



石头记·郑木彰

THE STORY OF THE STONE

TAY BAK CHIANG



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THE STORY OF THE STONE
TAY BAK CHIANG

Art Projects Gallery

11th May - 25th May 2014

Unit S510, 5/F, Block A, PMQ

35 Aberdeen Street, Central, Hong Kong

Open daily 11am to 8pm

艺途画廊

2014年5月11日至25日

香港中环鸭巴甸街35号 元创方A座5楼S510室

每日开放 上午11时至下午8时



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THE STORY OF THE STONE

TAY BAK CHIANG

“The Story of the Stone”, featuring a series of contemporary ink and pigment paintings by Tay Bak Chiang, is titled after the great Chinese literary classic of the same name. Also commonly known as “Dream of the Red Chamber”, the novel was written by Cao Xueqin in mid-18th century Qing Dynasty. Bak Chiang, having drawn much inspiration from the acclaimed story, pays tribute to it with his series of stone paintings.

The novel starts with the metaphysical story of a Stone Spirit. Abandoned by the goddess Nüwa, the Stone Spirit begs a Taoist priest and a Buddhist monk to take it to the mortal world. It is reincarnated as the novel's lead character, Jia Baoyu, who is born with a piece of magical jade in his mouth. The story goes on to narrate Jia Baoyu's life and his romantic relationships with his two female cousins. The storyline is also a parallel narration of the Stone's journey towards enlightenment, intertwined with the desires, passion and disenchantments of the mortal world. Bak Chiang is particularly inspired by the allegorical portrayal of the Stone, in which a lifeless object could be bestowed worldly experiences and personal expressions. This liberates his own depiction, allowing him to imbue his stone paintings with added dimensions of meaning and philosophical notions.

Bak Chiang's affinity for stones and rocks as subjects of his art originates from his reverence for nature. Nature, to him, is perfection, balance and harmony. Rocks have been objects of fascination for Chinese literati from as early as more than a millennium ago. Scholar Rocks, also known as Scholar Stones or Viewing Stones, are seen as

microcosmic representations of the natural world and admired for their aesthetic qualities. “The Story of the Stone” series goes beyond the traditional notion that stones are merely miniaturised embodiments of nature. Bak Chiang's stones seem to be endowed with life and personality, burnished by time and events to reach their current states. Creatively composed by the artist, as if he is constructing human portraits, the stones take on a myriad of expressions, appearing at times to be playful and spirited while at other times, poetic and contemplative.

Although trained in traditional Chinese ink painting, Bak Chiang constantly pushes boundaries to seek refreshing contemporary expressions in his paintings, whether in terms of subject matter, composition or the use of paint mediums. For “The Story of the Stone” series, he has created an innovative technique of using powdered colour pigments to create distinct textures that may not be achieved with traditional ink. Stroke after stroke, and layer upon layer, he meditatively applies pigments on rice paper to show the qualities of space, form and time in his stone paintings.

Goh Ray Vees

Co-Founder of Art Projects Gallery



石头记·郑木彰

《石头记》展示郑木彰一系列的当代水墨和颜料粉、宣纸作品，展览名称取自于中国四大名著之一的古典长篇章回小说《红楼梦》，原名《石头记》，于18世纪中期清朝时期由曹雪芹所作。这被誉为中国古典长篇小说的巅峰之作是木彰《石头记》系列作品的灵感来源。

小说一开始描述一块经过女娲修炼已经有了灵性的补天顽石（通灵宝玉）。这唯一一块未被女娲用来补天的通灵宝玉，经一僧一道带入尘世。这块通灵宝玉转世成为小说里的主角，贾宝玉。他出生时口中就含有一块美玉。小说接着描述贾宝玉与两位表姐、妹的凄美爱情故事。故事情节同时叙述贾宝玉的人生启蒙之旅、交织着人间世俗的欲望、激情和觉悟。小说对木彰的启发，莫过于石头的寓言和写照，一个没有生命的物体可以被赋予世俗的经验和个人的表达。它激发了木彰对石头写照的解放，灌输更深层的意义和哲学观念，促使作品中的石头得到了各种诠释。

采用石头和岩石为作品主题的木彰，基于对大自然的仰慕，觉得大自然特别有亲和力。对木彰而言，大自然是“完美、平衡与和谐”的。岩石早在一千多年前已成为中国学者们所迷恋的对象。自古以来对于灵璧供石的鉴赏，“供石”即“石供”，出自于它的形态、颜色和纹理是自然界的微观表征。

木彰《石头记》的一系列作品，则超越了运用石头作为微观表象的传统概念。他所描绘的石头，似乎被注入了生命和个性，象是经过了时间和事件的洗礼，从而造就了当前的状态。艺术家巧妙的结构手法，仿佛在塑造一个人的肖像，让石头呈现出无数的表达形态，时而俏皮、活泼，时而诗情画意。

受教于传统水墨画，木彰不断的推动传统水墨技巧的边界，无论是在题材、结构或是媒介的运用，都意图寻求突破、打破常规，使他的作品展现出令人耳目一新的当代表达手法。在《石头记》系列作品里，木彰采用了炭料般的色粉，创造了一个无法由传统水墨来呈现的质感。层层叠叠一笔一笔画的，木彰若有所思地将墨颜料应用在宣纸上，在他一系列的石头作品中体现出空间、形态和时间的特质。

敖若威
艺途画廊 – 联合创始人

问谁领风骚
Leading Light

138 x 200 cm
Pigments and Chinese colours on rice paper
2014





修身
Mindfulness

220 x 61 cm
Pigments and Chinese ink and colours on rice paper
2014



山君
Gentleman in the Mountain

200 x 61 cm
Pigments and Chinese colours on rice paper
2014

白皙如雪
Fair
120 x 177 cm
Pigments and Chinese colours on rice paper
2014



焦尾琴
Burnt-End Zither

124 x 124 cm
Pigments and Chinese ink and colours on rice paper
2014





呼吸
Breathe

124 x 124 cm
Pigments and Chinese ink on rice paper
2014



芳心
A Heart Won Over

124 x 124 cm
Pigments and Chinese colours on rice paper
2014

小雨点
Little Raindrop

124 x 124 cm
Pigments and Chinese colours on rice paper
2014



顶天立地
Indomitable

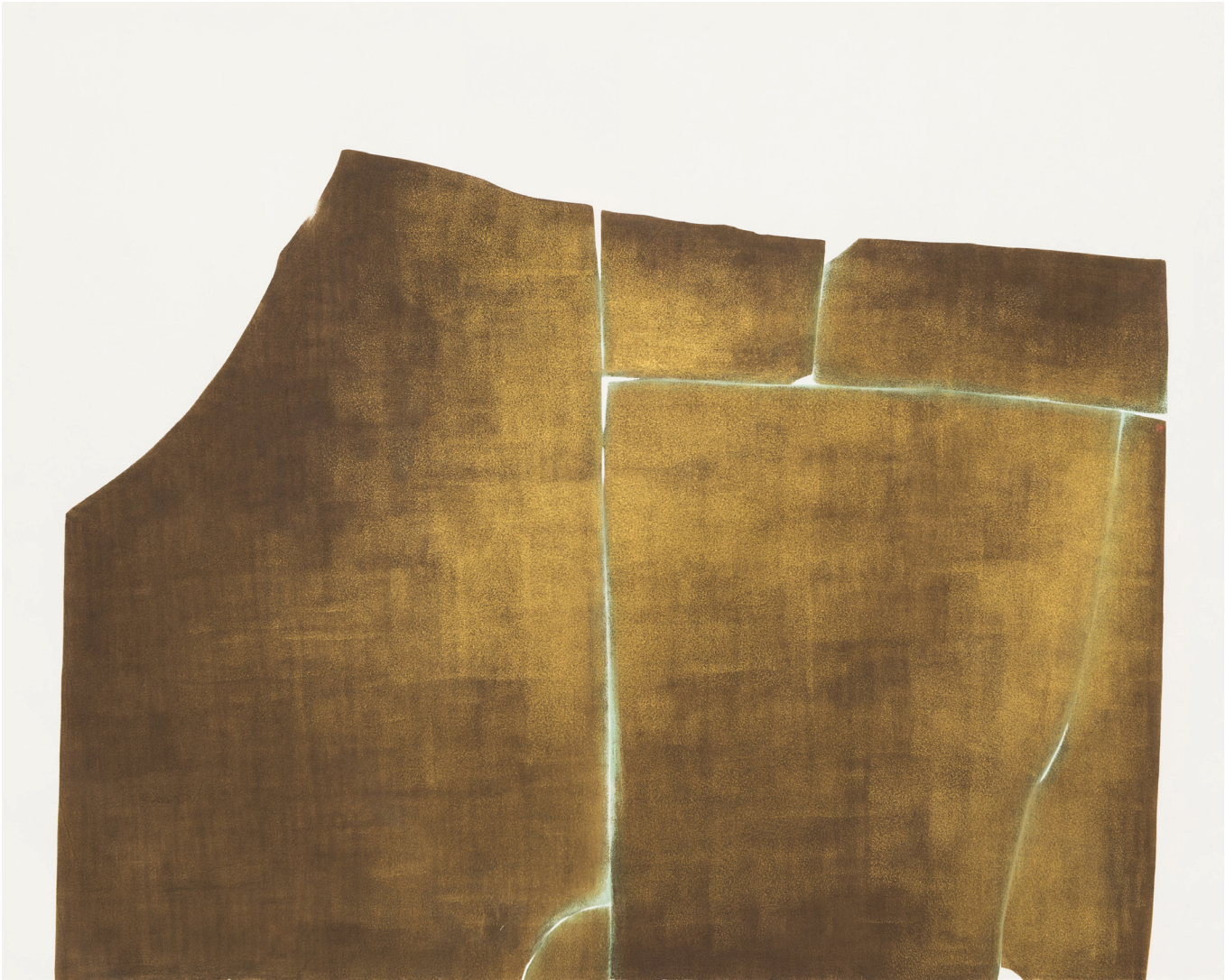
124 x 240 cm
Pigments and Chinese ink on rice paper
2014





谁与争锋
The Challenger

124 x 124 cm
Pigments and Chinese colours on rice paper
2014



海市蜃楼
Mirage

138 x 172 cm
Pigments and Chinese colours on rice paper
2014

深藏若虚
Undercover

124 x 165 cm
Pigments and Chinese colours on rice paper
2014



通灵宝玉
Sentient

124 x 124 cm
Pigments and Chinese colours on rice paper
2014



逸品
Rarity

124 x 124 cm
Pigments and Chinese colours on rice paper
2014



天工开物
Nature's Ingenuity

200 x 138 cm
Pigments and Chinese colours on rice paper
2014



豪门
Majesty

138 x 173 cm
Pigments and Chinese colours on rice paper
2014





相隔一线
A Fine Line

124 x 124 cm
Pigments and Chinese colours on rice paper
2014



青羽
Green Quill

210 x 124 cm
Pigments and Chinese colours on rice paper
2014

郑木彰 Tay Bak Chiang

Born in 1973, currently works and resides in Singapore

Education

- 1997–1998 China Academy of Fine Art (People’s Republic of China)
- 1992–1995 Diploma in Fine Art, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore

Solo Exhibitions

- 2014 《石头记》 The Story of the Stone, Art Projects Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2014 《顽石》 Sentience, Chan Hampe Galleries, Singapore
- 2013 《剑气》 The Breath of A Blade, Jendela, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Singapore
- 2012 《且听风吟》 Hear the Wind Sing, Art Projects Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2011 《天工》 Ingenuity, Chan Hampe Galleries, Singapore
- 2010 《呼吸之间》 Between Breaths, Artfolio Gallery, Singapore
- 2003 《法自画生》 Fa Zi Hua Sheng, Plum Blossoms Gallery, Singapore

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2014 Affordable Art Fair, Battersea, London, UK
- 2013 Made in Singapore – Three Quarters of a Century, NAFA Galleries, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore
- 2013 《床事》 A Thing or Two about the Bed, FOST Gallery, Singapore
- 2013 Cascadence – Singapore Redux, iPreciation Gallery, Singapore
- 2013–2014 Affordable Art Fair, Hong Kong
- 2013 Crisis of Monumentality, Chan Hampe Galleries, Singapore
- 2012 Cityscapes Unbound, OCBC Centre, Singapore
- 2012 《诗琴画艺》 Poetic Charm, Esplanade Recital Studio, Singapore
- 2012 《墨》 Mò, Jendela, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Singapore
- 2011 Art for the Heart – Perpetual Spirit, in support of Mercy Relief, Helutrans, Singapore
- 2011-2013 Affordable Art Fair, F1 Pit Building, Singapore
- 2011 Asia Top Gallery Hotel Art Fair, Grand Hyatt Seoul, Korea
- 2010 Now and Next – Modern Arts of Korea, Japan, Singapore, National Museum of Gwang-Ju, Korea
- 2010 Space + Imagination, Korea Singapore Contemporary Art Exchange Exhibition, Jeollanamdo Okgwa Art Museum, Korea
- 2010 Celebrating Asian Art, Artfolio Gallery, Singapore
- 2010 Live Our Dreams Community Paintings, The Arts House, Singapore
- 2009 Nanyang in Paris, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Gallery, Singapore
- 2009 Nanyang – 70 Years After, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Gallery, Singapore
- 2005 Singapore Art Show, Singapore Management University, Singapore
- 2005 Singapore Art Fair, Suntec City Convention Hall, Singapore
- 2005 The Sixth Face, MICA Building Artrium, Singapore
- 2004 Internationale Cite des Arts, Paris, France
- 2004 SingArt – A Brush with Lions – public art exhibition, Singapore
- 2004 Siaw-Tao Chinese Seal-Carving Calligraphy and Painting Society Exhibition, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2003 Singapore Creative Calligraphy and Painting Exhibition, Chengdu and Shanghai, China
- 2003–2009 International Chinese Ink Painting Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan (2003–2009) and Hangzhou, China (2009)
- 2002–2008 Teochew Art Exhibition, Ngee Ann Cultural Centre, Singapore
- 2002 Urban Artists 2002, MICA Building Artrium, Singapore
- 2001 Nokia Singapore Art, Singapore
- 2001 Ten Contemporary Singapore Artists Joint Exhibition, MICA Building Artrium, Singapore
- 2000 AD2000 Kaohsiung 14th International Art Interchange Exhibition, Taiwan
- 1999 Nokia Singapore Art, Singapore
- 1997–2000 Singapore Art Society Annual Art Exhibition, Singapore
- 1997–2000 NAFA Alumni Association Annual Art Exhibition, Singapore
- 1995–2011 Siaw-Tao Chinese Seal-Carving Calligraphy and Painting Society Annual Exhibition, Singapore

Awards

- 2003 First Prize (Traditional Chinese Medium Category) 22nd UOB Painting of the Year Competition, Singapore
- 2002 Young Artist Award for Visual Arts (Awarded by National Arts Council, Singapore)
- 2000 First Prize (Traditional Chinese Medium Category) 19th UOB Painting of the Year Competition, Singapore
- 1999, 2002 Distinction, Chinese Painting Category Dr Tan Tsze Chor Art Award, Singapore
- 1999 First Prize, Singapore Turf Club Art Competition
- 1995 16th Shell Discovery Art Award, Singapore

Interviews and Reviews

- “The Art of Sword”, Singapore Architect Issue 274
- “事外远致”, 《南洋艺术 39》 Nanyang Arts 39, May 2013
- “以文化底蕴推动剑气——郑木彰的武侠画”, 《南洋艺术 39》 Nanyang Arts 39, May 2013
- “小李飞刀例不虚发”, Lianhe Zaobao, 16 Feb 2013
- “Martial Arts Novels Inspire Tay Bak Chiang’s Chinese Ink Works”, Blouin Artinfo, 15 Jan 2013
- “从心出发 本地艺术家为滨海庆生”, Lianhe Zaobao, 25 Sep 2012
- 《艺术无国界》 Artistic Journeys, MediaCorp Channel U, Feb 2012
- “纯粹的视觉体验”, Lianhe Zaobao, 4 June 2011
- “几何图形的荷塘”, Lianhe Zaobao, 25 March 2010
- “法国美景在南艺 -巴黎一线牵”, Lianhe Zaobao, 3 Sep 2009
- “啸涛39： 不乏新风貌”, Lianhe Zaobao, 16 May 2009
- Travelling Palette, Asean Series (Luang Prabang, Laos), Arts Central, 2008
- 《艺意孤行》, Mediaworks Channel U, Dec 2004
- “No Turning Bak”, Cohesion Magazine, Nov–Dec 2004
- “鱼上鸟下，反常合道”, Lianhe Zaobao, 5 Nov 2003 (Fa Zi Hua Sheng)
- “第22届大华银行全国绘画比赛”, Lianhe Zaobao, 23 July 2003 (22nd UOB Painting of the Year Competition)
- “King of Swing Wins Top Cultural Award”, The Straits Times, 9 Oct 2002 (Young Artist Award)
- “五青年同摘艺术甜果”, Lianhe Zaobao, 9 Oct 2002 (Young Artist Award)
- “学成归来献才艺”, Lianhe Zaobao, 9 Oct 2002 (Young Artist Award)
- Interview, Good Morning Singapore, Mediacorp Channel 8, Oct 2002 (Young Artist Award)
- Interview, Mediacorp Radio Capital FM95.8, Oct 2002 (Young Artist Award)
- “思潮之间的大道”, Lianhe Zaobao, 14 July 2000 (19th UOB Painting of the Year Competition)
- “Winning with Horses”, The Straits Times, 15 Sep 1999 (Singapore Turf Club Art Competition)
- “马迷入马场也入了画”, Lianhe Zaobao, 16 Sep 1999 (Singapore Turf Club Art Competition)

Collections

- The Istana, official residence and office of the President of Singapore
- Mandarin Oriental, Singapore
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore
- Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore
- National Arts Council, Singapore
- National Gallery Singapore
- OCBC Bank
- Shangri-La Hotel at The Shard, London
- Simmons & Simmons Contemporary Art Collection
- Singapore Turf Club
- SingTel
- SC Global Developments
- United Overseas Bank
- Private Collectors



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Curated by Ray Vees Goh, Anng Tan

Designed by Art Projects Gallery

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