

TANG CONTEMPORARY ART – Hong Kong presents:

“Ling Jian: Song of the Ancient Birds”

LING JIAN Solo Exhibition

November 25 – December 17, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (HONG KONG – October 14, 2016):

Tang Contemporary Art is proud to announce the opening of “Ling Jian: Song of the Ancient Birds” on November 25. In seven all-new paintings, Ling juxtaposes or layers images from bird painting manuals held at the Forbidden City with gongbi and realist portraits of women. After being tempered by the artist's personal experience, these two seemingly disparate languages achieve immense harmony of visual expression and aesthetic sensibility.

Ling Jian's new works are inspired by chance encounters with music and painting. The German rock band Rammstein has a heavy metal song entitled “Ohne Dich” (“Without You”) about love and death. One of the lyrics is “Ohne dich... Und die Vögel singen nicht mehr” (“Without you... the birds sing no more”). Ling Jian heard this song while shopping in a flea market, where he also chanced upon a bird painting manual from the Forbidden City. In that moment, the gongbi paintings of birds in this manual and Rammstein's song collided and blended in time and space, producing a special emotional connection. With this unexpected encounter, Ling Jian chose to fuse gongbi bird painting with contemporary painting techniques, continuing his recent experiments with related artistic questions.

In *Falling Ancient Birds*, the overlapping and intersecting forms of birds were drawn from painting manuals made by the masters of the Kangxi and Yongzheng reigns. The feathers of different types of birds extend in different directions, as if they were passing from the tranquility of the Forbidden City into a realist figure, in order to create a new context. This work embodies the conflicts and fusions that took place at the moment of creation, transcending the logic of time.

In this exhibition, Ling Jian presents *Guanxiu: Black* and *Guanxiu: Gold*. The works are named after Guanxiu, a monk, painter, and poet active during the late Tang Dynasty and the Five Dynasties. He was best known for his painting *Sixteen Arhats*. A *Record of Famous Paintings of Sichuan* (Yizhou Minghua Lu) described the piece: “His sixteen arhats had bushy eyebrows, large eyes, sagging cheeks, and high noses. They were seated in landscapes, leaning against pine trees and stones. They looked and behaved like Hindus or Indians. When someone asked where he had seen such men he answered: 'in my dream.'” Of all the artists in the history of Chinese painting, Ling Jian was most moved by Guanxiu, whose work truly resonated with him. These two pieces feature blotches of black and gold covering the figures' faces, which symbolize Guanxiu's robe and a clear understanding of life produced through abstraction. The body of the figures are presented like the Buddhist sculptures of Qingzhou, with the viewer able to see the back of the body and the fronts of the arms simultaneously. At that moment, the body has already transcended the personalities that Ling Jian emphasized in his previous portraits, becoming a collective vehicle for religion, personal experience, and abstract ideas.

Ling also explored the link between classical culture and new inspirations for contemporary art in his 2011 solo exhibition “Moon in Glass” at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art. In recent years, he has continued to draw nourishment from traditional Chinese culture; aesthetically and technically, he perfectly blends traditional and contemporary themes, transforming them into a painting style all his own. He has always embraced an open creative state, in which “ancient birds” fly to the present and sing the melodies of Kangxi and Rammstein.

Opening Reception: Friday, November 25, 2016 from 6 – 8pm.

Artist will be present and available for interviews, please contact us in advance for scheduling.

Tang Contemporary Art
19th Floor, 18 On Lan Street, Central, Hong Kong
Gallery Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 11am – 7pm

info@tangcontemporary.com.hk
+852 2682 8289

WeChat: tang_contemporary / IG: tangcontemporaryart



Falling Ancient Birds, 2016. Oil and acrylic on canvas. 190 x 130 cm
墜落的故鳥, 2016. 布面油畫. 丙烯. 190 x 130 cm

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ling Jian (b. 1963, Shandong Province, China) currently lives and works in Beijing and Berlin. After receiving his degree from the Tsinghua University Academy of Art and Design (formerly the Central Academy of Art and Design) in 1986, he lived in Vienna, Hamburg, and Berlin for many years, returning to Beijing in 2006. Due to the realism of his depictions and the exaggeration of his forms, Ling Jian became known for his provocative and unsettling portraits of women. Through these attractive portraits, Ling explores themes of culture and individual thought in modern society.

ABOUT TANG CONTEMPORARY ART

Tang Contemporary Art was established in 1997 in Bangkok, later establishing galleries in Beijing and most recently Hong Kong. The gallery is fully committed to producing critical projects and exhibitions to promote Contemporary Chinese art regionally and worldwide, and encourage a dynamic exchange between Chinese artists and those abroad.

Acting as one of the most progressive and critically driven exhibition spaces in China, the gallery strives to initiate dialogue between artists, curators, collectors and institutions working both locally and internationally. A roster of groundbreaking exhibitions has earned them international recognition, establishing their status as a pioneer of the contemporary art scene in Asia.

Tang Contemporary Art represents leading figures in Chinese art including Ai Weiwei, Huang Yong Ping, Shen Yuan, Wang Du, Liu Xiaodong, Yang Jiechang, Xia Xiaowan, Sun Yuan & Peng Yu, Yan Lei, Wang Yin, Guo Wei, Zheng Guogu, Michael Lin, Lin Yilin, He An, Zhao Zhao, Wang Yuyang, Weng Fen, Yang Yong, Xu Hualing, Xu Qu, XU Xiaoguo, Ji Zhou, Cai Lei, Ling Jian and Chen Wenbo, additionally collaborating with international artists such as Rirkrit Tiravanija, Navin Rawanchaikul, Sakarin Krue-on and Prasert Yodkaew.

HONG KONG Tang Contemporary Art's recent expansion to a 2,000 sq. ft. gallery space in Central is part of a long term plan to develop their international programming. The space was inaugurated in October 2015 with the first solo exhibition of Ai Weiwei "Wooden Ball" in Hong Kong, followed by an ambitious line-up of a monthly exhibition program.



Lily with Ribbon, 2016. Oil and acrylic on canvas. 180 x 150 cm
百合絲帶, 2016. 布面油畫. 丙烯. 180 x 150 cm

當代唐人藝術中心 - 香港:

《凌健-故鳥之鳴》

凌健個人展覽

2016 年 11月25日至 12月17日

新聞稿：請即發佈 (香港2016年10月14日):

凌健-故鳥之鳴

當代唐人藝術中心榮幸地宣布，將於 11 月 25 日推出凌健個展“凌健-故鳥之鳴”。在全新創作的 7 幅繪畫作品中，藝術家將故宮珍藏鳥譜，工筆與現實主義畫法的女性肖像並置亦或相互交疊。兩種看似有著極大差異的語言方式經過藝術家的個人體悟與提煉，在畫面的視覺表達與審美感受上都臻至和諧。

凌健新作靈感源自一次音樂與繪畫的偶然撞擊。著名的德國樂隊 Rammstein (戰車) 有一首歌曲叫“ Ohne Dich (如果沒有你) ”，這首重金屬音樂的主題關於愛與死亡，其中一句歌詞是“ Ohne Dich Das vogel singen nicht mehr (如果沒有你鳥也不叫了) ”。凌健聽著這首歌曲在舊貨市場閒逛，偶然間發現了一本故宮收藏的鳥譜。畫集中的工筆鳥與戰車的歌曲在時空中瞬間撞擊、交融，產生了特殊的情感聯繫。藉由這次偶然，凌健選擇了把工筆鳥譜融入當代繪畫，繼續近年來在藝術問題上的嘗試。

《墜落的故鳥》中堆疊交錯的鳥的形像都是從康熙、雍正年間宮廷畫師所繪畫譜中選取。不同種類的鳥的羽毛向不同方向延展開來，似乎從故宮的靜謐時光中瞬間穿越至此，擊中現實主義人像從而產生新的語境。從中透出藝術家在創作時刻所體會到的衝突與融合，超越了時間交替的邏輯。

本次展覽中的一組作品《貫休-黑》、《貫休-金》，作品名稱中的貫休是唐末五代時期的畫僧、詩僧，以《十六羅漢圖》為其代表作。《益州名畫錄》記載：畫羅漢十六幀，龐眉大目者，朵頤隆鼻者，倚松石者，坐山水者，胡貌梵相，曲盡其態。或問之，雲：“休自夢中所睹爾”。在中國繪畫史中，貫休的作品最為打動凌健，引發他的共鳴。在這兩幅作品中遮蓋著人像頭部的黑色與金色，既是貫休袈裟的表徵，也是被凌健抽象化的澄澈的生命體悟。作為主體的人像將身體的背影與正面的胳膊融合，如同青州佛教造像。此時，身體已經超越了凌健以往肖像作品所強調的人與性，變為宗教、個人體悟與抽象概念的共同載體。

從古典文化中尋找當代藝術創作的啟發點，也是凌健從 2011 年在北京尤倫斯當代藝術中心個展《水調歌頭》起一直思索的問題。幾年來他不斷地從中國傳統文化中吸收與汲取養分，無論是審美感受還是技術表現上，都將傳統與當代的命題恰到好處地融合，轉化成屬於他自己的繪畫語言。並且這一創作狀態始終開放，“故鳥”飛抵當下鳴唱出康熙與戰車的旋律。

開幕時間: 2016 年 11 月 25 日星期五，下午六時至八時
藝術家將出席開幕酒會並接受傳媒訪問，請預先聯絡以便安排。

當代唐人藝術中心
香港中環安蘭街 18 號 19 樓
畫廊開放時間：逢星期二至六，上午 11 時至下午 7 時

info@tangcontemporary.com.hk
+852 2682 8289
WeChat: tang_contemporary / IG: tangcontemporaryart



Guanxiu: *Black*, 2016. Oil and acrylic on canvas. 180 x 120 cm
賈休-黑, 2016. 布面油畫. 丙烯. 180 x 120 cm

關於藝術家

凌健 (1963 年出生於中國山東) ，工作於北京、柏林兩地。1986 年在獲得清華大學美術學院 (原中央工藝美術學院) 學位後，旅居維也納、漢堡和柏林多年，2006 年回到北京。凌健以其描繪的現實主義、形態誇張，刺激而又令人不安的女性肖像而著名。凌健通過這些誘人的肖像，來探索現代社會中文化以及個體認知的主題。

關於當代唐人藝術中心

當代唐人藝術中心於1997年在曼谷成立，其後在北京開設展覽空間，以及最近期香港的新空間。唐人致力策劃及提供具啟發性展覽，向亞洲和國際推廣中國當代藝術，促進中國當代藝術與國際間之交。

作為中國最具學術影響力和開創性的當代藝術平台之一，唐人致力於為本地及國際的藝術家、策展人、收藏家和藝術機構搭建交流對話平台。當代唐人藝術中心歷年來以充滿開拓性的展覽在國際上贏得了高度評價，確立亞洲當代藝術先驅的地位。

當代唐人藝術中心代理的中國著名藝術家包括艾未未，黃永砵，沈遠，王度，劉小東，楊詰蒼，夏小萬，孫原&彭禹，顏磊，王音，鄭國谷，林明弘，林一林，何岸，趙趙，王郁洋，翁奮，楊勇，徐華翎，徐渠，徐小國，計州，蔡磊，郭偉，凌健，陳文波等，也與裡克力·提拉瓦尼、阿運·拉挽猜哥，薩卡琳·克盧昂，大宛·瓦突亞，巴舍·越格爾等海外藝術家合作。

香港 當代唐人藝術中心最近在香港中環擴展新的展覽空間，坐擁2000平方英尺，以配合其發展國際展覽的項目。香港唐人於2015年10月，以艾未未“木質球”個展為新空間拉開序幕，緊隨展出一系列當代獨樹一幟的藝術家作品。