acclaim.

Among with her artwork in museum exhibitions and include: Museum Kapma, Prague, Museum Millesgarden, Stockholm, Museum of Fine Art, Springfield, Massachusetts; Shanghai Museum of Glass, Xian Art Museum, China; Rohsska Museum for Design and Art, Goteborg, Sweden; Peace

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Museum, Chicago; National Liberty Museum, Philadelphia; Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, and China National Art Museum Beijing, China, and most recently at Peninsular Art Museum, California.

W.Ming Art

W. Ming is a private art advisory and consulting company founded in 2010 by Xiaoming Zhang. W. Ming represents artists for exhibitions and sales, and provides private sales and art advisory services for private and institutional clients globally. W. Ming has professional team members in Europe, America, and Asia; the company specializes in modern and contemporary art, especially in the field of Asian modern and contemporary works. W. Ming has two office spaces, one in Beijing and the other in New York.

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