

HdM GALLERY

Yang Yongliang | Eternal Landscape

17/05/2019 – 12/06/2019



Eternal Landscape, 2017



Outside No.7, 2006



Journey to the Dark, 2017

HdM GALLERY London presents *Eternal Landscape* a solo show by leading Chinese, multimedia artist Yang Yongliang. It will be his first major collaboration with HdM GALLERY and his first solo exhibition in London.

Yang Yongliang has one of the most distinctive practices in the Chinese contemporary art scene. Working with photography, video and VR, he inhabits the subject and aesthetics of traditional Chinese landscape painting and powerfully and acutely reiterates them in the light of the modern world. At first glance Yang Yongliang's images appear to simply deploy the iconography of Chinese landscape painting; mountains, rivers and waterfalls depicted in ethereal settings, wreathed in mist. They seem to exude the traditional sensibility of that genre - a reverence for the value and harmony of nature. On closer inspection however, the pictorial elements reveal themselves to be formed of, variously, photographic and video collages of dense Chinese cities, manifest in all their frantic and expansive modernity. In this moment of double-take, Yongliang's work communicates the tension and dissonance in the contemporary Chinese experience, between traditional ideas and forms and the extreme changes wrought by rapid economic development.

Eternal Landscape showcases the essence of Yongliang's practice through a curated selection of his most important recent works. The highlight of the show *Journey to the Dark*, 2017 is Yongliang's greatest video work to date. Employing a three-channel 4K format, the work depicts an epic, nocturnal landscape of steep mountains set against a bright, starry sky. In the quintessential fashion of his work, the landscape comprises a video collage of areas of cities, shot at night. Lights shine and flicker and traffic flows, conjuring the powerful sensation of the city being alive. An ambient soundscape completes the viewer's immersive experience, pulsing with the beat and sounds of technology and snippets of classical music drifting in and out of hearing.

Immersion in an entirely different world is provided by *Eternal Landscape*, 2017 is the artist's first Virtual Reality work. A specialist in commercial 3-D modelling and animation, Yongliang has been adept at using this new technology for his artistic ends. *Eternal Landscape* places the viewer in a mountain landscape culled from a traditional landscape painting. Humans and their culture are absent, leaving the misty rocks to the deer and the occasional, prowling tiger.

Views of Water, 2018, is a series of digital videos that take the works of Song Dynasty painter Ma Yuan (c1160-1225) as their starting point. Ma's classic studies of water concentrated on the qualities and properties of water in motion. Yang's contemporary iterations carefully recreate key aspects of these historic images in digital video but translate the static bodies of water back into an active, animated state. A 21st century perspective informs a further reading of *Views of Water*, beyond the formal and aesthetic. At this time, perhaps more so than any other, water is becoming an issue of global concern both in terms of water security and sea level rise. Yang's subtly manipulated waterscapes are imbued with a feeling of disquiet or unrest, remaining at a distance from reality.

Outside, 2006, is a series of photographic works that present expansive views of landscapes seen from within abandoned and soon-to-be demolished factories and industrial spaces from Yongliang's hometown. As with all his works, the images offer a melancholy and philosophical mediation on the relationship between humanity and our rapidly changing environment.

Yang Yongliang was born in Shanghai in 1980. He graduated from the Shanghai Design School of the China Academy of Fine Art in 1999 with a major in visual communication design. He currently lives and works in Shanghai and New York. His works are widely exhibited in major art galleries and biennales, including the Metropolitan Museum of New York, the UCCA Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, the Moscow Biennale, etc. His works are also featured in numerous art galleries and public institutions. And personal collections such as the Metropolitan Museum (New York, USA), the British Museum (London, UK), the National Gallery of Victoria (Melbourne, Australia), the Brooklyn Museum of Art (New York, USA), the Museum of Modern Art in Paris (Paris, France), Franks-Suss Collection (London, UK) and M+Sigg Collection (Hong Kong, China).

Special thanks to Matthew Liu Fine Arts for its support and cooper



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

m@hdmgallery.com

1st Floor, 42 Conduit Street, Mayfair, London W1S 2YH

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

(By appointment)

Follow us on Instagram: hdm_gallery

www.hdmgallery.com

