

青花
•
朱
印

B L U E W H I T E V E R M I L I O N

INTRODUCTION

I came across Tay Bak Chiang's work in the flesh in the Raffles Hotel Arcade, almost five years ago when we opened Chan Hampe Galleries. I was immediately struck by his contemporary approach to traditional ink painting, continuing in the venerable footsteps of artists such as Chua Ek Kay. Bak Chiang's works were fresh and exciting and I endeavoured to visit him in his studio as fast as humanly possible. This began a series of exhibitions and numerous iterations of Bak Chiang's Lotus and Stone series, each received with critical and commercial success. Blue White Vermilion 《青花 • 朱印》 is the next chapter of this exploration and Tay has once again managed to push the boundaries of the millennium old art form.

Blue White Vermilion 《青花 • 朱印》 develops further the lotus pond as a central motif in his works. Tay adopts the classic blue and white palette archetypal of Chinese *qinghua* 青花 porcelain to highlight the segue between water and sky, each painting conveying the boundless freedom of nature. Contrasted with the rich vermilion shade present in the *zhuyin* 朱印 Chinese engraved seal, Chinese traditional ink painting is reinterpreted through a minimalist aesthetic.

Tay Bak Chiang is representative of a group of artists whose works, though firmly embedded in tradition, reflect the spirit of contemporary times. We are pleased to present Blue White Vermilion 《青花 • 朱印》 and hope you enjoy the show.

Benjamin Milton Hampe

Chan Hampe Galleries

TAY BAK CHIANG 郑木彰
(B. 1973, Malaysia)

Tay Bak Chiang graduated from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in Singapore in 1995 and studied at the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou, China, in 1997. He was awarded the First Prize in the Chinese Painting category in the 19th and 22nd United Overseas Bank Painting of the Year Competitions (2000 and 2003 respectively). In 2002 he received the Young Artist Award from the National Arts Council of Singapore. He has had eight solo exhibitions to date: *Fa Zi Hua Sheng* 《法自画生》 (2003), *Between Breaths* 《呼吸之间》 (2010), *Ingenuity* 《天工》 (2011), *Hear the Wind Sing* 《且听风吟》 (2012), *The Breath of A Blade* 《剑气》 (2013), *Sentience* 《顽石》 (2014), *The Story of the Stone* 《石头记》 (2014) and *Cleavages Fractures Folds* 《斧劈皴》 (2014).

Bak Chiang paints subjects found in the nature of Singapore and Southeast Asia, such as heliconias, lotus ponds and rocks. He aims to reinterpret them inventively in terms of form, composition, technique, material and colour. Lotus flowers, for example, are depicted as minimalist forms in bold hues; lotus stalks as thick, unembellished black strokes; and stones as textured shapes and sculptural blocks in intense colours made by combining pigments and traditional Chinese ink and colours. These subjects, to his mind, are sentient beings that feel and perceive the world around them; he expresses his feelings and philosophies through them.

BLUE WHITE VERMILION 青花 • 朱印

Solo exhibition by Tay Bak Chiang
22 October – 15 November 2015



率意帖 **Flurry**

2015

Pigments and Chinese colours on rice paper

138 x 172 cm

书卷气 **Scholar's style**
2015
Pigments and acrylic on rice paper
178 x 43 cm each





游园 **Playground**

2015

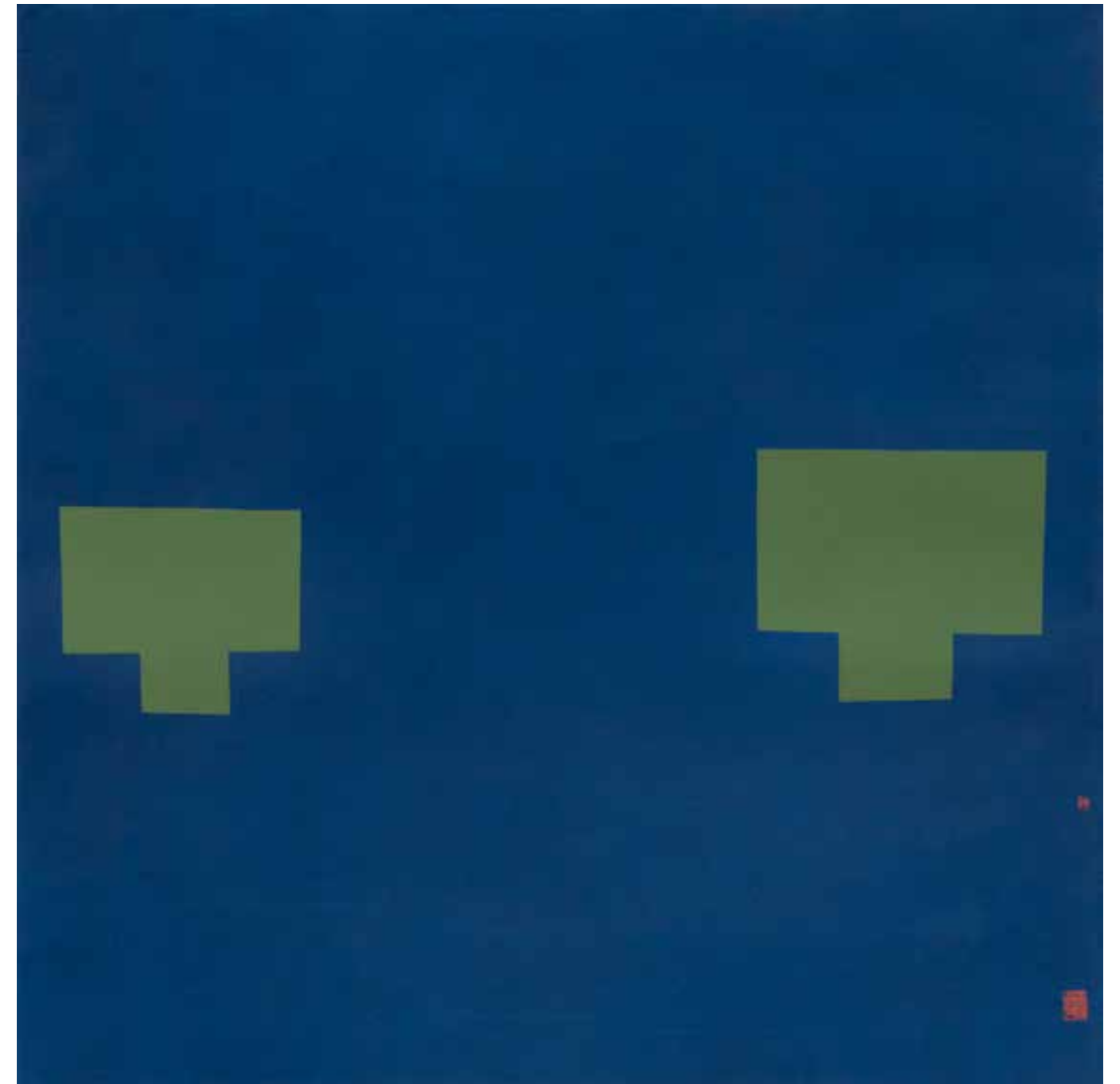
Pigments and acrylic on rice paper

42 x 180 cm

参禅 **Mindful**
2015
Pigments and acrylic on rice paper
100 x 100 cm



青莲 **Green lotuses**
2015
Pigments and acrylic on rice paper
100 x 100 cm

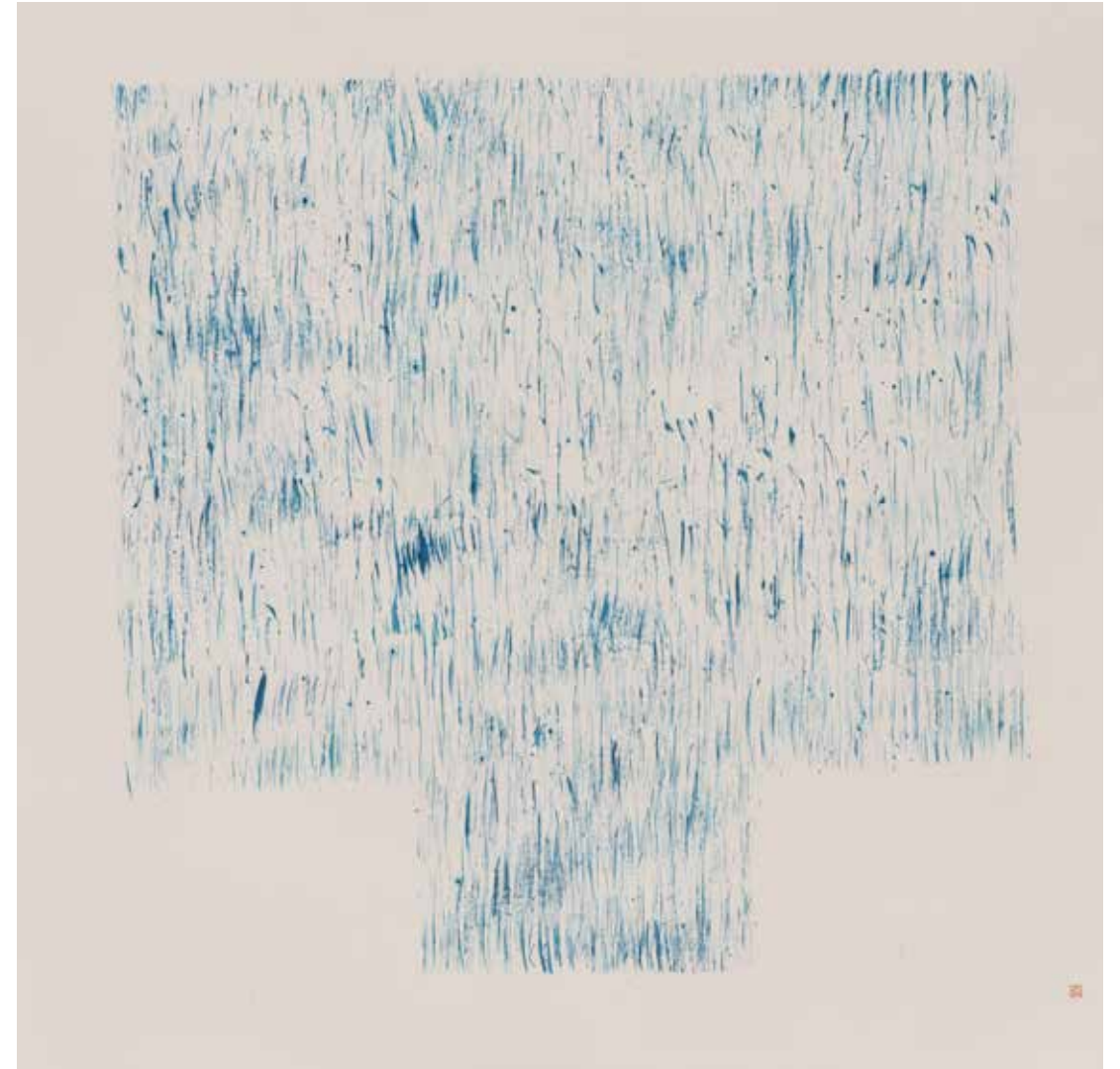


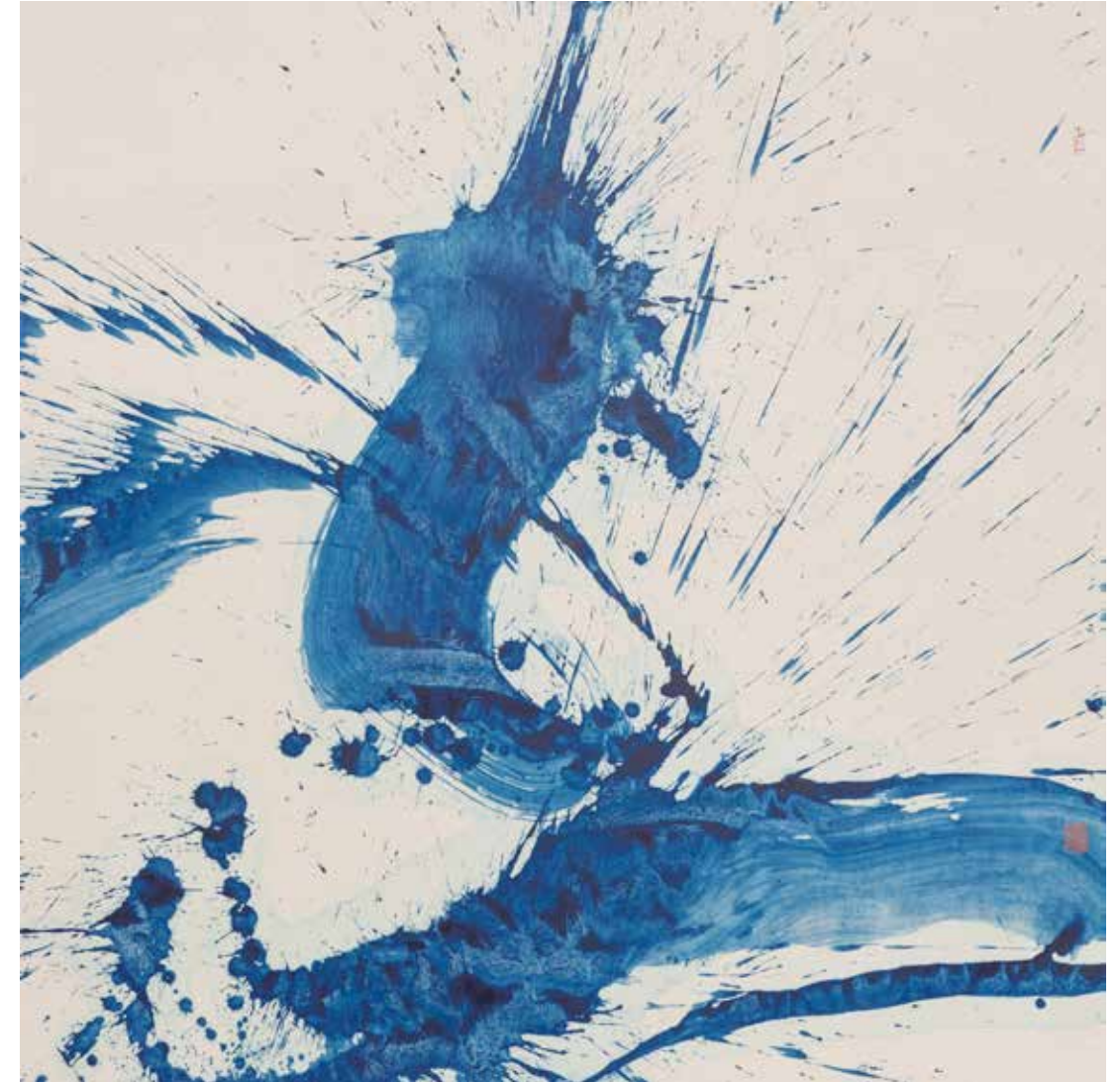
谁能看清 **Misty**

2015

Pigments and Chinese colours on rice paper

100 x 100 cm





提笔不为风雅 **Unbridled**

2015

Pigments and Chinese colours on rice paper

100 x 100 cm

月落波心 **The moon sets in my rippling heart**

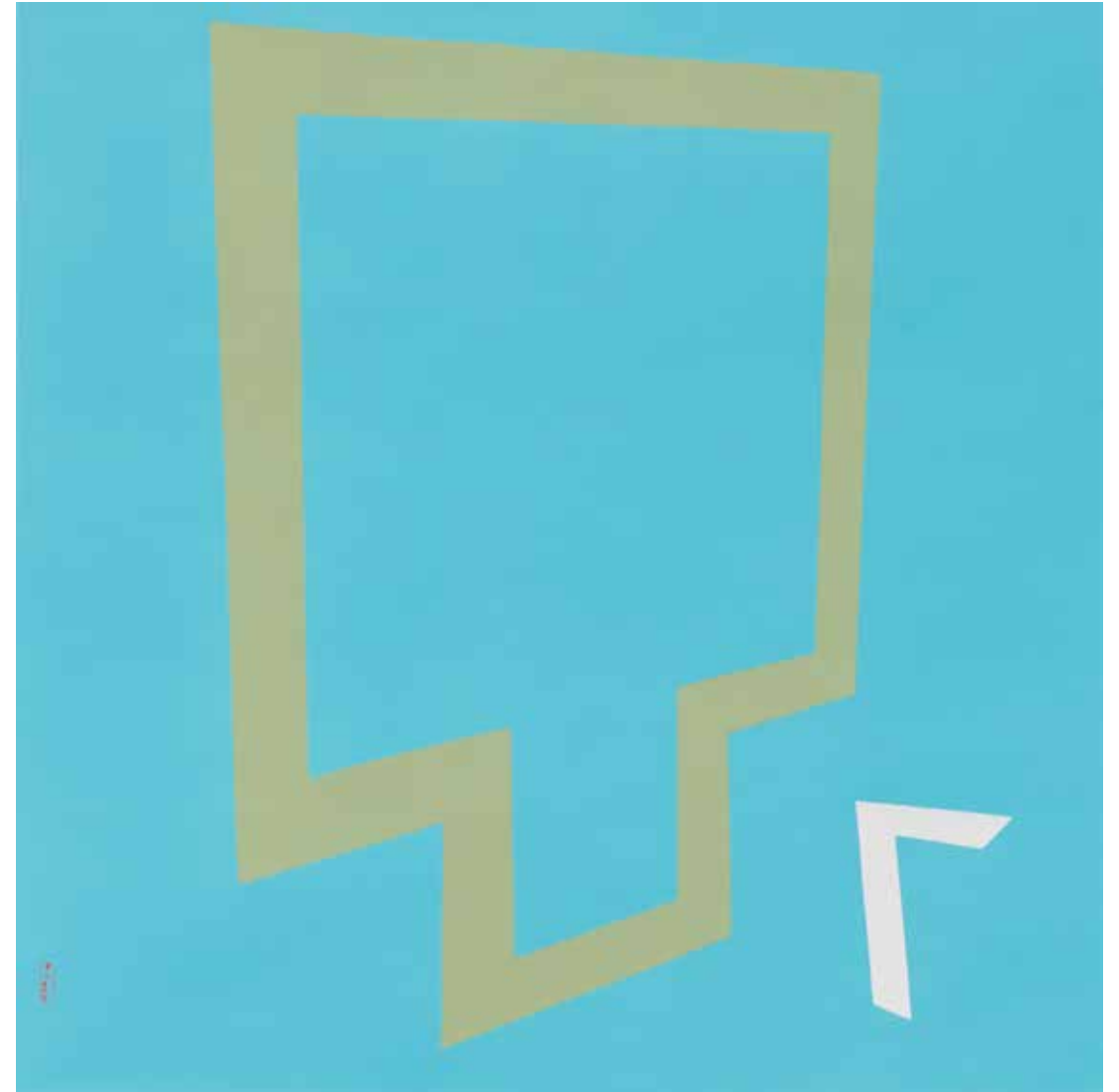
2015

Pigments and acrylic on rice paper

68 x 68 cm



四十不惑 **Life begins at forty**
2015
Pigments and acrylic on rice paper
68 x 68 cm



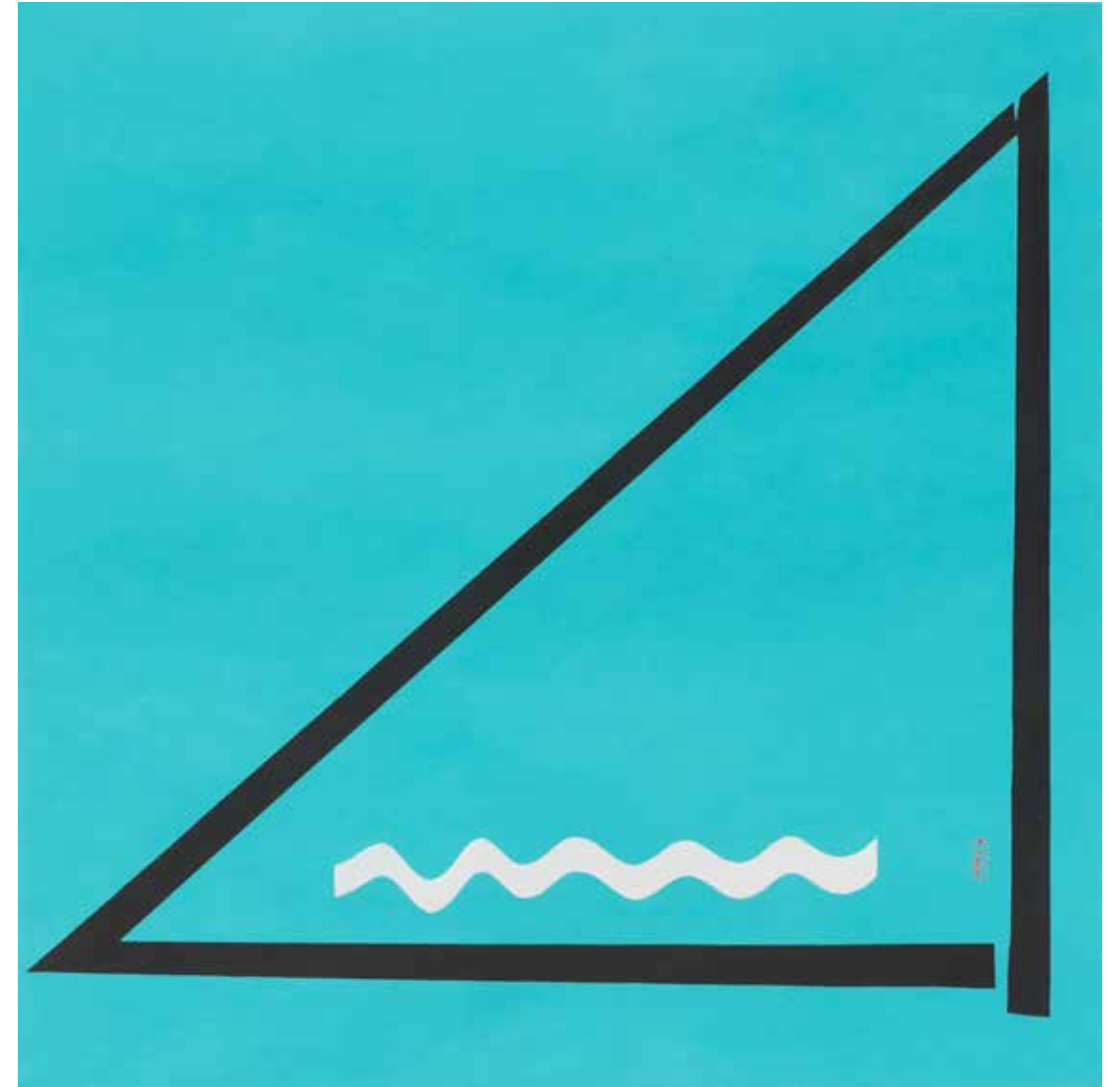
残影 **After-image**
2015
Pigments and Chinese colours on rice paper
68 x 68 cm



水过无痕 **Ephemeral**
2015
Pigments and acrylic on rice paper
68 x 68 cm



潺潺 **Burble**
2015
Pigments and acrylic on rice paper
68 x 68 cm



偶有风雨 **The fortuitous elements**

2015

Pigments and Chinese ink and colours on rice paper

68 x 68 cm



浮云 **Cloud adrift**

2015

Pigments and Chinese ink and colours on rice paper

68 x 68 cm



星星洒落 **Starlight shower**

2015

Pigments and Chinese ink and colours on rice paper

68 x 68 cm





串门 **Dropping round**

2015

Pigments and Chinese ink and colours on rice paper

68 x 68 cm

CHANHAMPE

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The exhibition is presented and organised by Chan Hampe Galleries.

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