

## ***A Passage of '0'***

**Stella Zhang, 2004-2017**

Our keen awareness of life often brings us to a realm of much deeper intuition, ripe for spiritual awakening. This spiritual awakening discerns the taste of an artwork. The realm of '0' has always inspired me to search for the rhythm of life's essence, or its energy when released.

My works care more about life than the mere creative expression of making art. I've committed to connecting my life experience with life's changes that evolve around the shape of '0'.

Often the most ordinary objects in my life — such as a tiny drop of water, a piece of withered wood branch, or a handful of sand from nature — arouse my most delicate feelings. These objects frequently become sources of inspiration for me to transform these '0's into works of art.

Because these materials come from nature, from simple elements within creation, these subjects are my searches for the infinity without boundary. True beauty can only be discovered by ones who have seen the macro and micro, subjective and objective, art and science, yin and yang, and east and west, and who have completed the incomplete. These contrasts strengthen my inner freedom to envision imaginary spaces — their flexible elasticity, their infinite extension and permanency, as implied by '0'.

'0' is my pursuit, a response to life's spirit essence or my Asian taste for revelation in life. '0' has cleansed, filtered, distilled, accumulated, and recorded every bit of my life experience to create a '0-energy' realm on canvas. The energy stored within the sphere of '0' is a condensed substance field to transform the complex into the common and simple, the human physical into the divine and mystical. These imply a perpetuating force that continues through the ever-changing universe.

Multiplying '0's connects the fragmented visual points in the environment by giving birth to the organisms within the revolving circles of earth. Every object in life rotates around a full cycle of birth, beginning, crack, mutation, merging, death, ending, and rebirth as depicted in my '0' series. This revitalizing energy helped me tremendously to inject life into my arduous art-making process. From these '0's I have found my loss and replenished my future consistently. These joining powers have energized my consciousness to express their fluidness and richness within the passage of time.

The spiraling '0's reinforced my realization of the interrelated succession of the ecosystem. These '0's refreshed myself with a beginner's heart throughout my daily endeavors. They always offered me a space or realm to progress, to do a house cleaning of my mind, to free my self-centered soul to reconnect with and resume an original spirit. When I think little of achievement or of self, I become a true beginner, ready to really learn something. A beginner's heart often owns a gentle spirit of compassion. When my heart is compassionate, I notice that I am able to re-examine the trueness of life, to learn from life.

As an artist, I pray sincerely that my artworks may support viewers to generate a more caring heart, together making the world a better place where we all live with greater compassion.

For me, '0' is Zen, an awakening, a realization, a compassion surpassing form or format. It records the many paths I've treaded upon in life, seeking the spirit within living organisms via their own language to present portraits of nature.

'0' is Tao, it is in my passage rather than my path. As I looked into the spirit of cosmic change, I tried to register the eternal growth which returns to itself to produce new forms in harmony, in pureness and in oneness.

## 《0簡述》

張爽，2004–2017

“0”成為我藝術表現上的一個焦點是因為它超越了我們通常認為的形狀和意義，進入了一種即簡單又複雜的深層精神領域。像是一條河流，“0”形象沿著我的思維途徑，展現給我一個無限的想像空間。

“0”作為一個自然界中最為基礎的形狀，遍及於我們生活各個層面的內部與外部，以最為極限的體量單位支配著萬物；“0”也像是一把打開對自然界認識的鑰匙，以一種引導性的力量，提供給我一個切入點。

在事物的內在因素中，無論陰/陽，虛/實，混亂與規律之中，都隱涵著一種極為真實的精神性。“0”提示給我的是一種巨大的可能意識，使我可以進入一個有意義的形態，挑戰我對生存與真實的理解能力。

“0”是一種催化劑，令我對事物表面的認識與幻覺上升並運作為我內在的觀念與精神，把真正的自我裸露於我的作品之中。

“0”容涵了時間與空間。是一個無限的依賴於精神的再現。

創作材料的選擇也是一種非常重要的藝術表達方式。我使用沙——天然的岩彩是因為沙的自然屬性使我感到熟悉，隨手可以觸及但又隨時可以忽略它的存在。這種單純的材質使用使我更容易放棄不必要的細節描述，保持相對純粹的效果去更準確地把握作品的內涵。

創作的本質是觀念的表達，無論我們使用何種材料與表現方式，其拓展空間是存在的。只有在不局限於一種固有概念的約束下，思維與表達的自由才能實現。