

PRESS RELEASE

“Zhu Yu:Separation”

2015.3.7-5.24

Long March Space, Beijing

“Separation” is Zhu Yu's second solo show at Long March Space. It's an exhibition looking back at ten years of Zhu Yu's works on canvas, and is curated by Colin SiyuanChinnery.

Zhu Yu is one of China's least understood contemporary artists. Although this has never been his explicit intention, it is inevitable given his attitude towards art and the resulting methodology from this attitude. If anything Zhu Yu has been entirely consistent from his early controversial works involving human remains to his ethereal representations of stains. Although taking the form of a painting show, this is not a show about painting. This exhibition aims to explore Zhu Yu's way of thinking and attitude towards his work.

For this to be possible, a corridor has been constructed in Long March Space, linking together its two main exhibition halls and forcing an entirely linear reading of the work. On one side of this corridor Zhu Yu's paintings are crammed together in chronological order, from his first to his last with little regard for aesthetic sensibilities. In this treatment, individual works are denied their individuality.

Instead of 'reading' individual works, exhibition visitors are freed up to look at the artist's way of thinking and working, which is something central to Zhu Yu's ethos, and something perhaps denied to audiences before. Zhu Yu says, “In the end I want this exhibition to show a kind of project, something that compresses ten years of painstaking work into the idea of a single process. Maybe the paintings themselves are not central to this process, almost like the idea of performance.”

But the paintings of course are important, because it is the medium he has chosen to work exclusively for the past ten years. However, he has approached the medium in an entirely different way from other artists with the aim of creating a unique way of looking and representing the world. Separation refers to Zhu Yu's insistence on taking a difficult path, separating himself from anything that might seduce him into making work that fits all too easily into

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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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