

Press Release  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Transcending Duality: Lowell Boyers***

On view: September 8 – November 3, 2017

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Lowell Boyers (b. 1966)  
*Arising Red Bang Blossoming*, 2016  
Acrylic paint, resin, watercolor and ink on canvas  
36 x 24 inches (91 x 61cm)

"I use raw canvas like the template of our mind which, before perception, is a fertile but empty ground we fill and dissipate all phenomena into and onto."

"I do regard painting part of the practice; In fact, the so-called spiritual practice cannot be separate from worldly activities."

– Lowell Boyers

W. Ming is pleased to present *Transcending Duality*, a solo exhibition of New York-based artist, Buddhist practitioner and strength healer, Lowell Boyers (b. 1966).

The selection of more than twenty large works on canvas, and a number of drawings that Boyers created throughout the period from 2011 to 2017, presents philosophical dialogues on the pictorial surface where pairs of seemingly opposite elements merge into dynamic harmony. As a long-time Buddhist practitioner following the Tibetan tradition, Boyers' work embodies concepts of ancient eastern religions, transcending the thresholds among discontinuous time and space.

Painted with thin layers of acrylic, water color, and ink, added by a translucent resin varnish, the canvas powerfully evokes a world of fluid substance and spontaneous gestures, yet shows physical force and effortless control, especially in places where intricate delineations are applied. Boyers develops a unique method of spilling paint, taking the hand's expertise "just a little out of the picture, allowing the tiniest bit of chaos." Art historian Edward A. Shanken commented that the hallmark of Boyers' work is the combination of "muscularity and delicacy." Boyers allows the spontaneous expression of the wrist dancing on the canvas, yet remains mindful of the flow.

Boyers renders the natural motifs, such as lotus, feathers and clouds, with exuberant colors and calligraphic strokes that signify the technique rooted in the practice of ancient Eastern cultures. Behind the webs of meandering streaks and small pools of colors, an enigmatic creature in human form emerges. The relationship between the figure and the foreground veil of colors is ambivalent - does it simply ride the psychedelic clouds, or is it the original force who breathes out the mysterious puffs that give form to the swirling substance?

"There is no distinction between the inside and outside of the figure or person", Boyers answers. There is no clear boundary between the figure and the clusters of colors representing external phenomena, which can also be an expression of the figure's inner world that bursts and projects outward. Such relationship between the inner body and the external world embodies the *Three Kayas* in Buddhist philosophy: in the *Dharmakaya* of emptiness, the expression of clarity, which is *Sambogakaya*, naturally emerges. *Sambogakaya* further manifests

and formulates into all the appearances that we are experiencing, that is, *Nirmanakaya*. The three kayas are like the night sky, moon, and moonlight; one cannot tell one from another.

The idea of 'nonduality' also extends to the conceptualization of time in Boyers' creation. "There is no time in my works," Boyers explains that he tries to "collage multiple event on the same plane." The interrelated layers of colors intersecting the melting outline of the figure evokes an unformulated space, a timeless openness that embodies and brews all possibilities, abiding in the equilibrium of a 'middle-way' in-between the fringes. The duality of existence and non-existence has been elaborated by scholars in the Nalanda University 1,400 years ago - they confirmed that there is no such thing as the smallest particle that inherently exists by applying logical reasoning. In Buddhist epistemology, existence and nonexistence,nowness and afterwards, are each untenable. The ultimate view admits nothing whatsoever, refutes the absolute void, and is thus eliminated from the two extremes of existentialism and nihilism. Everything, the universe, or rather, 'multi-verse' exists in only one moment, yet this moment is fertile.

Although the figures are presented with dissimilar characteristics, one may have the feeling that it reincarnates in Boyers' paintings - one life after another, like beads connecting with each other and being shaped into one long rosary. "I always feel that my works are one - they are individually different of course, but they are created out of one continuity of mood." Through his works, Boyers introduces us into a continuous, myriad inward adventure of mind, that simultaneously touches the veils of the interworking of the world.



From left to right: *Contemplation*, 2017, acrylic and ink on paper, 22 ½ x 15 ¼ inches (57 x 39 cm); *Becoming*, 2016, acrylic and ink on paper, 23 x 15 inches (58 x 38cm); *Arising Blue*, 2016, acrylic and ink on paper, 22 ½ x 15 ¼ inches (57 x 39 cm)

## Lowell Boyers

Lowell Boyers is a graduate of MFA program at Yale University and the Rhode Island School of Design (BFA). His work has been included in private and institutional exhibitions in Cologne, Germany, Abu Dhabi, India, New York, Los Angeles, Houston, Dallas and St Louis. His creativity has successfully cut through the mundane converging boundaries into springboards for liberation. Boyers states, "I see the creative imagination as a birthright belonging to every being, and my work is fundamentally a textural portrayal of the unfolding blossoming of various stages of awakening to that active nature."

Also as owner of *ThresholdNYC West*, a private strength and healing facility in West Chelsea, he is deeply committed to the practice of training the body and the mind as a vehicle for continuously progressive strength gains and for metaphorically moving mountains. Boyers deeply values the combination of maintaining a deep faith in the benefits of the Buddha Dharma and of Fine Art while also nurturing his clients as a strength and conditioning guide and healer.

He currently lives and works in New York, NY.

## W. Ming Art

W. Ming Art 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 offices, one in Beijing and the other in New York. Its two showing spaces in New York and Shanghai will be open in the Fall of 2017.

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