



呼吸之间

Between Breaths

Tay Bak Chiang 郑木彰

呼吸之间 **Between Breaths**

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by Tay Bak Chiang

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人在每呼吸一瞬间，吐故纳新，感悟于当下。
呼吸之间，时时更新自我，让生命常青。
艺术的追求，也是如此。

As we breathe, we exhale the old and the familiar,
inhale the new and the unknown.

As we breathe, we live in the present moment.

Between breaths, life renews, as does my art.

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SMALL WORKS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



自序 / 《荷塘》与《石头记》是新创作的系列。我一改过去惯用的亮丽色彩，而以黑白色为主调，是想换个心情，让自己处在一个新鲜的位置。

荷塘丰富的生态环境就像一个小小世界。我想像从青蛙、游鱼和蜻蜓眼里看到的荷塘是什么情境。观察角度的易位，有助我重新发现和塑造这已被多人描绘过的题材。

在这些新作品中，将花朵变成极简的形象，用粗壮的线条表现荷塘中的枝梗。对我而言，尤其在创作心态上，都是向前踏出一大步，也是极艰难的一步。

想要摆脱对“形”不由自主的依赖，其实内心经历过一段不断自我否定的过程。这主要来自对创作结果的不满意，也因为我相信表达美的感受原本就可以更直接、更纯粹。

让一切归零，再重新出发，往往能让思维从对传统的依赖中释放出来。《呼吸之间》、《天书》、《悄悄话》等就是在这种让心手更自由的状态下完成的作品。

跷跷板、滑梯、秋千等常是我陪两岁女儿书楷玩的游戏。荷塘里的主人应该像我们一样也拥有充满回忆及欢乐的游乐园，把这些游戏融入画里是美丽的偶然。作品《奔月》、《不亦乐乎》、《观星》等让我可以把想像放置其中，加上些幽默，满足了我创作时多些感性的乐趣。

《石头记》系列缘起于几年前游武吉知马后山，遇见许多造型朴拙的大石，依势矗立于山林间。似尘世外的隐士，那淡然自在的神态，仿佛让人可以闻到清寂的气味。

记得国外某艺评家曾生动的在其著作中提到：梵谷在法国阿尔勒的画，几乎都能让人感受到麦田的气味。而莫内所画的睡莲，不但能嗅到水塘清清阴阴的气味，还可以从中听到水面荡开的涟漪声。

一幅描绘石头的画，又该有什么样的气味呢？

如何刻划静态的大石让我琢磨了很久。最终我尝试用漆黑的背影去体现它在旷野中那深沉及孤高的气质。为了丰富黑的层次，用墨之外，也搭配炭料般的色粉。层层叠叠一笔一笔的刻划石面，那积累后的效果恰巧像是停留在石面上的斑斑岁月。

石头造型多是搜集而来，有的却是凭空捏造，作品《无弦琴》是一例。虽然自己不通音律，但我喜欢东晋诗人陶渊明对琴趣的追求。其诗句：“但识琴中趣，何劳弦上音” 意境旷达。神往之余，索性蘸墨把琴画成石头，留清音于天地间。

郑木彰

PREFACE /

For the *Lotus Pond* and *Stone* series, I opted for a monochrome palette, moving away from the bright colours I have often used. This shift allowed me to approach these works from a fresh vantage, with a new spirit and frame of mind.

What is the lotus pond like in the eyes of frogs, fish and dragonflies? Imagining this lush world from its inhabitants' perspective, I could interpret this familiar theme anew.

I wanted works in the *Lotus Pond* series to visualise beauty in the most direct, unadulterated way. I interpreted lotus flowers as minimalist forms; stalks as thick, sturdy, unembellished strokes. Breaking away from the dependence on representational forms was a very difficult thing to do; accompanying the constant experimentation was continual self-negation. To arrive at the outcomes I was looking for, in such works as *Between breaths*, *Heavenly script* and *In confidence*, I had to free my heart and hand from the reliance on traditional forms and start again at the beginning.

I often spend time at the playground with Shukai, my two-year-old daughter. She doesn't seem to ever tire of the seesaw, slide and swing, and I am happy to oblige with a nudge and a lift to help her get onto them. I hope our playground visits will become some of her fondest childhood memories. The lotus pond's inhabitants must surely have what we have – playgrounds filled with fun and memories. It was a wonderful coincidence that I could depict these games, together with a little humour, in works like *To catch the moon*, *My heart's content* and *Stargazing*.

As for the Stone series, I was first inspired on a walk in the Bukit Timah nature reserve some years ago. I chanced to see rustic, unrefined granite rocks that stood with an imposing, dignified spirit amid the greenery. I thought they were like hermits, reclusive from the material world. They seemed to emit a cool quietness, an air of indifference.

An art critic once wrote: van Gogh's paintings created in Arles emit the aroma of wheat fields, while Monet's lily ponds, with ripples burbling, breathe a damp, mossy scent.

What scent should a painting of stone have?

I pondered for a long time over how I should depict these large, inert stones. Eventually, I attempted to paint them as pitch-black, aloof silhouettes standing amid the wilderness. To enrich the layers, I used a charcoal-like pigment together with Chinese ink. Stroke by stroke, layer upon layer, I applied the ink – unintentionally leaving the effect of age on the stone surfaces.

The stone forms in some of the paintings were based on real ones. Others, like in *Stringless zither*, were fragments of my imagination. I have no music knowledge, but I find resonance in the Eastern Jin Dynasty poet Tao Yuanming's love for the Chinese zither (*guqin*). He wrote: "If one's heart truly knows the zither's music, why bother playing a stringed one?" Charmed by this line, I thought I might as well depict a stone as a stringless zither, setting its music adrift in the world.

Tay Bak Chiang

润物无声 / SOUNDLESS RAIN 花花世界 / LIFE IN MONOCHROME 观星 / STARGAZING
遇见一朵花 / A CHANCE MEETING 听禅 / THE SOUND OF SILENCE 闻道 / A SCENTED LIFE 初雨 / RAINDROP
花样年华 / IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE 姑娘十八 / AMAZING GRACE 初尘 / BUDDING 奔月 / TO CATCH THE MOON
呼吸之间 / BETWEEN BREATHS 悄悄话 / IN CONFIDENCE 不亦乐乎 / MY HEART'S CONTENT
心弦 I & II / HEARTSTRINGS I & II 天书 I, II & III / HEAVENLY SCRIPT I, II & III 星夜 / STARRY NIGHT 躲猫猫 / PEEKABOO

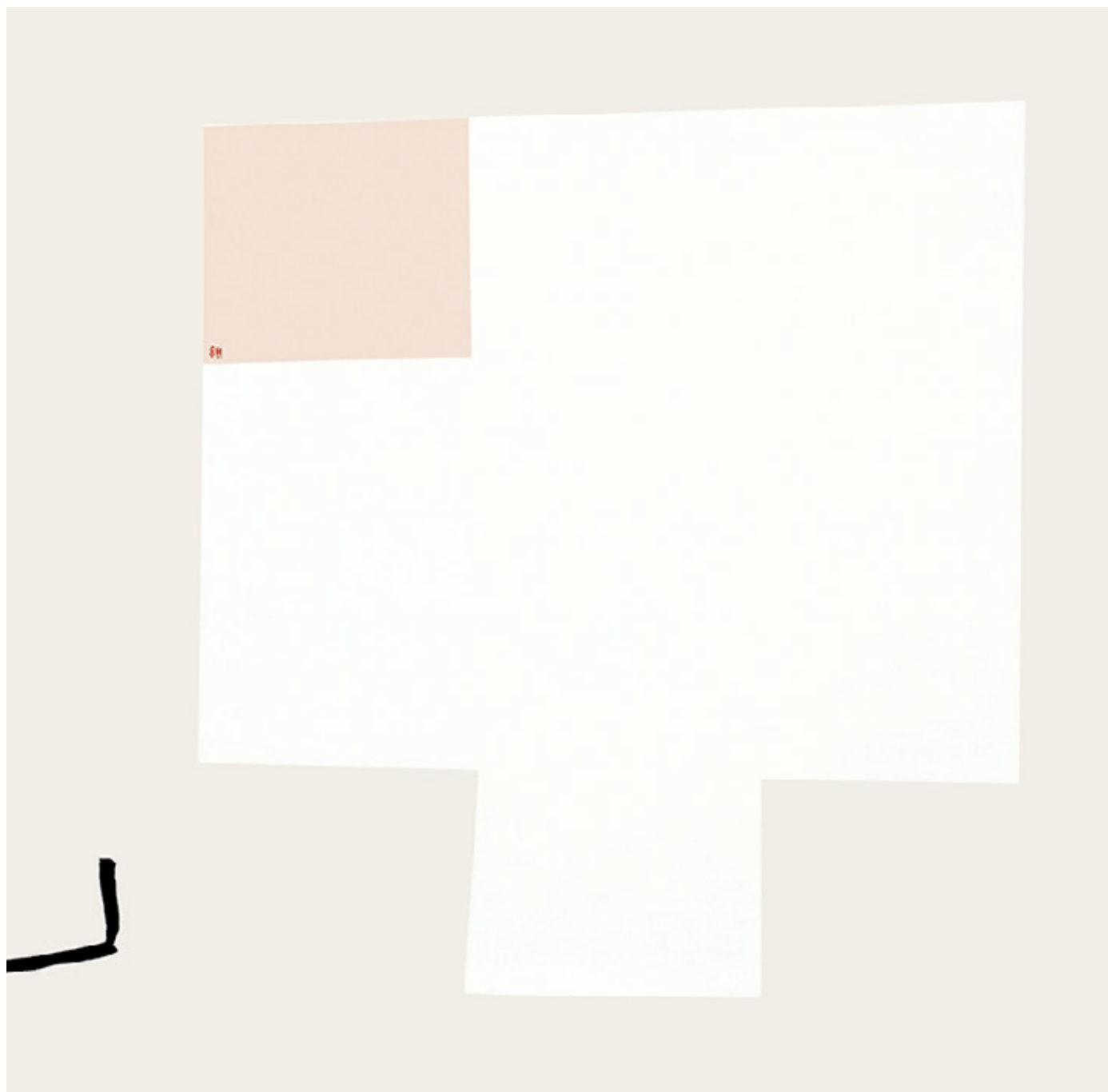
荷塘

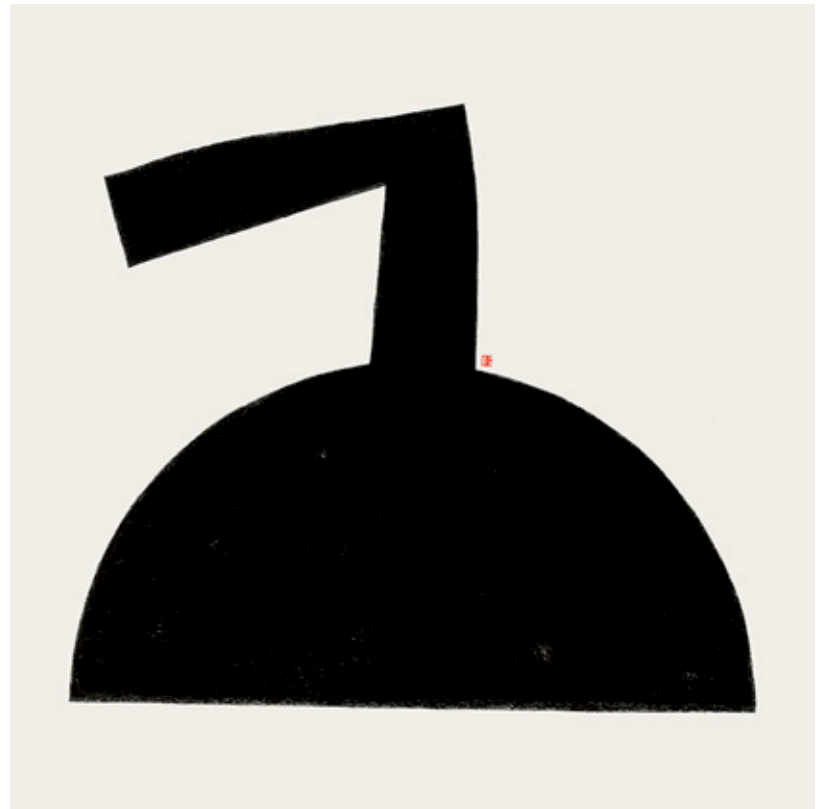
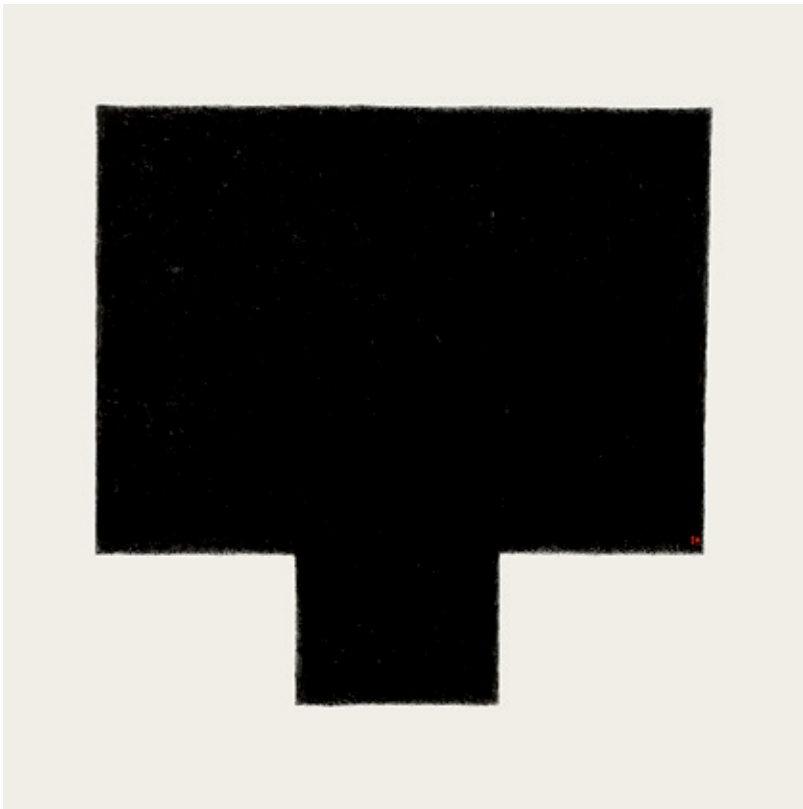
/ LOTUS POND

Chinese ink
and pigments
on rice paper

Soundless rain 润物无声
97 x 102 cm
2009



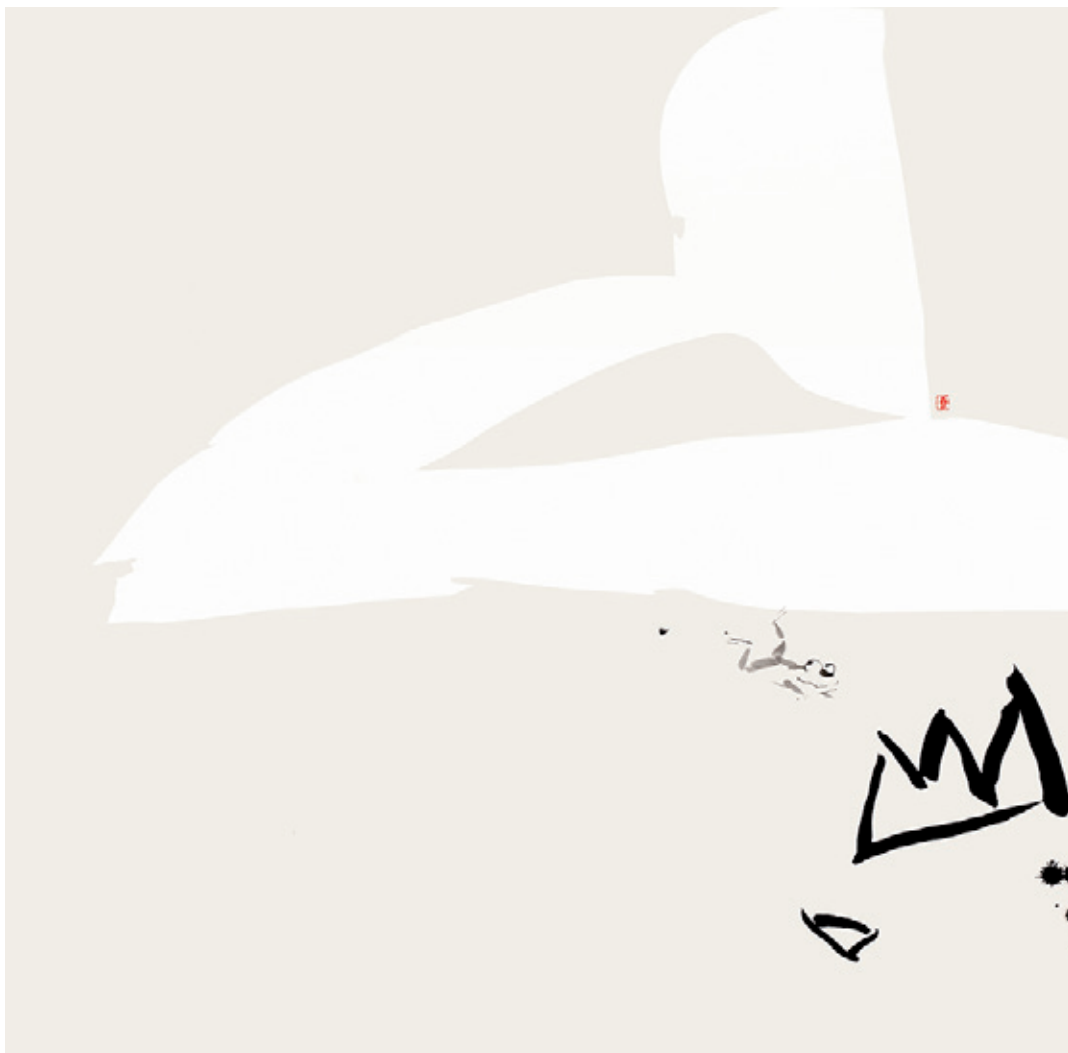






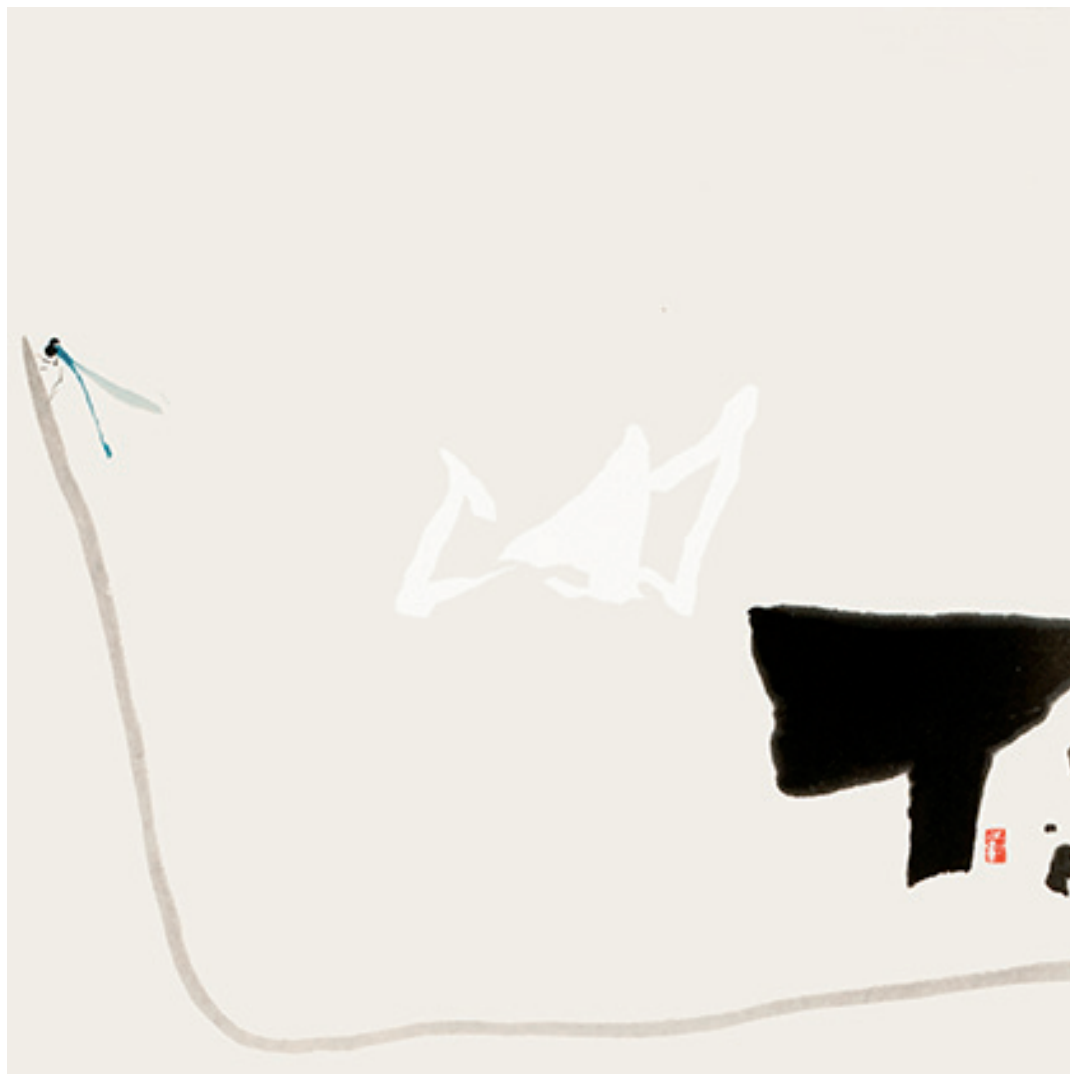
Life in monochrome 花花世界
97 x 97 cm x 3
2008





Stargazing 观星
97 x 97 cm
2008

A chance meeting 遇见一朵花
97 x 100 cm
2009



— The sound of silence 听禅
45 x 45 cm
2008

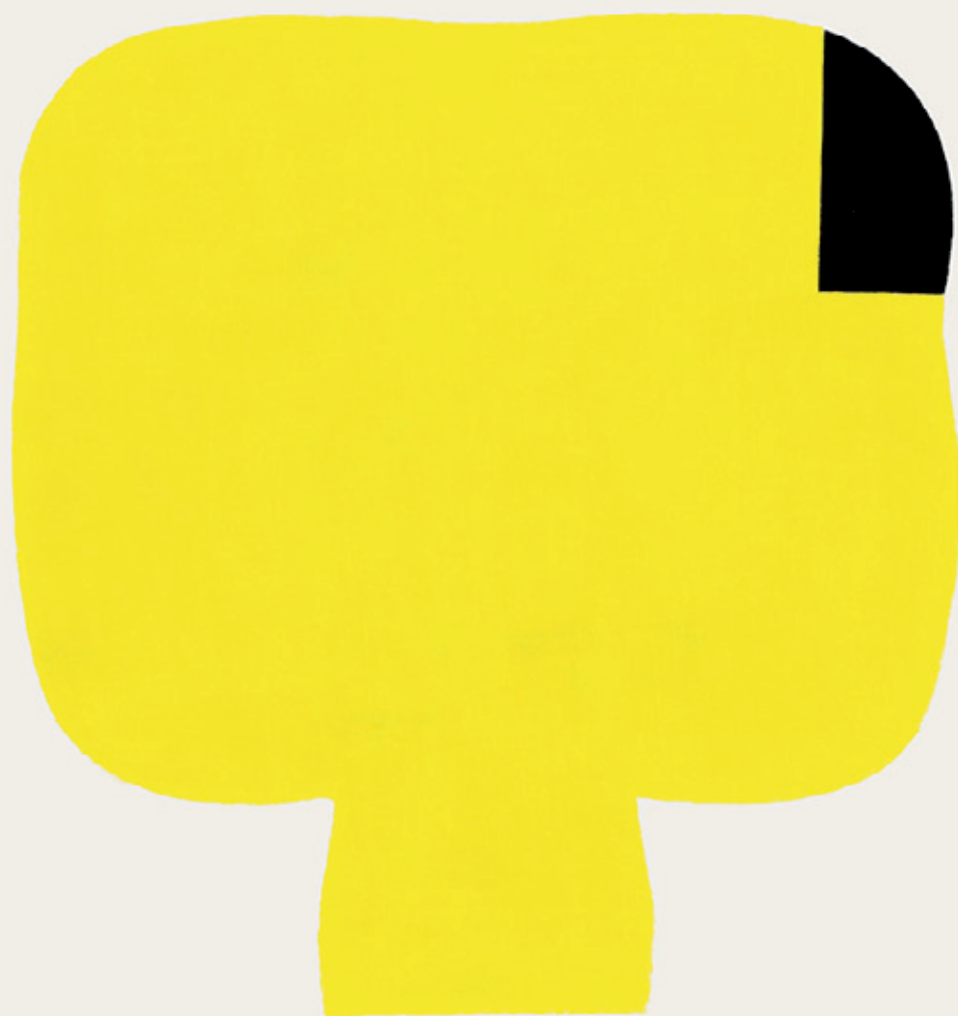


/ A scented life 闻道
45 x 45 cm
2008

Raindrop 初雨
97 x 100 cm
2009



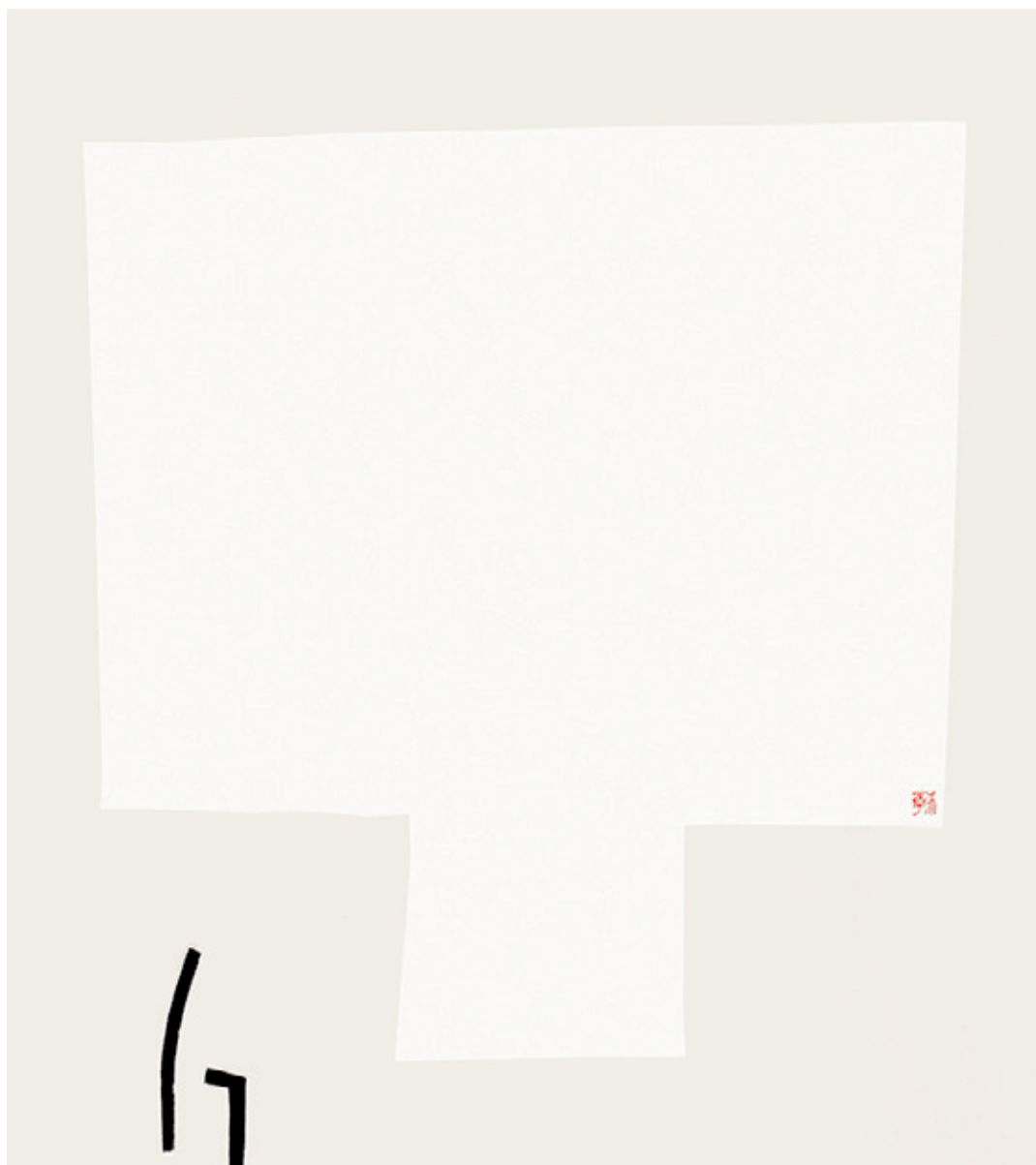




In the mood for love 花样年华
97 x 97 cm
2009

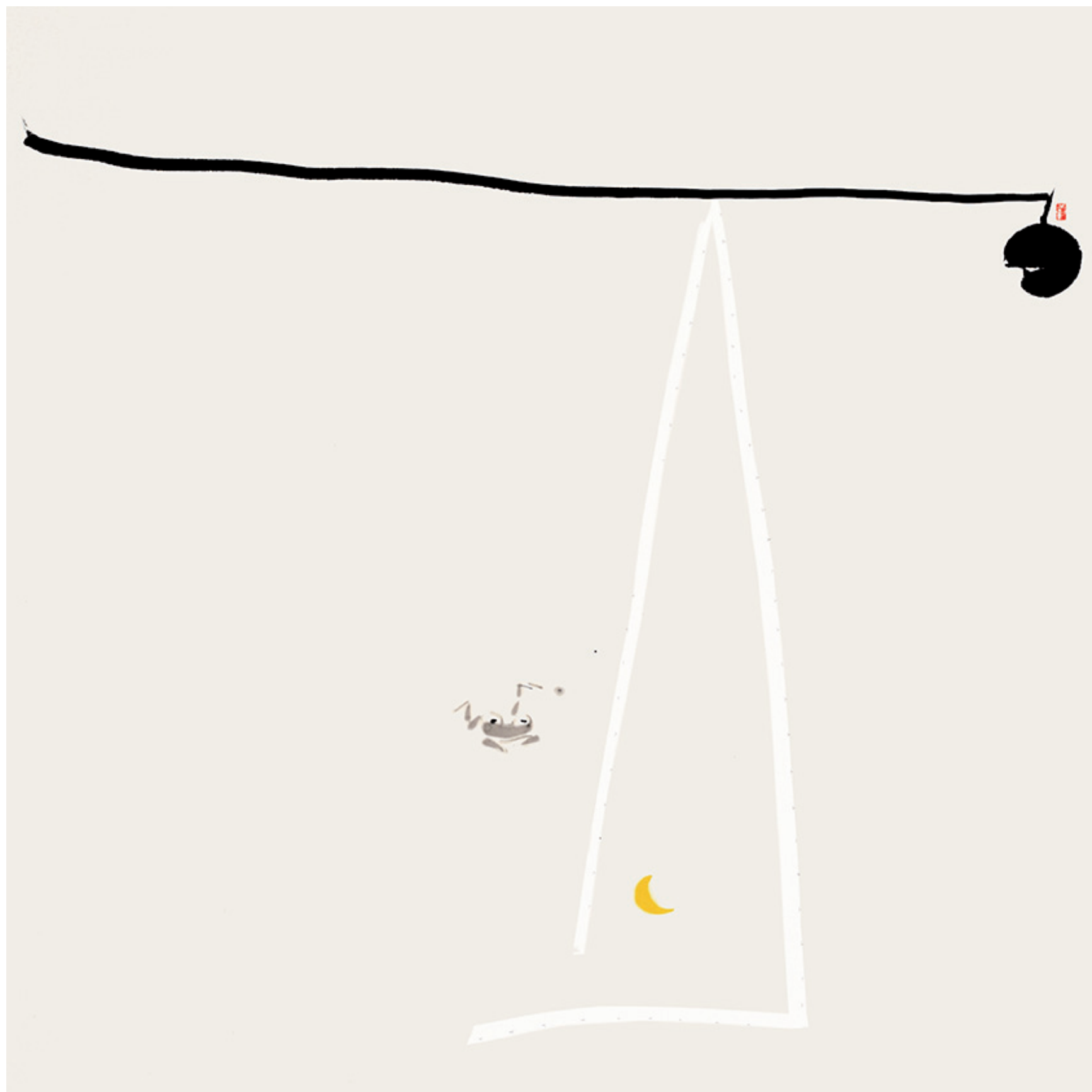
Amazing grace 姑娘十八
97 x 97 cm
2009

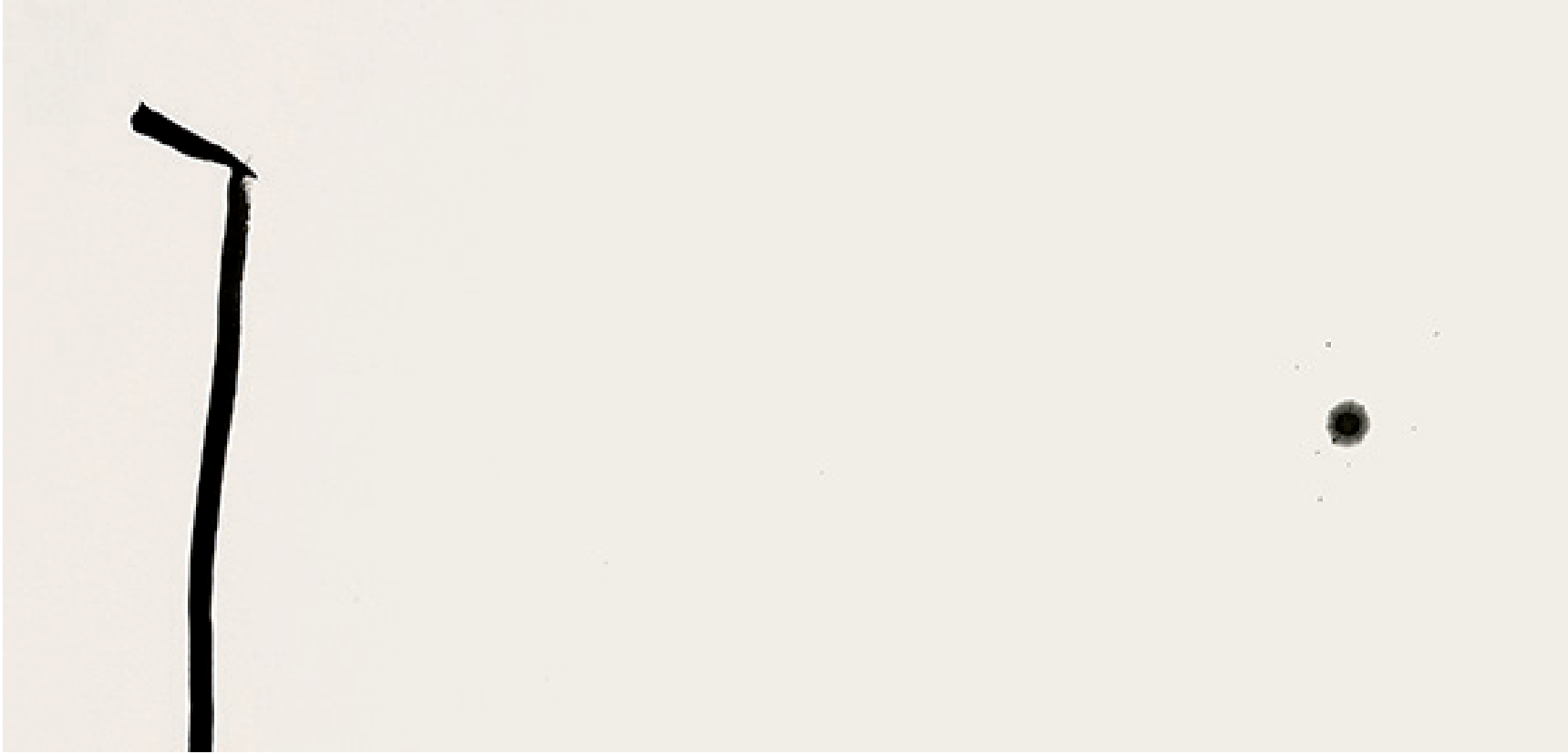




/ Budding 初尘
 97 x 88 cm
 2009

To catch the moon 奔月
 97 x 97 cm
 2009
 /







Between breaths 呼吸之间
49 x 200 cm
2009

In confidence 悄悄话
97 x 97 cm
2009





丁
子
年





My heart's content 不亦乐乎
97 x 185 cm
2009

Heartstrings I & II 心弦 I & II
200 x 49 cm
2009





Heavenly script I 天书 I
200 x 49 cm
2009



Heavenly script II & III 天书 II & III
 200 x 49 cm x 2
 2009



Starry night 星夜
97 x 97 cm
2009



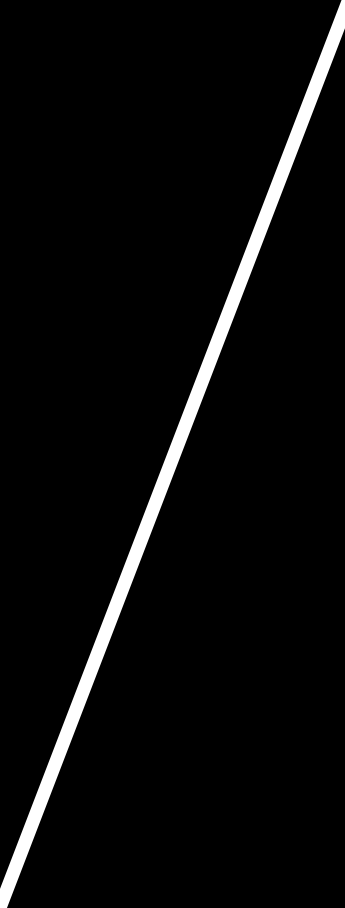
Peekaboo 躲猫猫
49 x 200 cm
2009





天机 / NATURE'S SECRET 天外天 / UTOPIA 云梯 / AERIAL LADDER 无弦琴 / STRINGLESS ZITHER

含玉 / JADE 九霄 / CLOUD 9 如如不动 / STILL



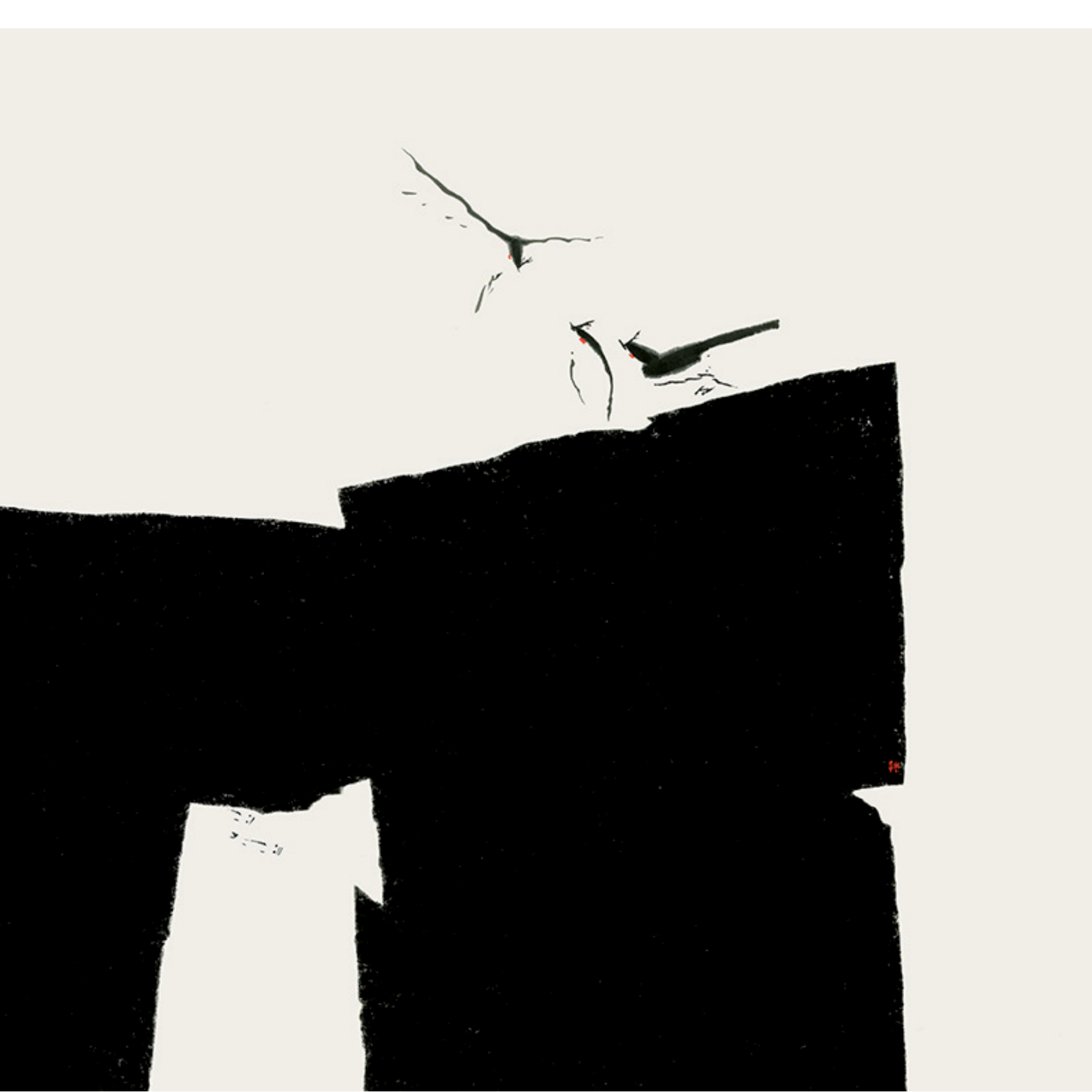
石頭記

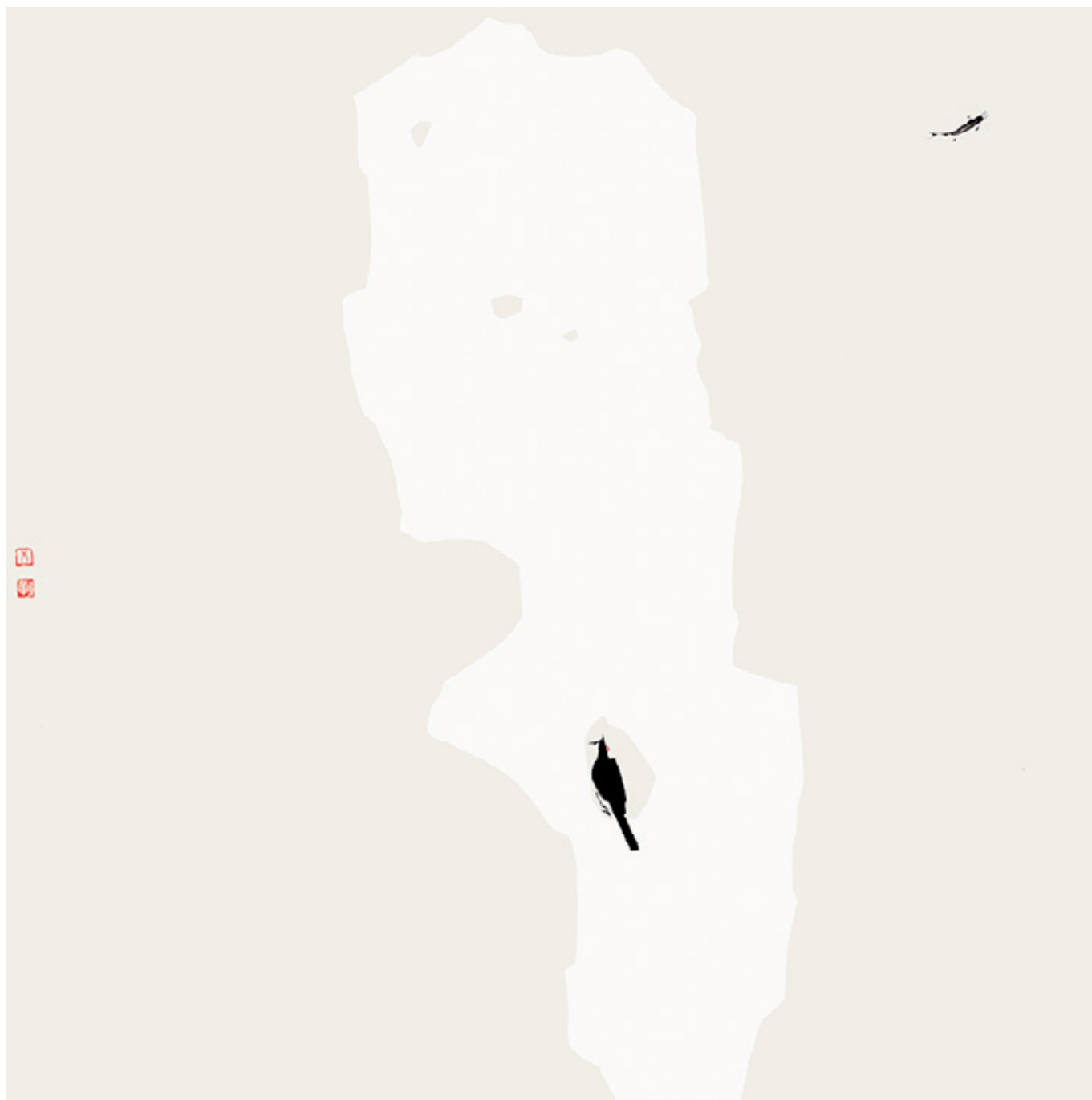
/ STONE

Chinese ink
and pigments
on rice paper

Nature's secret 天机
110 x 160 cm
2009







Utopia 天外天
122 x 122 cm
2009

Aerial ladder 云梯
200 x 49 cm
2009







Stringless zither 无弦琴
97 x 133 cm
2009

Jade 含玉
122 x 122 cm
2009









Cloud 9 九霄
97 x 180 cm
2009



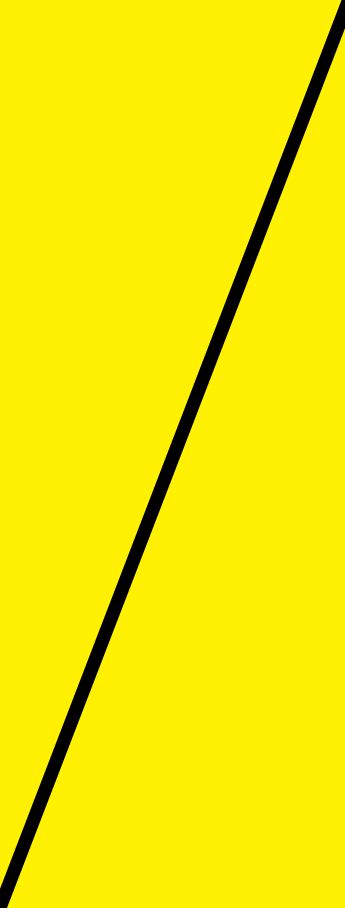
Still 如如不动
122 x 122 cm
2009



破箭式 / PO JIAN SHI 雨过天青云破处 / AND THE CLOUDS PARTED 是我 / IT IS I. 无心是道 / NONCHALANCE

小隐 / RECLUSIVE 骑云 / RIDING THE CLOUDS 弹指 / FLEETING 紫气东来 / PROPITIOUS

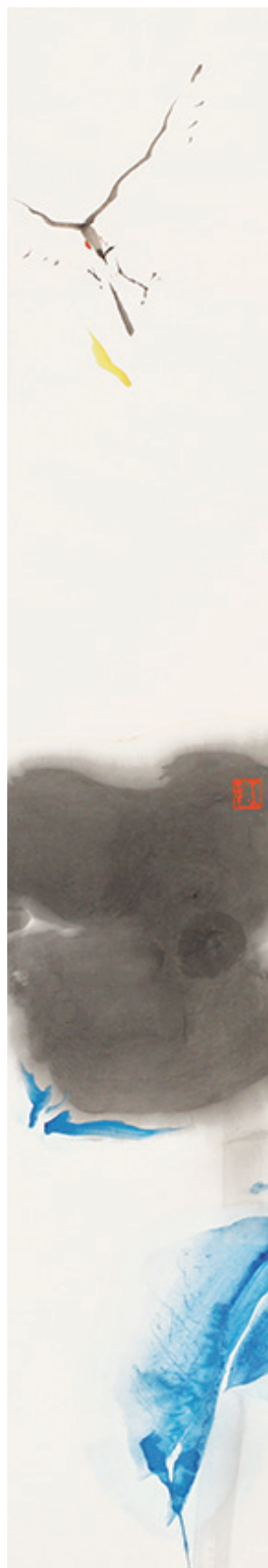
闭门即深山 / SOLITUDE 风清扬 / FENG QING YANG 真水无香 / IMPLICIT BEAUTY



小品

/ SMALL WORKS

Chinese ink
and pigments
on rice paper



Po jian shi 破箭式
138 x 23 cm
2008





And the clouds parted 雨过天青云破处
60 x 60 cm
2009

It is I. 是我
60 x 60 cm
2009





Nonchalance 无心是道
60 x 60 cm
2009



Reclusive 小隱
60 x 60 cm
2009



Riding the clouds 骑云
60 x 60 cm
2009



Fleeting 弹指
60 x 60 cm
2009



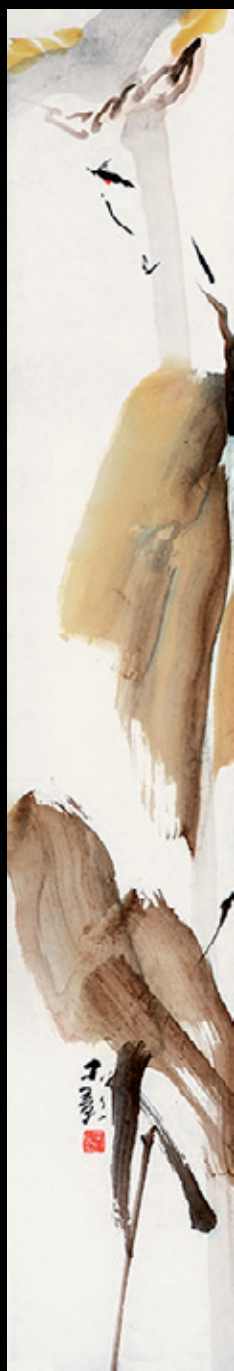
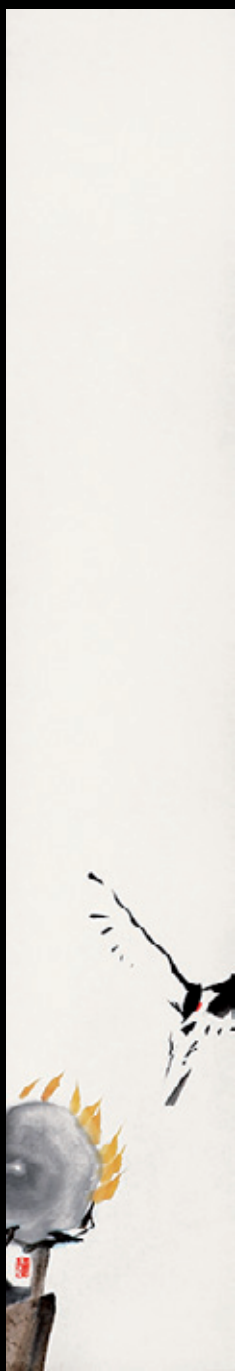


Propitious 紫气东来
60 x 60 cm
2009



Solitude 闭门即深山
60 x 60 cm
2009

Feng qing yang 风清扬
138 x 23 cm x 4
2008







Implicit beauty 真水无香
60 x 60 cm
2009

履历 /

BIO

Tay Bak Chiang 郑木彰
Born in Malaysia in 1973;
resident 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 /

- 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 /

- 2009 Nanyang in Paris, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Gallery, Singapore
- 2009 Nanyang – 70 Years After, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Gallery, Singapore
- 2006 American Club, 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, 2002 Singapore Art Society Annual Art Exhibition, Singapore
- 1997–2000 NAFA Alumni Association Annual Art Exhibition, Singapore
- 1995–2009 Siaw-Tao Chinese Seal-Carving Calligraphy and Painting Society Annual Exhibition, Singapore

Awards /

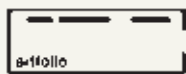
2003	First Prize (Traditional Chinese Medium Category) 22 nd UOB Painting of the Year Competition, Singapore (Title of work: <i>Visit</i>)
2002	Young Artist Award for Visual Arts (Awarded by National Arts Council, Singapore)
2000	First Prize (Traditional Chinese Medium Category) 19 th UOB Painting of the Year Competition, Singapore (Title of work: <i>Emotions by the Quay</i>)
1999, 2002	Distinction, Chinese Painting Category Dr Tan Tsze Chor Art Award, Singapore
1999	First Prize, Singapore Turf Club Art Competition (Title of work: <i>Awaiting</i>)
1995	16 th Shell Discovery Art Award, Singapore

Interviews and reviews /

- “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)

鸣谢 /
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