

Within Sight: Chinese New painting at Post Financial Crisis Era

Curator: Zhu Tong

Duration : Sep.28-Nov.11

Venue: Tang Contemporary Art Bangkok

Artist: Chen Ke / Chen Yujun / Luo Quanmu / Li Changlong / Xiang Nan / Li
Qing / Liu Jiahua / Zhang Wenrong

Exhibit Theme:

In Chinese art education system, there has always been a focus on paintings. A signature theme of modern Chinese art has been established since “Cynical Realism” and “Political Pop”. Historical events have made this direction inevitable. Ever since the globalization of modern Chinese art, it has been facing the destiny of “being chosen” by the western modern art power. While appreciating modern Chinese art for its exoticness, the western world starts paying attention to the special system that generates the different art, which happens to be in accordance with the commercialization of art. However, this doesn't affect the importance of those arts in winning modern Chinese art its global reputation and development. The break-out of 2008 financial crisis not only changed the situation of global economy, but more

deeply affected global politics, culture and even the valuations of cultures. When comparing to the developments of Chinese contemporary art in nearly thirty years, this moment also marked the watershed of academic system and even commercial values of Chinese contemporary art. After going through the financial crisis, an evolution from the younger generation has quietly started, which is reflected in the all around soaring in the process of urbanization and commercialization of China against the world pattern today. Along with the arriving of a stage of internet and image, an overall imagination about Chinese themselves and the world was brought to Chinese people; meanwhile, such a rapid development brought to Chinese society and people some kind of unbalance and enormous uncertainty, which also brought to contemporary artists the new resource for artistic creation. Artists started to intervene into contemporary life with a more pluralistic creation posture; they interact with the brand new social life with their sensitivities, their creation forms start to intersect with various media and brought into brand new artistic forms and expression ways.

Most of the artists in this show grew up under this circumstance and background. They hold brand new lifestyles and interpretations towards art. Indeed the pursuit of beauty and taste among the young generations has been influenced by public popular culture. They intend

to express and explore life in a more direct and cheerful way. In spite of the pain and nihilism of the young, there is always some joy of freedom and images in their created works.

The new generation artists value the freedom of thinking as the starting point of anything. Today, we could ignore all the logics within art and free our minds from those so called rules and formality. In their world, limitation is meaningless while rules equal depression and restrictions, only free soul could inspire creation. Being in such variant and complicated time, art has never been so active and full of possibility. The core value of arts must go back to its original foundation. We probably cannot predict what direction art is heading for certain, just like we cannot predict the future, but it is in this uncertainty and risk of future that we are embracing a brand new great era.