

Ivory Black: Ding Yi Solo Exhibition



Ding Yi – Flying Stone, 2013, Installation, Metal frame and fake fur cloth

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ShanghART Gallery is pleased to present **Ivory Black¹: Ding Yi Solo Exhibition** from 22nd January to 15th March 2015. The exhibition will be the widely acclaimed Chinese Contemporary Artist Ding Yi's first solo in South East Asia, showcasing 11 paintings from his signature series - Appearance of Crosses, 1 installation and a public art sculpture. Ding Yi and National Heritage Board, Group Director for Programmes Mr. Tan Boon Hui will conduct a dialogue session on public art sculpture at Art Stage Singapore 2015 while an exclusive collectors luncheon will be held on 21st January in conjunction with Platform Projects Ltd.

DING Yi is regarded as the forerunner of internationally acclaimed Chinese abstract artists. In his recent works, he explores the existence of unforeseen natural phenomenon, and his works changed from expanding vibrant color to reserved dark color. The installation – *Flying Stone* seems to be a metaphor of infinite matter, demonstrating the precariousness of reality and the mystical galaxy. Known for his systematic compositions and variations of the same motifs '+' and 'x', the work is multiplications and the proliferation of these two simple brush-stroked gestures. The overlapping of '+' and 'x' creates an interesting surface that is constantly oscillating between the flatness and pictorial depth, a kind of tension between movements in two dimensions that becomes a complex three dimensional system. Ding Yi uses his cross-shaped symbols to interpret the strength of the Chinese spirit in this state of flux.

¹*Ivory Black: Also known as Pigment Black 9, is an inorganic synthetic pigment made from charred bones*

During the past decade, Ding Yi has redefined his painting style in Shanghai, the post-modern metropolitan where he grew up. The consistent formal element of the cross in the work embodies a complex interplay of precision and dynamics. Dynamic changes of the city are vividly captured in his paintings. Nevertheless, it breaks through the framework of traditional narrative and represents life in an abstract way. The overtone of the signs he uses touches upon the correlation between human beings and the universe. To keep a sober and independent mind within collective consciousness implies a kind of Zen-like ambiance which highlights exactly his attitude in art creation.

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Ding Yi (b.1962) works and lives in Shanghai today. He graduated from Shanghai Arts and Crafts Institute in 1983 and Shanghai University, Fine Arts Department, in 1990. He has been exhibited widely and group exhibitions include: Hans van Dijk: 5000 Names, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing and Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam, The Netherlands (2014); Great Way Prevailing: Chinese Contemporary Public Art Exhibition, Kassel, Germany (2012); Verso Est, Chinese Architectural Landscape, National Museum of XXI Century Arts, MAXXI Architettura Gallery 1, Rome, Italy (2011); Shanghai, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, U.S.A.(2010); Writing on the Wall, Chinese New Realism and Avant-Garde in the Eighties and Nineties, The Groninger Museum, Groningen, The Netherlands (2008); 85 New Wave, The Birth of Chinese Contemporary Art, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing (2007); Mahjong: Contemporary Chinese Art from the Sigg Collection, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany (2006). His recent exhibitions include: Scintillement, DING Yi Solo Exhibition, Karsten Greve Gallery, Paris, France (2014); Appearance of Crosses, Galerie Karsten Greve AG, St. Moritz, Switzerland (2012); Specific Abstracted, Ding Yi Solo Exhibition, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai (2011); Ding Yi, Appearance of Crosses, Galerie Waldburger, Brussels, Belgium (2011); Appearance of Crosses from 1989-2007, Solo Exhibition of Ding Yi, Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, Bologna, Italy (2008); Ding Yi, Appearance of Crosses, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, U.K.(2005).

ShanghART Gallery

ShanghART Gallery is one of the first galleries from China to participate in international art fairs such as Art Basel and FIAC in Paris. ShanghART Gallery is regarded as one of the key players in the development of contemporary art in China. It is also named one of the 75 most influential galleries in a Thames & Hudson publication, "International Art Galleries: Post-war to Post-millennium". As ShanghART Gallery's first overseas branch, ShanghART Singapore was opened in 2012, provides an array of artworks that reflect the present trends and developments of the Asian art world, set in the midst of natural greenery and historical buildings rich with Singapore's colonial heritage.

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Opening: 22 January 2015, 7- 10pm

Duration: 22 January 2015 – 15 March 2015, 11am – 7pm (Closed Every Monday)

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