

ASIAN ART NEWS

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location, leaving only the disquiet of sensory experience. Also, his images are painted in such way that they almost seem translucent; heavily laden meanings and symbolic values are uplifted, and impression of alluring fragility takes over. One has to look outside his images to understand the violence to which they may refer. Devoid of preconditioned reading, the complex beauty in Yang Xun's work springs from such uninflected fragments of historic memory.

Yang Xun was born in 1981 in Chongqing and received a BFA in oil painting from Sichuan Fine Arts Institute. He has participated in exhibitions in Germany, USA, UK, China, Taiwan, and Korea. His works are in the collections of Shenzhen Art Museum, He Xiangning Art Museum, and Chengdu Modern Art Center.

Art Seasons is located at Kaki Bukit Road 1, Eunos Technolink Blk 7 #02-12. Tel: (65) 6741 6366. Fax: (65) 6741 6369. E-mail: info@artseasonsgallery.com. Website: www.artseasonsgallery.com.

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THE UNITED STATES

Form & Formlessness

Haines Gallery is presenting a new collection of ink paintings by Bay Area- and Shanghai-based artist Zheng Chongbin, through April 2, 2011. Zheng's approach to painting is rooted in both Western abstract art and



Zheng Chongbin, Zone (5), 2011, ink, ink wash, and acrylic on Xuan paper, 60 x 65 inches. Image: Courtesy of the Artist and Haines Gallery.



Yang Xun, 1879 Dream of Capital No. 5, 2009, oil on canvas, 130 x 200 cm. Image: Courtesy of Art Seasons.

Chinese *literati* painting. The textures, layers, large brushstrokes, and ink washes in his large-scale, monochromatic works explore the boundaries between form and formlessness, often alluding to landscape or figurative forms while simultaneously reading as powerful abstractions.

Unsatisfied by the common duality of Western vs. Eastern abstraction, Zheng sought to reinvestigate the limitations of these practices and extend their combined methodologies into a new kind of painting. He argues that, while Western abstract artists have explored form through calculated, often reductive mark-making, Chinese ink painting employs a certain amount of uncertainty in the process, allowing the form to evolve out of body/brush coordination and improvisation.

The success of Zheng's painting lies in his ability to render both obtrusive and elusive forms out of ink, ink wash, and acrylic media. His process is rooted in physicality, both of his own body and the materials

he uses, which are skillfully layered on Xuan paper. Full of depth, these paintings expand the possibilities for ink as a medium and continue to push the limitations of abstract painting.

Zheng Chongbin was born in 1961 in Shanghai. He earned his BFA in Chinese painting from Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts in Hangzhou, and his MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. He has exhibited throughout the US and Asia, including the National Art Museum, Beijing; Today Doland Museum, Shanghai; and the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco. He currently splits his time between the Bay Area and Shanghai.

Haines Gallery is located at 49 Geary Street, Fifth Floor, San Francisco CA 94108. Tel: (1-415) 397-8114. Website: www.hainesgallery.com.

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HONG KONG

Short-Lived Beauty

Blindspot Gallery will present Shu Ikeda – *Please Remember Me*, Shu Ikeda's first solo exhibition in Hong Kong, March 12 through April 20, 2011. The artist expresses the short-lived beauty of nature through his art.

Ikeda used to engage photograph merely as a tool to assist himself in painting. He eventually grew fonder of photography and found it a medium that enables him to

capture the fleeting moments in life. Ikeda later invented a method he regards as "painting with photography" by combining photography and paper-cutting.

Ikeda's works are mostly ethereal images of scenery. Ikeda expresses the notion of beauty and its changes over time—that it will inevitably fade away. Scenes are deconstructed by cutting the photograph and reconstructing them by pasting and rearranging to the original image; then the newly created scene is mounted onto paper or acrylic. The scenery becomes that which does not exist in the real world; it is also a new world that cannot be found in either painting or photography, resisting the passage of time that Ikeda has always been conscious of.

Born in Hiroshima, Shu Ikeda (b.1979) studied painting in Tokyo Zokei University and graduated in 2004. Since his debut solo exhibition *fragmentary time* in 2007 in Japan, Ikeda has risen as one of Japan's up-and-coming artists with his Honorable Mention at Canon's New Cosmos of Photography in 2009 and accompanying exhibition at Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography. He won the Judges' Prize at Tokyo Wonder Wall 2009. He now works in Tokyo.

Blindspot Gallery is located at 24-26A, Aberdeen Street, Central. Tel: (852) 2517 6238. Fax: (852) 2517 6100. Website: www.blindspotgallery.com. Δ



Shu Ikeda, Over and Over Again (display view), 2009, photographic collage, 89 x 117 cm. Image: Courtesy of the Artist and Blind Spot Gallery.