

HdM GALLERY

HE AN | BIRTHMARK

10/01/2019 – 04/02/2019



He Taoyuan, 2018



Rope, 2018



We Played the Flute and You Did Not Dance,
We Sang a Dirge and You Did Not Weep
2018

HdM GALLERY is proud to present 'Birthmark' – a solo exhibition of the works of Chinese Contemporary artist He An. This will be the artist's second collaboration with HdM GALLERY and his third time exhibiting in Europe.

He An's 'Birthmark' series continues his work creating installations from the light-boxes and neon signage which dominate the urban landscape in his native Wuhan – particularly at night when their theatricality is most arresting. He An uses these lights (often stolen with the acquiescence of the criminal underground of Wuhan) to create his own urban connections. Emotional, theatrical and autobiographical, the artist's works speak of family, love and loss.

He An's light-box works are born out of the rapid urbanisation in China's cities. Most commonly associated with low-end retail advertisement, the neon characters and signs that comprise the body of He An's work are testament to an overwhelming commercialism in urban China.

The light boxes of the Chinese landscape tend to come in stock shapes, colours, fonts and materials, yet He An seeks to alter the unoriginal aesthetics of these industrial, ready-made products to produce unique and deeply personal pieces. From corrugated cardboard to industrial wool carpets, He An's works seek to transform industrial material into something far deeper.

Indeed, a number of He An's works were created following a period of emotional turmoil. They become a very public display of a private emotion – turning dialogue into dramatic installation. Take for example his work 'He Taoyuan' which takes as its title the name of the artist's deceased father. The Chinese characters which make up this work have been dropped from a great height, destroyed, and reconstructed. The work flickers in a way which is reminiscent of respiration, a memorial to the life of He An's father.

He An's works are extensively collected and exhibited in a wide range of notable institutions both Chinese and international. Among these are listed Saatchi Gallery (London, U.K), Carnegie Museum of Art, (Pittsburgh, U.S.A), Redtory Museum of Contemporary Art (Guangzhou, CHINA) Australia Centre for Contemporary Art (Melbourne, AUSTRALIA), and CAFA Art Museum (Beijing, CHINA)



Beijing space



London space



HdM GALLERY

HdM GALLERY is a leading contemporary gallery with a special focus on Contemporary Chinese Art. Founded on a passion for Chinese art, the first HdM GALLERY was opened in Beijing in 2009 - the success of which leading to a subsequent gallery opening in Hangzhou in 2013. Founders and partners Hadrien de Montferrand, Laurant Dassault, and Olivier Hervet have garnered over 10 years of experience and understanding of the art market in China, witnessing first-hand China's rapidly evolving art ecosystem.

HdM GALLERY proudly represents a wealth of emerging Chinese artists among which are He An, Chen Han, Hao Shiming, and Wang Yi. Having established a reputation as a leading gallery in the field of Chinese contemporary art - working with established Chinese artists such as Mao Yan and Liu Xiaodong - HdM GALLERY is dedicated to using their expertise to nurture and develop the careers of these new artists. Exhibiting regularly at prominent fairs such as Art Brussels, Photo London and Art Basel Hong Kong, HdM introduces contemporary Chinese artists to a worldwide client base and broadens perceptions, understanding and appreciation of these engaging contemporary works.

Though initially specialising exclusively in Chinese Art, the ethos of the gallery has since seen a development. HdM has evolved to work with noted Western artists - often exhibiting their works alongside their Chinese contemporaries, bridging the Chinese and Western art markets through this previously unexplored approach. The result is an exhibition with a unique and thought-provoking fusion of influences and on this topic, founder Hadrien de Montferrand defines the identity of the gallery as 'an international gallery with strong Chinese DNA'. Western artists such as Martin Kollar, Ivan Messac, Romain Bernini, Manuel Mathieu and Barthélemy Togo are currently represented by HdM GALLERY.

FOUNDERS

Hadrien de Montferrand has long served as a bridge between the Art worlds of China and Europe. His more than seven years at various auction houses and Art institutions included roles as marketing director for ARTCURIAL, the largest French auction house, and for the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing.

Laurent Dassault, an entrepreneur to the core, helped to found Arquana, continental Europe's leading horse auction house, in 2006. His entrepreneurial spirit extends to his charitable activities as well: Laurent serves as the administrator of the "Friends of Pompidou Museum's Association" in Paris, and heads the development committee for the auction house ARTCURIAL.

Olivier Hervet graduated with an MA in Classics from Oxford University in 2008. After working for Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery since its inception in 2009 where he developed the gallery's network of young collectors, he became a partner in 2012 with the goal of opening a second space in China.

Gallery Contact

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Opening Hours: Monday - Friday from 10 am to 6pm

(By appointment)

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