

Press Release | Hong Kong

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Mystified – Lv Shanchuan Solo Exhibition

Opening Reception: 6 – 8 pm, Thursday, 29 November, 2018

29 November – 31 December 2018

G/F, 248 Hollywood Road, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong



Blossom (detail), oil and mixed media on canvas, 150 x 220 cm, 2018

[Hong Kong, November, 2018] Contemporary by Angela Li is proud to present “Mystified”, the third Hong Kong solo exhibition of Chinese artist Lv Shanchuan. The exhibition features paintings from two of his latest series, *Flowers* and *Skeleton*.

The flower is a symbol of organic vitality, and a schema capable of infinite change and allegory. Meanwhile, the skeleton has opposite connotations. The two often appear together both in art history and current popular culture. Lv Shanchuan has imbued the flower motif with the conceptuality of painting, and the normally light flower is transformed to become heavier than most canvases can bear. Beneath this spectacle of flowers of epic proportions, there lies the seed of violence. Its inner energy seems ready to burst forth at any moment. The combination of skeletons and flowers is a nod to classic art history, as well as a continuation of the artist's probing of image and society of the spectacle, depictions of the decay and disintegration within the depths of the spectacle of capital that reveal the humanistic laments that lie beneath the flourishing surface.

Mystified

Dr. Gao Yuan, PhD in Fine Arts, China Central Academy of Fine Arts; Post Doc in Art History, Academy of Arts & Design, Tsinghua University

The flower is a symbol of organic vitality, and a schema capable of infinite change and allegory. Meanwhile, the skeleton has opposite connotations. The two often appear together both in art history and current popular culture. From the skeleton and flower arrangements used to symbolize the impermanence of life and the passage of time in late Dutch Renaissance vanitas paintings, to the bizarre bouquets of 19th century symbolist painter Odilon Redon, and the dreamlike imagery that emerged from the combination of flowers and skulls in his *Temptation of Saint Anthony*, flowers and skeletons have always existed as a richly connotative expressive form. The flower imagery in Lv Shanchuan's new series bestows the texture of this expressive form with its greatest expressive power, and awakens the vitality of oil itself. The floral forms under Lv Shanchuan's brush emerge faintly beneath heavy expressive imagery, the conveyed forms and painted surfaces forming a dual presence beneath the gaze. This duality is a key visual mode of modernism. A tension arises between the painted surface and the image, a tension which forms the beginnings of the conceptuality of painting. Lv Shanchuan has imbued the flower motif with the conceptuality of painting, and the normally light flower is transformed to become heavier than most canvases can bear. Beneath this spectacle of flowers of epic proportions, there lies the seed of violence. Its inner energy seems ready to burst forth at any moment. The works presented here also include Lv Shanchuan's skeleton series. The combination of skeletons and flowers is a nod to classic art history, as well as a continuation of the artist's probing of image and society of the spectacle, depictions of the decay and disintegration within the depths of the spectacle of capital that reveal the humanistic laments that lie beneath the flourishing surface.

Selected Works in Exhibition



Blossom, oil & mixed media on canvas, 150 x 220 cm, 2018



Sakura No.1, oil on canvas, 120 x 90 cm, 2018



Flowers, oil on canvas, 120 x 90 cm, 2018



Golden Skull, oil & mixed media on canvas, 100 x 80 cm,
2017

Images: Courtesy of Contemporary by Angela Li

About the artist

Lv Shanchuan (b.1969, Fujian, China) graduated from the department of Fine Art at the Fujian Normal University in 1992 and completed his postgraduate studies at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in 1997. He taught at the Fujian Normal University from 1992 to 2009, and went to Germany on the Sino-German Cultural Exchange Scholarship for further studies in 2005. He currently lives and works in Beijing.

Lv has held solo exhibitions and participated in group shows throughout China, Asia, Europe and the USA. Previous important exhibitions include: "Landmark – Mapping Contemporary Chinese Art" (Beijing, 2017), "The Land is So Rich in Beauty" (Hong Kong, 2017), "Spectacle" (Hong Kong, 2016), "China 8 – Chinese Contemporary Art Exhibition" (Germany, 2015), "Epoch Writing: Chinese Contemporary Art Invitation Exhibition / The First Round" (Epoch Art Museum, Wenzhou, 2015), "The Unknown State" (Beijing, 2015), "Events 2008 — with China" (Today Art Museum, Beijing, 2014), "The 9th Florence Biannual Exhibition — Ethics as the DNA of Art" (Italy, 2013), "In Contemporary — China Fine Arts Biannual Exhibition" (Beijing, 2012), and "The 8th Shanghai Biannual Exhibition" (Shanghai, 2010). His works have been collected by the National Art Museum of China, Shanghai Museum of Art, Chengdu Museum of Contemporary Art, King Kuei Art Foundation and other international public institutions.

About Contemporary by Angela Li

Contemporary by Angela Li is dedicated to the promotion of contemporary and avant-garde artists from China, Hong Kong and worldwide. Since its establishment in 2008, the gallery has gained considerable attention and has become one of Hong Kong's top galleries for contemporary art.



Gallery Exterior, Contemporary by Angela Li
Image: Courtesy of Contemporary by Angela Li

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Opening Hours : Mon – Sat 10.00 am – 6.30 pm
Sun & Public Holidays Closed

