

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Incarnation II

Shanghai

June 9 – August 15, 2018



Wang Mengsha (b. 1982), *Overture and Overture*, 2017, Ink, color, and mixed media on paper
71 3/5 x 76 inches (182 x 193 cm)

TCT × WMING Shanghai

Rm. 504, Zhongshi Building, No.130 East Beijing Road, Shanghai

Open Tuesday – Saturday, 09:30–18:00

Opening June 9, 2018 in Shanghai, TCT × WMING (GAWA) presents ***Incarnation II***, a group exhibition featuring works by five contemporary Chinese artists, curated by veteran curator Fu Xiaodong from Beijing.

The Book of Incarnation from Southern Tang dynasty notes that “a gentleman senses himself

by feeling the external world.” Yet the external world is always changing — sentient beings, stones, and plants move through different experiences, and never remain the same. The five artists featured in *Incarnation II* use ink, narration, and image to exemplify different knowledge and perceptions of the relationship between humans and nature, between subjective and objective experience. This exhibit offers a visual book that invites the viewer to rethink his or her current relationship with nature, and offers methods to link traditional wisdom with modern experience.

A professor at the China Art Academy’s Chinese Painting and Calligraphy Department, **Lin Haizhong** (b. 1968) is known for his traditional Chinese landscape paintings. From 2011 to 2013, he created 18 murals depicting various Chinese mythologies at Linyin Temple, receiving wide acclaim for their novel style and fine ink technique. *Incarnation II* showcases Lin’s works including *Poetry Album of Understanding the Ancients’ Thoughts* (2016) and *Willows by the Lake Under Spring Clouds* (2016), which present the sublime essence of the natural world. Lin’s artwork offers a sense of harmony, tranquility, and spirituality, drawing inspiration from Zen meditation and the harmonious relationship between humans and nature. His subtle use of ink reveals his intimate relationship with nature, and his close observation of all its fine details.

Based in Beijing, **Wang Bingfu** (b. 1936) is one of many prolific artists who studied at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in the 1950s. Wang draws on the stylistic traditions of Qi Baishi and Huang Binhong in his own scenic figure paintings. He focuses on presenting detail and interconnection within the pictorial space, using brushwork that is simple and powerful. While in a labor camp during the Cultural Revolution for 15 years, Wang was not allowed to create artwork; when he started to paint once again after his release, his paintings exploded with his enormous passion for artistic expression, and he created 400 pages of drawings based on his life experience since birth. In *Incarnation II*, Wang’s painting series *Allegory* (2014-15) are sourced from traditional Chinese stories, but rather than only illustrating these stories, he focuses on personal and social histories, depicting scholars as personifications of the artist himself. These scholars present the Chinese concept of the ‘gentleman’ (*jun zi*) who resists all social pressure to compromise.

Wang Mengsha (b. 1982) is a young artist in the field of contemporary ink art who has studied and lived in Australia. Her artwork integrates symbols from the West and East imbued with a twist of cartoonish cuteness. Using metaphors including Lacan’s mirror stage and Zhuang Zi’s butterfly, symbols such as flowers and stones and vibrant pink and green colors she explores the interaction between the internal spiritual world and the external material world, between fantasy and mundanity. Wang’s feminine, transcendental art offers a lighthearted experience for the viewer while exploring the balance of truth and power between these seemingly opposite realms of experience.

Yan Xiaojing (b. 1978) is a female artist who lived in Canada. She uses her experience of life overseas to take a closer look at Chinese cultural traditions. Yan uses sculpture and installations to make her own ‘auspicious signs’, traditional symbols of good fortune that are ordinarily considered to be rewards from heaven for good action. Through her use of these symbols in a contemporary context, Yan questions and explores the underlying moral standards that are reflected within these signs, and reinterprets the cultural and historical understanding of humans, heaven, and nature. Her works are not coming from the spontaneousness in nature

but rather she carefully manipulated her materials in a transformative way.

Hong Lei (b. 1960) is an established photographer who lives in Changzhou, China. Hong earned renown for his photography of the ruined relics of the Palace from the Southern Song dynasty, presenting the glory and grace of this lost civilization with an elegant nostalgia. The bloody scholarly rocks, the crushed birds with colorful feathers that lie beneath the Chinese scholar's gardens, and the photographic replicas of scenes in Chinese court paintings — all of these deeply touched the hearts of the literati of that era. Inside the glorious and splendid exteriors lurks mortal risk and decline that are closer to the truth of that vanished age. Hong's smaller photos in this exhibition are dense with detailed information. His series of works on ancient Chinese gardens and historical themes uses superimposition techniques to reveal the paradoxical relationship between time and space.

Curator

Fu Xiaodong (b. 1977) is an independent curator, art critic, and founder of Space Station, Beijing. She served as Executive Editor-in-Chief of the magazine *Fine Arts Literature* and is Artistic Director of China Young Artists Project, Artistic Director of T. Art Center, as well as editor of *Meiyuan* and the journal of Lu Xun Academy of Fine Arts. Fu was Visiting Curator at 24HR ART (Australia) and the Centre Pompidou-Metz. Her curatorial projects include the 8th Shenzhen International Ink Painting Biennale, the 3rd Hubei Documentary Exhibition of Fine Arts, 2010 Get It Louder, "Through the Body" at the University of Toronto Art Center, and the 13th and 15th OPEN Performance Art Festivals. Since 2012, she has been leading the project "The 8th Day – Artists in Scientists' Laboratories" in collaboration with guokr.com.

TCT (Tea Coffee Tea)

Founded by Angela Bi after more than a decade working with Visas Consulting Group, TCT (Tea Coffee Tea) aims to bring diverse lifestyle services to its clients, and to share inspiration and treasures from modern life. TCT has offices in Vancouver and Shanghai.
www.teacoffeetea.com

W.Ming

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 advisor 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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