

PRESS RELEASE

"Zhang Hui: Groundless"

2012.4.28 - 6.17

Long March Space, Beijing

Long March Space is pleased to present Zhang Hui's solo exhibition Groundless curatorial by Colin Chinnery. Following the solo exhibition 21st Floor and a Half at Long March Space in 2009, Groundless represents artist Zhang Hui's 3 years profound creation of work. The exhibition is structured by key words "onlookers", "neon", "life buoy", "listen" and "dialogue".

In Heidegger's words, the work of art "sets up a world and keeps it in force". This is a good description of Zhang Hui's painting process. Zhang Hui constantly deny existing objects attributes, giving the ontology new possibilities. Common material as safe buoy, ears and shoes are floating above the black background on canvas demonstrating a real existing presence and uncompromising contradiction on visual.

Zhang Hui searches for the space where reality and the subconscious, the normal and the abnormal interact. In his recent work, Zhang continues his performative exploration of duration and its relationship to ideas of time and space through an investigation of painting. Zhang's subjects move from the rituals of banality which are anchored in everyday life, to the quest for dreaming – two primary components of this artist's evocative dramas. His gestural surfaces scale the human on a spiritual and psychological level, employing elements of the theatrical (through color and scale) to create a dreamscape whereby his subject's vulnerability is exposed to the viewer, often triggered by lines of text, seemingly borrowed from traditional fairytales and folkloric narratives, floating amid the landscape.

Zhang Hui's suspicion of our reality is shaped by a reverence for existence itself, and it is through this reverence that an attempt to describe it is possible. By a process of a constant negation of his own practice, Zhang Hui has found the earth Heidegger wrote of that conceals infinite potential, from which an alternative world can emerge. With his black canvases, Zhang Hui's work to describe the world has just begun.

Curator Colin Chinnery:

"Groundless", the title of Zhang Hui's solo show at Long March Space, is a word that denotes a lack of foundation, a lack of rational basis for something. Reality is tangible, but at the same time it is constructed. Although it is real, it doesn't have to be believed in. The

Address: 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Rd, Chaoyang District, Beijing

Mailing: Long March Space. Mailbox 8530, Beijing. P.R. China 100015

地址: 北京市朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798艺术区 | 邮址: 北京市8503信箱长征空间 邮编 100015

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basis for which things are the way they are cannot be taken for granted, and the more one examines the structure of the man made world, the more one can question the foundations it depends on. The supermarkets, apartment blocks, social structures, and new beliefs all appears to have emerged to fill the void left by the decay or death of traditional culture in the wake of failed revolution. As an artist, how does one describe a reality that appears so emptied of meaning? This is the central question for Zhang Hui as he approaches his canvases, and this question has driven him to renounce his own work over and again as he has attempted to build a world that doesn't rely on the artificial construction of today's fragile reality.

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