

PRESS RELEASE

"Yu Hong: Wondering Clouds"

2013.11.23 - 12.29

Long March Space, Beijing

Wondering Clouds, on display at Long March Space from November 23, 2013 to December 29, 2013 is a solo exhibition by artist Yu Hong that will showcase all new work following her 2011 Shanghai Art Museum solo exhibition, Golden Horizon. Her new exhibition Wondering Clouds addresses the very real quandary of society's collective consciousness. With a profoundly feminine touch, her work is imbued with a meticulous consideration of mood and the surreal elements of life to create a perfect reflection of the human world within the Long March Space galleries.

The exhibition is split into two parts. The gallery on the left showcases six triptychs entitled Plain Fingers, Abyss, Lost in the Night, Bed Net, Memory Box and Drawer. "It's difficult to express feelings of depression through painting, it's not as precise or intuitive as theatre and literature are," says Yu Hong. A few close friends of the artist have had incredibly moving and unique experiences within the depths of depression, each of her six new works focus on one of these people and the habits or objects upon which they rely - outlining the details and nature of each of their realities. In revealing the core fragility of her characters through the composition of each painted dreamscape, the works transcend the state of emotion and betray a profound concern for the human plight. Executed in Yu Hong's distinct narrative style, the artist reflects upon human experience and worth in this epoch of change.

In the opposing gallery hangs the tremendous six panel work, On the Clouds. On an even grander scale, Yu Hong weaves a realism of daily scenes into an illusory cloudscape. The painting extends 18 meters in length and stages the infinite variety of mindsets within this world disengaged from individual experience. It is a scene we are familiar with - an intricate tangle of connections between characters, where the boundaries of time and space are blurred. In contrast to the curling clouds stretched within the laws of nature is the locus of human wanting and climbing towards perfection and chase of desire. On the Clouds is like a scene from the Apocalypse; in Yu Hong's artistic language, we are unable to escape the truth of human nature and can't help but reflect on what has passed, what is now and what is still yet to come.

Born in 1966, Yu Hong studied oil painting at the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, in the 1980s and has remained there as a professor since graduation. From her early

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training in realism techniques, Yu Hong has developed her own recognized visual language, particularly in how it relates to portraiture and the human body. With a distinctly feminine approach, she takes her inspiration from those living around her. Through her art, Yu Hong has created a world that brilliantly welds together her perception and memory of time - perfectly grasping the essence and spirit of individually lived experience with an unparalleled sensitivity. Often using photographs from life as her starting point, Yu Hong works on canvas, silk or resin with oil, pastel or fabric paint to capture the subjectivity within the faculty of memory, stressing or blurring the details at will. With their unique creativity and rich character, Yu Hong's paintings are of unusual significance within the contemporary Chinese art practice.

Founded by Lu Jie in the 798 Art District of Beijing in 2002, Long March Space is dedicated to the discourse and promotion of artistic projects. In its eleven-year history, Long March Space has successfully collaborated with many of China's leading artists to promote and produce groundbreaking exhibitions and projects. With its history, scope of knowledge, exceptional standards, ongoing research and respected business practices, Long March Space has maintained itself as a leader in the Chinese gallery world. It continues to engage in close exchange and collaboration with international institutions and to do its utmost to promote the international influence of contemporary Chinese art.

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