

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunshine on the Himalayas

March 20, 2018 – May 4, 2018

<http://www.wmingart.com/exhibitions/sunshine-on-the-himalayas-li-shuang>



Li Shuang (b.1957), *Sunshine on the Himalayas*, 2017, Acrylic on canvas, Each 51 1/4 x 38 1/4 inches (130 x 97 cm), 2 panels

TCT x WMING

New York, NY

Please contact in advance to view the exhibition:

Tia Xu: +1 917 535 6286; tia.xu@wmingart.com

TCT x WMING (GAWA) is pleased to present ***Sunshine on the Himalayas***, the solo exhibition of China-born, Paris- and Beijing-based artist **Li Shuang (b.1957)**. This exhibition showcases Li Shuang's recent 2009-2017 paintings that reiterate oriental metaphysics in a contemporary style.

Every painting of Li Shuang's recent series carries a special message: through liberating ourselves from our rigid self-identities, our minds can extend into boundless openness. This deep religious wish is innate, hardwired in our humanity — as explained by English philosopher Aldous Huxley, “the urge to escape, the longing to transcend ourselves if only for a few moments, is and has always been one of the principal appetites of the soul”. Such longing pervades Li Shuang’s paintings — the vague and fluid boundaries between figures and external environment, the bond of connection between the depicted couple, and the pure-but-vast, all-embracing background — all aspects point to this uniting transcendence.

Li Shuang’s works present the fruit of the journey into the inner world, rather than the objects or accomplishments of the outer world. Her painting *Shambala* presents this most clearly, by referencing the eponymous hidden wonderland of the Himalayas presented in Buddhist teachings. As explained in the Kalachakra tantra, the pureland of Shambala cannot be found externally — as it lies in one’s own mind, it can be discovered and enjoyed only by progressing along the spiritual path. Li Shuang reveals this inner journey towards transcendence through colors and light. As explained by Michael Nuridsany, one of her greatest strengths is “her admirable sense of light.” In *Welcome You*, her fascinating, natural application of light, together with blossoming colors, creates the aura of the ineffable realms of heaven.

Li Shuang’s artistic creations integrate the Taoist philosophy of the union of yin and yang, of a universe arising from and consisting of an oneness of opposites. This principle of nature as well as method of spiritual liberation is represented by the symbol of the couple throughout her works. The couple — always a male and a female, with a highly similar look, as if doppelgängers — represents the interrelated pair of opposites that form this transcendent unity. Through understanding and revealing the non-dual nature present within the dual, by bridging the chasms between self and other and inner and outer, we can each open to the all-pervading bliss and infinite possibility of full union. As Li Shuang notes, “It all ends up in ecstasy”.

Li Shuang

Born in Beijing and raised in a family of intellectuals during the Cultural Revolution, Li Shuang began painting as an escape. She was the only female founding member of the Stars Group, a collection of experimental artists who challenged the government's cultural and political orthodoxy. Her life took a dramatic turn when she was imprisoned for her romantic relationship with a French diplomat. After release, she was allowed to immigrate to France. She remained dedicated to art throughout her years in Paris, while conducting a mystic voyage through the ocean of western and oriental spirituality.

Some of her solo exhibitions include Today Art Museum (Beijing, 2017), Galerie du Triangle (Lyon, 2013), Willem Kerseboom Gallery (Amsterdam, 2008), Caves Art Center Shanghai (Shanghai, 2008), Galerie du Monde Gallery (Hong Kong, 2004), and Municipal Museum (Vervins, 1990). Li Shuang's works have been collected by international institutions such as Epernay Museum, Brest Art Museum, and Leda Fletcher Gallery, as well as private collectors including Zao Wou-Ki, Mel Gibson, and French Madam President Pompidou.



Li Shuang (b. 1957), *Joy*, Acrylic on canvas, 39 3/4 x 48 7/8 inches (101 x 124 cm)

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.

Website: 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.

Website: www.wmingart.com

Press Inquiries

Tia Xu: +1 917 533 9788; tia.xu@wmingart.com

Visits by Appointment

+1 917 535 6286; tia.xu@wmingart.com

Sales Inquiries

Xiaoming Zhang: +1 917 535 6286 (USA), +86 186 1883 3806 (China);

xiaoming.zhang@wmingart.com; WeChat: 186 8883 3806

Angela Bi: +1 604 821 0999 (Canada), +86 133 0165 2020 (China);

angelabi@tctandco.com; WeChat: Angela7783226718