

HOFA



MINDSCAPES
CONTEMPORARY CHINESE ART

1 - 15 JULY 2021



MINDSCAPES

CURATED BY DAGMAR CARNEVALE LAVEZZOLI

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The landscape painting tradition is one of the most venerated art forms in China, and still maintains a relevant position in today's world. Shan Shui, meaning "Mountains and Water", is the Chinese term for "landscape" and underpins a connection with the ancient Taoist philosophy, whose key principle emphasises harmony with the natural world. The man-nature duo is thus conceived as an inseparable entity and "Chinese depictions of nature are seldom mere representations of the external world. Rather, they are expressions of the mind and heart of the individual artists". [1]

This exhibition brings together an eclectic selection of artworks by both emerging and well-established contemporary artists from China - Yao Jui-Chung, Pan Jian, He Sen, Cynthia Sah, Chen Che, Le Guo, Wang Ziling and Gao Xintong. Spanning different generations, from the 1950s to the 1990s, and living in different countries, the artists intertwine personal and collective memories to re-interpret this ancient pictorial language through fresh forms and concepts. The featured artworks range from figuration to abstraction, including different types of media - oil on canvas, ink on paper, acrylic on wood panels and marble sculptures. Re-shaping and challenging the significance of the landscape genre in the constantly evolving contemporary art discourse, these creations evoke immersive archetypal realms while capturing our zeitgeist.

[1] The Metropolitan Museum
Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History - Essays
Landscape Painting in Chinese Art

Curated by
Dagmar Carnevale Lavezzoli

Co-Owner & Director, Hua
Founder at Crysalis and Co-Owner & Director at Hua
Contemporary Chinese Art Specialist
Curator of Out of the Blue at The Royal Palace Museum in Milan

ARTISTS:

Yao Jui-Chung

Pan Jian

He Sen

Cynthia Sah

Chen Che

Le Guo

Wang Ziling

Gao Xintong

Dagmar Carnevale Lavezzoli is an art curator, consultant and contemporary Chinese art specialist with over a decade of experience in the field. Fluent in Mandarin Chinese, Dagmar lived in China for several years where she connected with artists of international reputation. Dagmar is the founder of Crysalis, a bespoke art consultancy specialised in curating and organising exhibitions for galleries, museums and institutions. Dagmar is also co-owner and director of Hua, a platform championing the best in contemporary Chinese art.



YAO JUI-CHUNG

Internationally recognised Yao Jui-Chung has exhibited worldwide including at the Venice Biennale. In his natural sceneries, Yao Jui-Chung combines elements of traditional Chinese landscape paintings infused with a modern and vibrant energy, often inserting witty daily details or Western symbols. While generating a visual experience for the spectator that is aesthetically beautiful and intellectually stimulating, his work also addresses main social issues - it presents golden water, air and trees as a way to highlight the preciousness of nature in our contemporary society.

"My pseudo-landscape paintings are a response to genuine spirituality set within an appreciation and respect of nature. This is a Taoist concept entrenched in Chinese culture: literati artists capture their adoration of nature in Shan Shui paintings."

Yao Jui-Chung



NATURE PLUS: HEART TO HEART, 2021
INDIA HAND MADE PAPER, GOLD LEAF, INK PEN.
110 CM



NATURE PLUS: SEA OF LOVE, 2021
INDIA HAND MADE PAPER, GOLD LEAF, INK PEN
110 CM



DARLING: FLY AWAY, 2021
INDIA HAND MADE PAPER, GOLD LEAF, INK PEN
107.7 X 77.7 CM



DARLING: ALWAYS TOGETHER, 2021
INDIA HAND MADE PAPER, GOLD LEAF, INK PEN
107.7 X 77.7 CM



DARLING: WHERE SURFING LIVES, 2021
INDIA HAND MADE PAPER, GOLD LEAF, INK PEN
107.7 X 77.7 CM

GAO XINTONG

Young emerging artist Gao Xintong graduated from the National Academy of Fine Arts in Carrara, Italy, and he's now rapidly gaining international attention due to his bold and innovative compositions. Gao Xintong's artistic practice focuses on deconstructing and reconstructing visual elements through the use of vivid colours. His work can be perceived as a "Portrait Shan-Shui" where the emphasis is on the subjectivity of the painted object and empty spaces play a significant role in the composition. Like in the ancient Taoist philosophy, emptiness in his work is conceived as a dynamic force, which enables each depicted element to emerge and gain vitality.



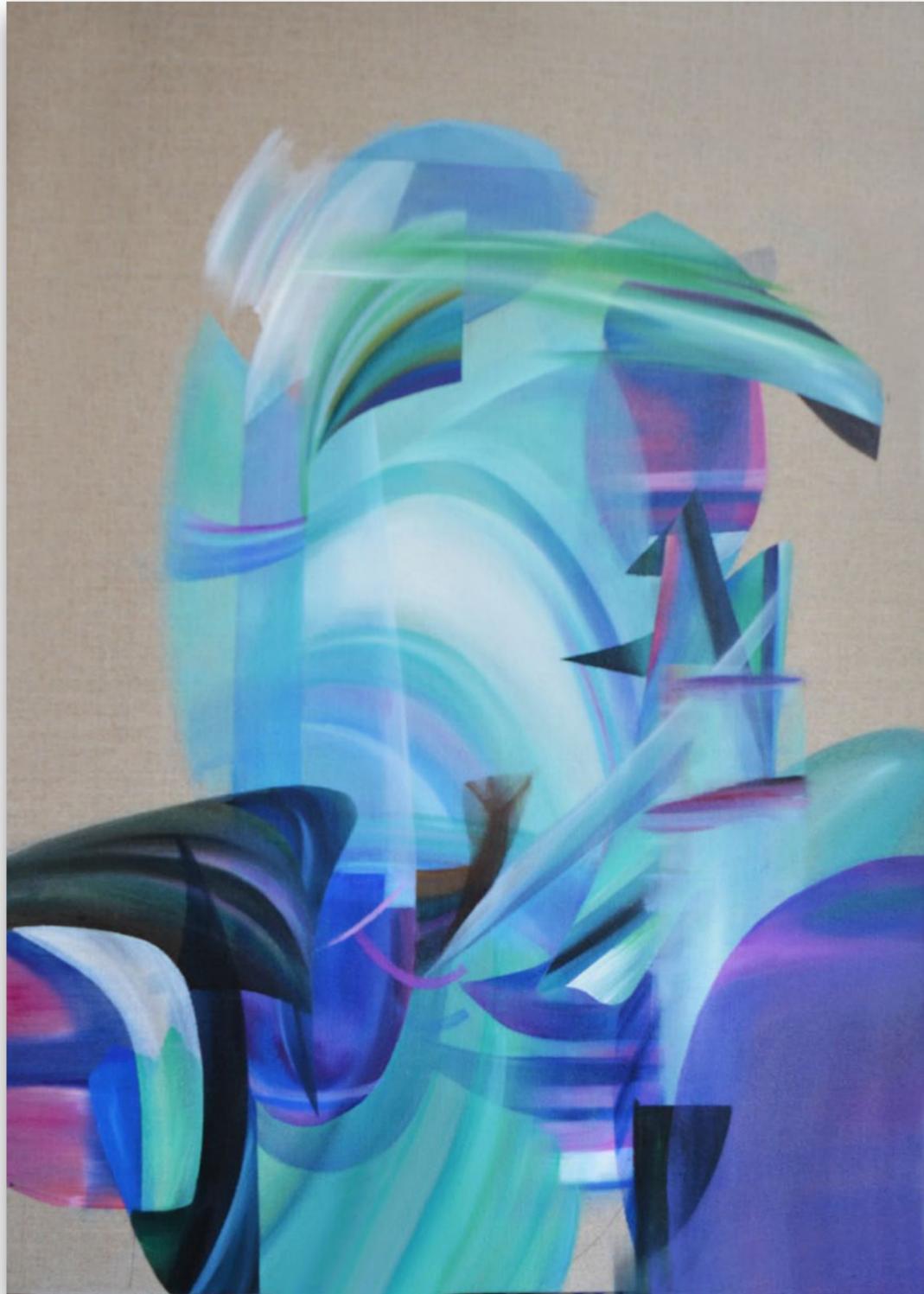
CYBERBAMBU 3, 2020
OIL ON CANVAS
100 X 120 CM



UNTITLED , 2021
OIL AND ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
70 X 50 CM



UNTITLED , 2021
OIL AND ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
70 X 50 CM



UNTITLED , 2021
OIL ON CANVAS
70 X 50 CM



UNTITLED , 2021
OIL ON CANVAS
70 X 50 CM



UNTITLED , 2021
Oil on canvas
70 x 50 cm



UNTITLED , 2021
OIL ON CANVAS
70 X 50 CM



"This series focuses on expressing a kind of sentiment, the Shan Shui/landscape of the soul. The result of the painting tells the story of its own making process, just like how in a Shan Shui painting the viewer can perceive the dynamism of its making. The works urge the viewers to look beyond the figurative and to experience the Shan Shui spirit."

Gao Xintong

UNTITLED , 2021
OIL ON CANVAS
70 X 50 CM

PAN JIAN

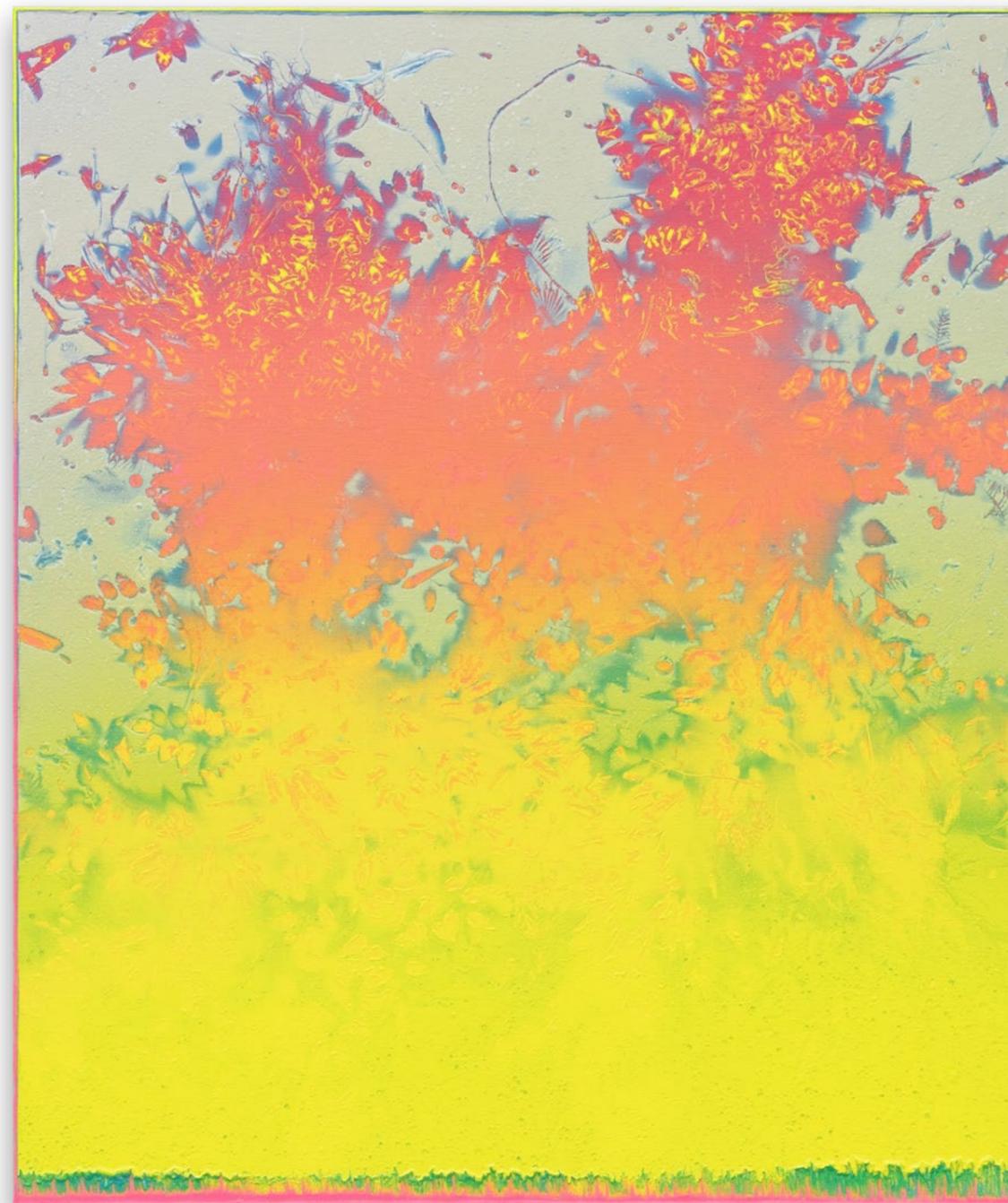
Internationally recognised Pan Jian has been acquired by major collectors such as Uli Sigg and DSL Collection. Pan Jian conjures up elements from the tradition of Chinese landscape painting with reminiscences of Rothko's meditative quality, Yves Klein's deep blue and Zao Wou-Ki's flowing energy. By painting chaotic silhouettes of leaves and branches, Pan Jian explores uninhabited deep forests through an electrifying and intense colour palette, creating landscapes that are both symbolic and real at once.



LIGHTENING'S EDGE 20200104, 2020
ACRYLIC, OIL ON CANVAS
200 X 150 CM



LIGHTENING'S EDGE 20200106, 2020
ACRYLIC, OIL ON CANVAS
200 X 150 CM



LIGHTENING'S EDGE 20200110, 2020
ACRYLIC, OIL ON CANVAS
180 X 150 CM



"The mystery, complexity and composition of forests are in line with my views on life. They seem to subtly reflect the enigma, intricacy and unpredictability of this world. I reconnect with the ancient understanding of landscapes as "images of the mind" to capture glimpses of the human soul."

Pan Jian

LIGHTENING'S EDGE 20200103, 2020
ACRYLIC, OIL ON CANVAS
200 X 150 CM



LIGHTENING'S EDGE 2020013, 2020
ACRYLIC, OIL ON CANVAS
180 X 150 CM



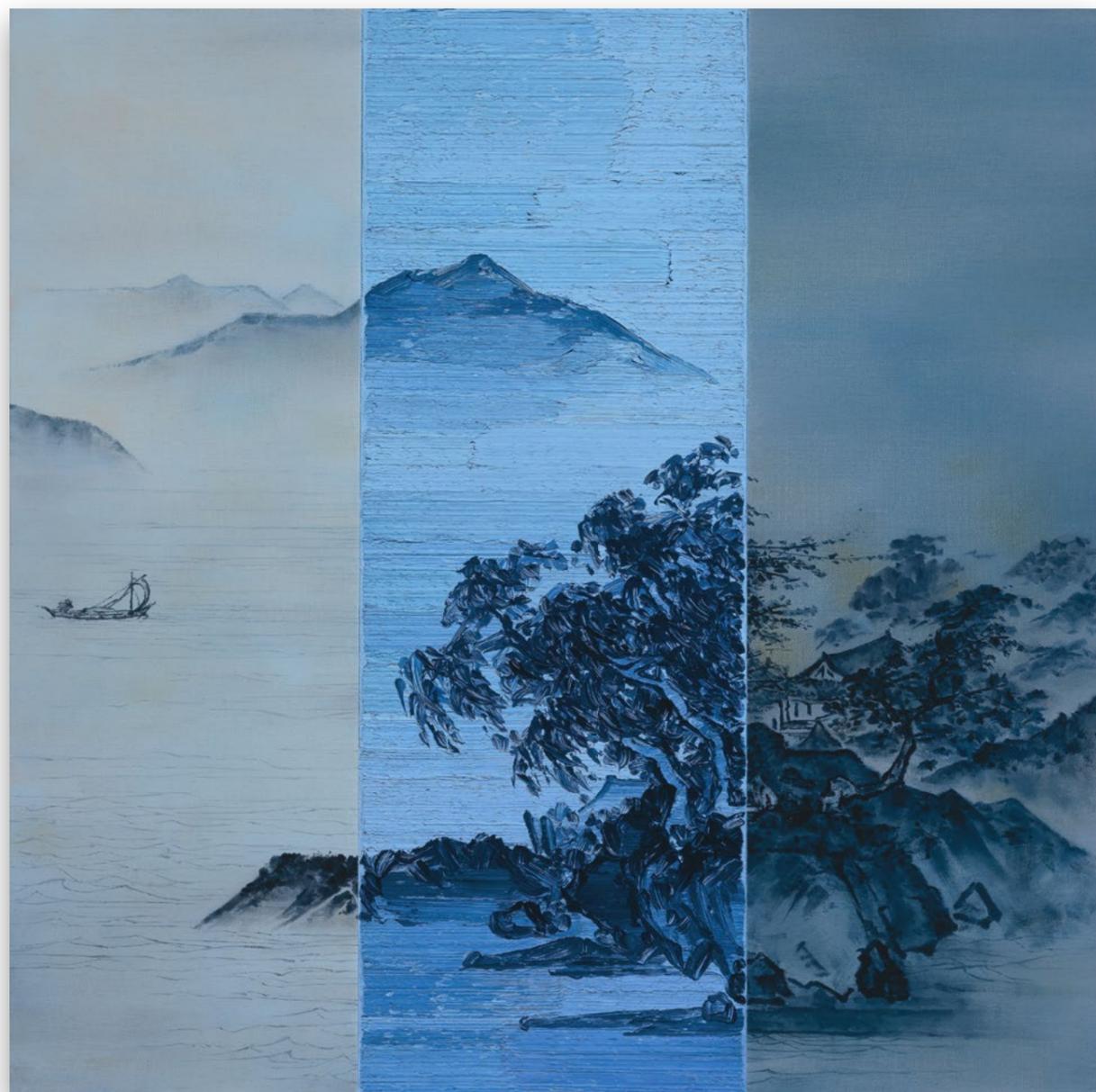
LIGHTENING'S EDGE 2020016, 2020
ACRYLIC, OIL ON CANVAS
220 X 150 CM

HE SEN

Well established artist He Sen is renowned for his iconic landscape compositions merging traditional features with a wide range of contemporary elements and meditative shades, conveying vibrancy and new perspectives. His artworks evoke a sense of musicality; they seem to follow a rhythm and a natural development of a lyrical composition.



SITTING FOR THE CLOUD, 2020
ACRYLIC, OIL ON CANVAS
80 X 80 CM



CANOEING WITH LANDSCAPE, 2020
ACRYLIC, OIL ON CANVAS
80 X 80 CM



ANGLER 2020
ACRYLIC, OIL ON CANVAS
120 X 150 CM



"Chinese landscape paintings, Shan Shui, are not about depicting objective sceneries, they're about the contemplation of humanity's position and scale in relation to the world. I hope to rediscover the relevance of this traditional theme for the contemporary world, as well as the implication of painting for such relationships."

He Sen

ALONE TREE IN THE LANDSCAPE, 2020
ACRYLIC, OIL ON CANVAS
120 X 150 CM

CYNTHIA SAH

Hong Kong-born Cynthia Sah is an internationally acclaimed artist, known for her smooth, minimalist and organic marble sculptures. Cynthia Sah's sculptures explore the relationship between nature and all beings. Nature is the initial inspiration of the artist as she starts to investigate the potentiality of every block of marble from its natural and pure form. Her sculptures embody the Chinese philosophy of essential equilibrium, manifesting itself as lightness and fluidity in space. Whether they are flowing and smooth, or rounded mass with a sense of volume, Sah's works always exude a lively rhythm and spiritual resonance.



CALLA, 2018
ITALIAN WHITE MARBLE
44,5 X 26 X 64,5 H

STELE WHITE, 2018
WHITE MARBLE
14 X 30 X 68 BASE INCLUDED



PINE TREE (ORIGINAL), 2018
ITALIAN CIPOLLINO MARBLE
35 X 25 X 63 BASE INCLUDED





LINK, 2019
WHITE MARBLE
17 X 28 X 65 CM

"I learn and see tremendously a lot from nature, which is immensely beautiful and often fills me with inspiration. One could often see small crevices in the marble mountain, where greenery, like endearing florets and small plants, grow from these crevices. It is nature's way of telling and showing me its strength. It has a great impact on me."

Cynthia Sah



KINGDOM, 2018
WHITE MARBLE
67 X 79 X 20

SATURN RINGS, 2020
WHITE MARBLE
47 X 35 X 46 CM





CONNECTING 2, 2018
ITALIAN WHITE MARBLE
57 X 48 X 40 H



SATURN, 2019
WHITE MARBLE
45 X 39 X 39 CM

ROSE, 2020
WHITE MARBLE
52 X 36 X 26 CM





STINGRAY, 2020
WHITE MARBLE
65 X 66 X 19 CM

CHEN CHE

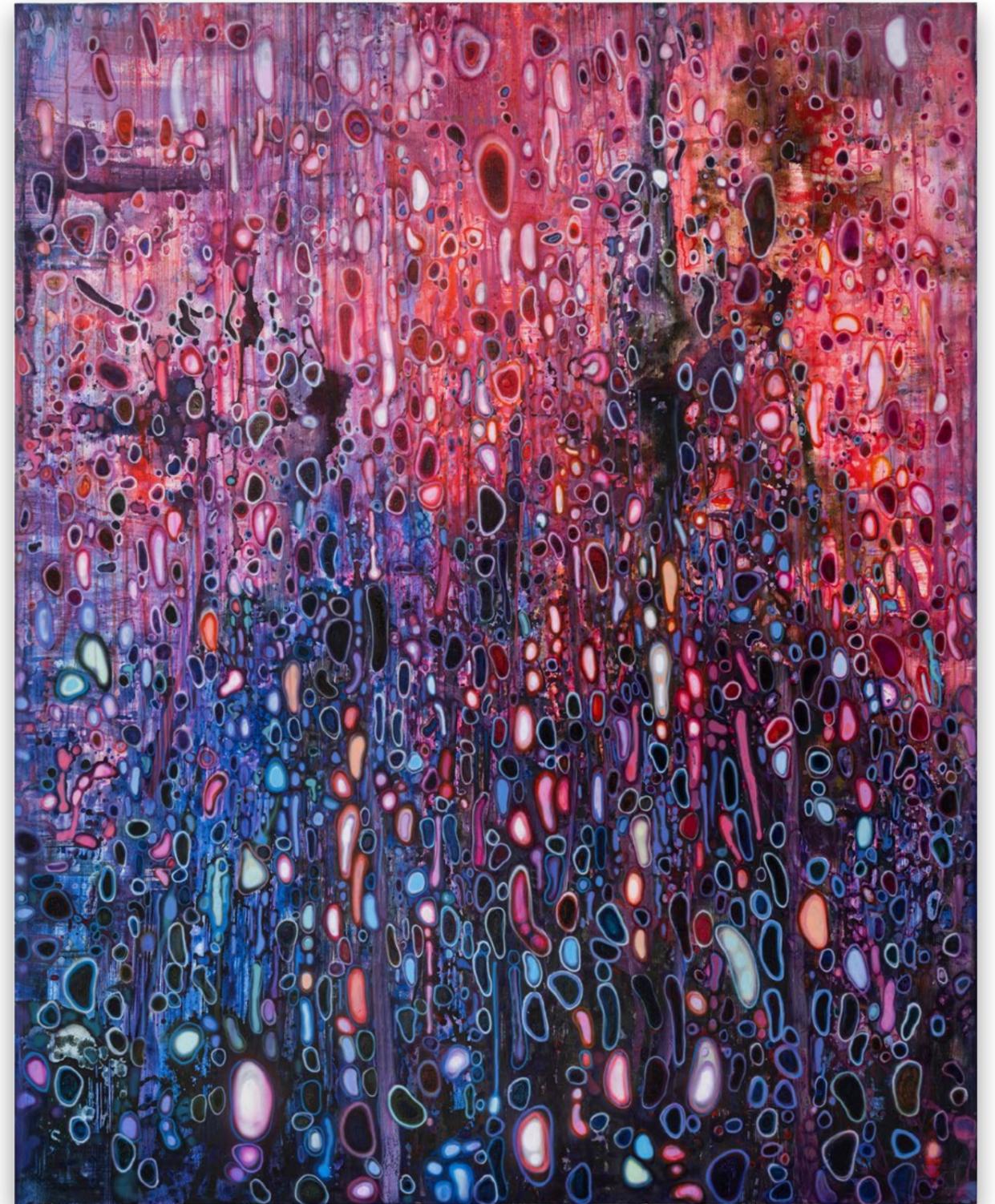
Reminiscent of Klimt's precious art, Chen Che's work has been exhibited in prestigious museums such as the Beijing Today Art Museum, the National Museum of China and the Royal Academy in London. Chen Che's paintings present to the audience a personal, mysterious and unknown world. Employing a variety of techniques and media he creates an idealised natural landscape rich with meaning and visual pleasure. Exploring the boundaries between figuration and abstraction, memories and dreams, Chen Che's paintings comment on the relationship between reality and imagination.



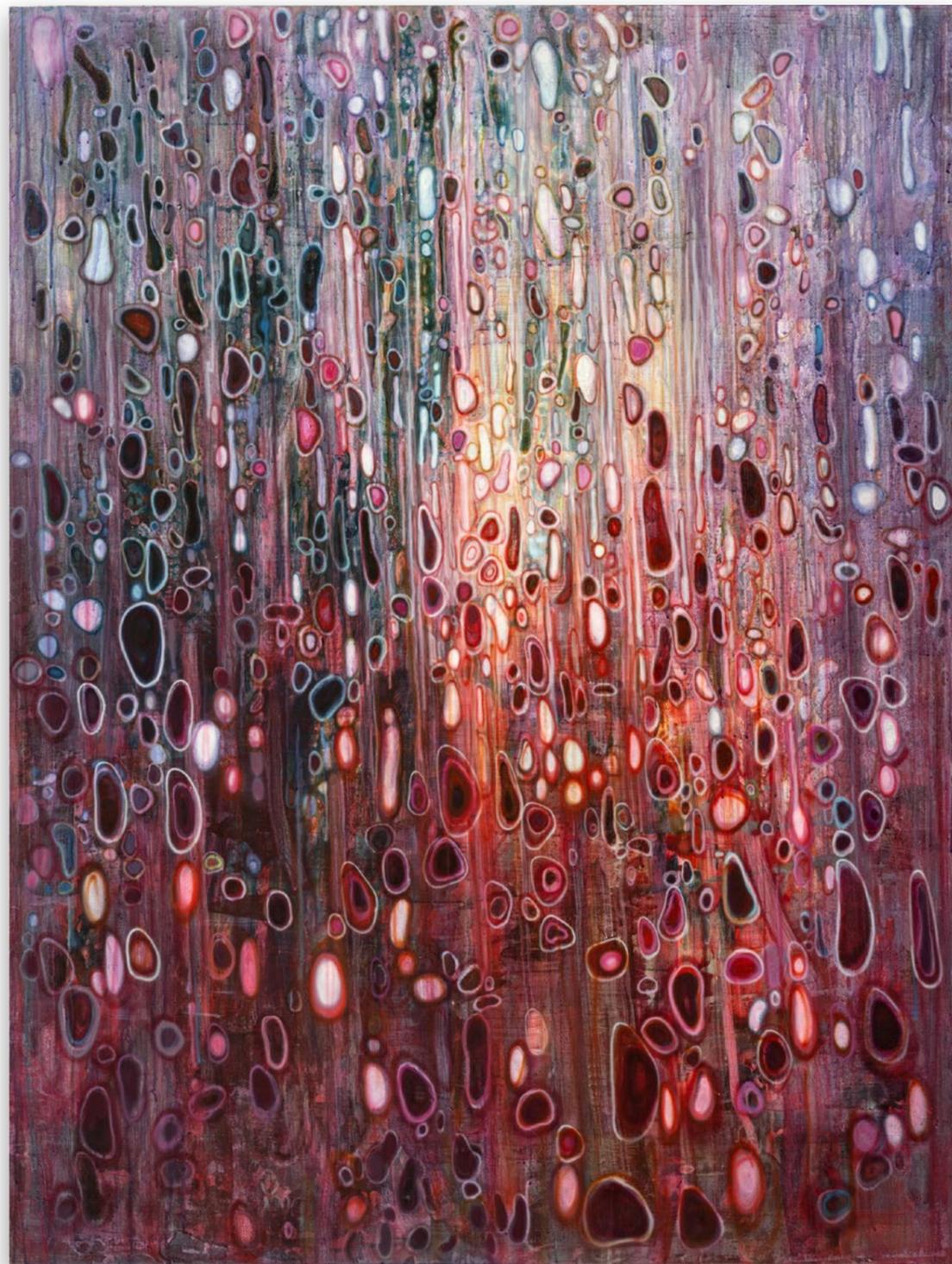
DREAM JUNGLE, 2019
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
152 CM



GROWTH (BLUE), 2021
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
120 X 90 CM



GROWTH (PURPLE NO.2), 2021
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
150 X 120 CM



GROWTH (RED AND PURPLE), 2021
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
120 X 90 CM



GROWTH (YELLOW), 2021
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
120 X 90 CM



"From the outward nature to the inner landscape, my paintings show the fusion between the physical and the psychological world through mesmerising organic visions."

Chen Che

GROWTH (PURPLE NO.1), 2021
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
150 X 120 CM

LE GUO

Le Guo is a well respected artist with international achievements. He has been invited to deliver lectures at The British Museum, Sotheby's Institute of Art and Xi'An University, amongst different venues. Le Guo's paintings present intense visions of colour, organic forms and undefined shapes. His inner abstract landscapes bear influences by both Western Expressionism and Surrealism, as well as by Chinese philosophies and classical art. They are triggered by a continuous dialogue between physical and emotional, conscious and unconscious, internal and external.



BLACK LIGHT, 2019
ACRYLIC ON CANVAS
195 X 160 CM



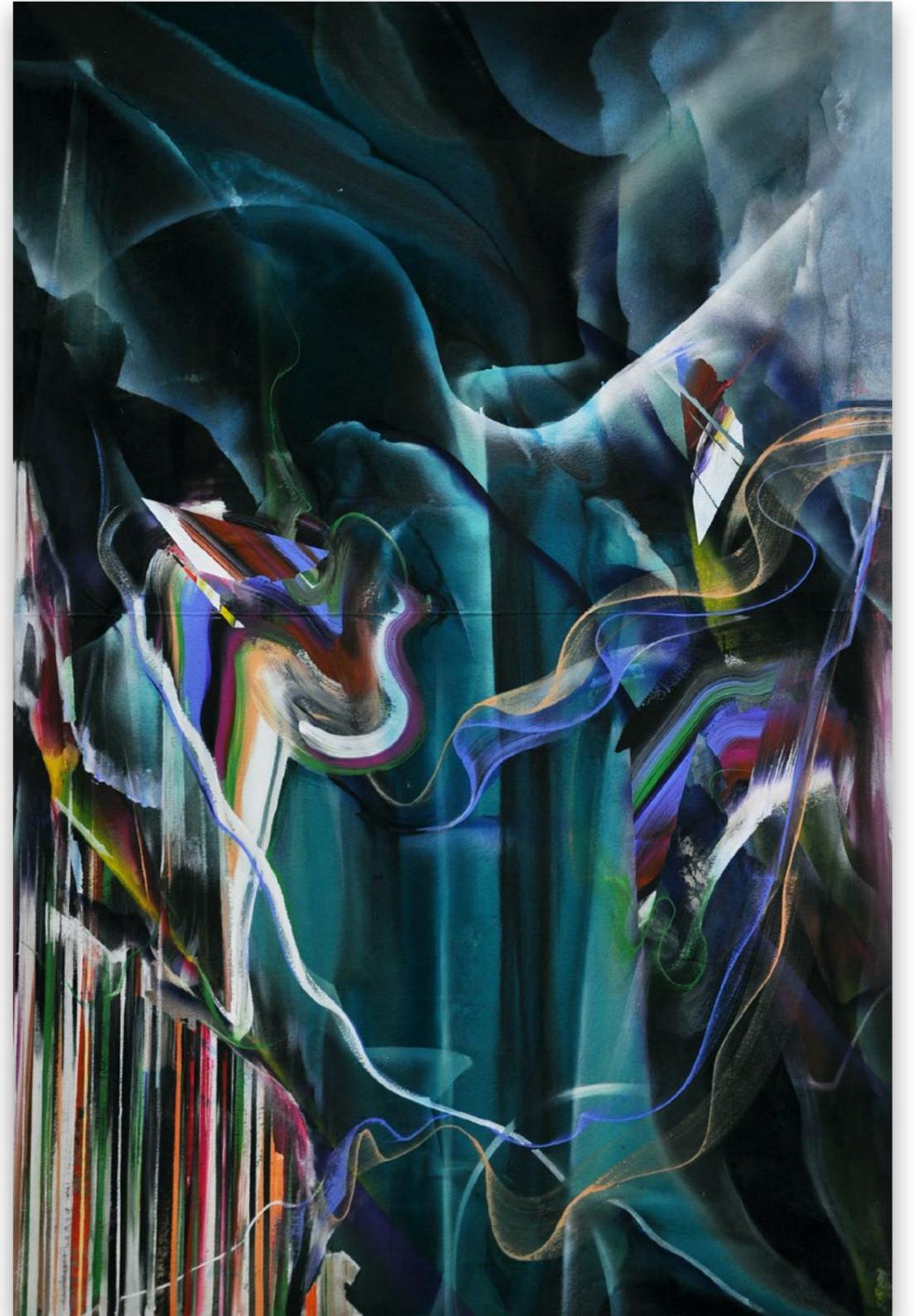
“Chinese notion of classic landscape paintings provide a sense of truth as unfixed and dynamic. My production of a visual artwork is guided by a moving balance between my mental memories and my body memories; it enables me to open up to truths that are not fixed and static. Rather, they’re dynamic like the flux of Nature itself.”

Le Guo

LUMINIFEROUS FLOW II, 2020
MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS
175 X 95 CM



LUMIA, 2020
MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS
180 X 100 CM



LUMIA, 2019
MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS
195 X 130 CM



RHYTHMIC PULSATION, 2021
MIXED MEDIA ON CANVAS
135 X 95 CM

WANG ZILING

Wang Ziling is a young talented artist with a distinctive and unique style. She creates astonishing sculptural paintings in which she explores our perception of external surroundings by reforming the structure of how we see and perceive. While delving into the relationship between colours and their abstract manifestations, Wang Ziling's works attempt to break with convention, and to overturn the traditional way of viewing landscapes. Colours in her works are boldly flying outside the boundaries of conventional paintings, providing the viewer with a three-dimensional visual challenge.



REBIRTH, 2021
HARDENED ACRYLIC AND POLYMER
110 X 110 X 4.6 CM



HALF OF THE BLOSSOMS, 2020
HARDENED ACRYLIC AND POLYMER
110 X 78 X 4.5 CM

"I relate conceptually to classical Chinese landscape paintings because the cavalier perspective represents a movement of space and time in one image. But in my work I make this visual representation three dimensional and emphasise the dynamics between solid and negative spaces to create new challenges, aiming to offer stimulating perspectives."

Wang Ziling



CLOSE TO INCOMPATIBLE, 2020
HARDENED ACRYLIC AND POLYMER
110 X 110 X 4.6 CM

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