

Press Release

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Yan Li: One Thing Worth Celebrating Is My Awakened Memory, From the Dawn of Civilization

W.Ming 2020 Summer Show Is Now Live Online

New York, June 18 – In this summer, W.Ming organizes Summer Show to bring the sun, light, love and hope to all. For the first event of the Summer Show, W.Ming is pleased to launch Yan Li's online exhibition, *One Thing Worth Celebrating Is My Awakened Memory, From the Dawn of Civilization*, on W.Ming online exhibition room from June 18th to August 30th, 2020.

One Thing Worth Celebrating Is My Awakened Memory, From The Dawn of Civilization is a sentence from Yan Li's poem, *Summoning*, written in March 28, 2020. This exhibition shows Yan's twenty oil paintings and works on paper, among them, nine of the works were created during the COVID-19 period, the other eleven works, were the commemorative paintings of the 911 crisis from 2001 to 2002. In 2020, while in New York, Yan wrote two poems to express his thoughts and introspection of this pandemic. From this exhibition, the audiences not only can understand Yan Li's works in his different creative and crisis historical periods, but also have a chance to reflect the histories. The calls the viewers to think about how the world shall be developed after the pandemic and how human beings can coexist and respect to each other under different ideologies with nature.

Yan Li started painting and writing poetries in 1979. As a painter, Yan Li condenses the poetic on the pen and signs on the canvas. His paintings are free-forms in language, free-spirited, and maintain a pioneering and innovative attitude, which deeply infused with his consistently humanistic care for decades. As a poet, Yan always sticks to his consciousness as a poet, that is, the unity of poetry and action, the unity of the spirit in modern poetry and the sentiment in classical poetry, as indignant as a young man, as wise and profound as an old man, as capable of balancing rationality reality with witty humor.

Poetry and painting are two representations that make up Yan's artistic career. Yan traveled from China to the United States, and he experienced throughs an entirely different social culture and political environments, Yan has always followed his inner voice, humanism and social responsibility. Being in east and west culture, spanning the two realms of poetry and painting, afford Yan more diverse expression makes him create a kind of isolated Yan's space in the Chinese and Western contemporary art. Times, life, and everything around him is drawn into poetry in his pen.

Yan Li said, "This exhibition was curated in New York by W.Ming in the first half of 2020. In my opinion, it is powerless to provide only aesthetic visual objects, the theme is more important. This is because that all literature and art ultimately aim at civilized human behaviors, and works are part of the process. W.Ming also has the same idea so we try our best to make this timely online exhibition. I am a person who advocates independent thinking. After being thrown backwards, our thoughts are becoming simple, we do not need to compare evil with each other, but need to recognize the virtues in others. Let's us continue to work hard! Everything else I want to say is in the artworks".

Libor Sečka, former Czech Ambassador to Beijing, China, commented that "Yan Li is a poet, visionary, explorer. He also tears apart the shackles of the ordinary, the usual. Looking at his paintings brings out in me a feeling of an unstoppable ascent of a rising balloon. If you get on, it will take you into the endless space of fantasy and imagination

that is springing out of a poetic perception of things around us. You can feel the sun which gives sharpness and brightness to colors, you can hear music into which colors seep in, your soul is touched by a kind voice reciting poem somewhere far away. You want to stay, to rest, to not go back, to fall asleep in this painting.”

In 2020, from the forest fire in Australia to Ebola virus relapse in Africa, from Covid-19 to social unrest, the crisis swept one after another. Under the crisis, what is the role of the art? W.Ming hopes to bring lights, power and love through art and culture with Summer Show during this summer to our global audiences. We hope to inspire our friends, families, partners, clients and audiences.

About Yan Li:

Yan Li was born in 1954 in Beijing, China. Now he lives and works in New York, United States. He started writing poetry in 1973 and painting in 1979. Yan is the founder of “First line” poetry, one of the representatives of the obscure poet, and one of the members of the Star Group. In 1984, Yan Li held one of the earliest avant-garde art exhibitions in China at the Shanghai People's Park. Recently, he held exhibitions at Whitebox Harlem Art Center (2020), 798 Boers-Li Gallery (2019), Shanghai Lingang Contemporary Art Museum (2018), Hanwei International Art Center (2018), University of Iowa Museum of Art (2003) and more. Yan’s works have collected by Shanghai Art Museum, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, and other private collectors. In 1987, Yan founded the "First Line" poetry journal in New York, and he was the editor-in- chief. So far, Yan has published more than 20 works, including poems, short stories, novels, prose and paintings, which have been translated into many languages.

About W.Ming:

W.MING 蓮藝

W.Ming Art is a private art advisory founded in 2010 by Xiaoming Zhang. W.Ming Art represents artists for exhibitions and sales, and provides private sales and art advisory services for private and institutional clients globally. The company specializes in international modern and contemporary art, especially in the field of Asian modern and contemporary works. W.Ming has three office spaces, one is in Beijing; one is in Shanghai and one is in New York.

Curated by:

Lingyuan Hu

Special Thanks to Leru Chen:

Curator, writer, artist. Graduated from Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts, she once worked as an editor, journalist and deputy editor of China's National Environmental Media and now is a curator of Chinese Art at W.Ming Art.

For more information:

W.Ming Art official website: <http://www.wmingart.com/>

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