



Nanchuan Daocheng Solo Exhibition: *Untrammeled* 非线

Press Conference: 2020.12.15 4:00-6:00

Exhibition Duration: 2020.12.16 – 2021.02.07

Artist: Nanchuan Daocheng

Venue: Art+ Shanghai Gallery

191 South Suzhou Road

Huangpu District, Shanghai, China

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Tuesday-Sunday, 10:30 am -6:30 pm (Monday Closed)

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For the first solo exhibition in his career Nanchuan Daocheng presents his latest series of works, created on canvas and iPad, at Art+ Shanghai Gallery. The exhibition titled “**Nanchuan Daocheng: Untrammeled**” will be on view from **2020.12.16 to 2021.02.07**.

Much of what we see presented in the works the artist creates today is the fruit of Nanchuan’s personal mythology, a compliment of accumulated knowledge and experiences, fearless creative experimentation, and deeply-seated existential anxiety. Giving up on his quest for perfection that he used to seek out in his life and artistic practice, he now strives to pursue balance, objectivity, acceptance, and openness to everything. As an artist of a new generation, he seeks a balance between digital and conventional media of expression. As a Chinese who has been exposed to a variety of cultural and academic experiences (growing up in Kunming and spending some years of his life in New York), he tries to achieve harmony between traditional Chinese philosophy of expression, European and American postmodernist perception of the world, and prehistoric unembellished portrayals of the reality.

As we look at the exhibition as a whole, we are met with a stark contrast. The grace of curvilinear shapes and finesse of lines are set off against bold, sometimes even crudely executed brushstrokes. The poetry of empty space, controlled balance of

positive and negative, and altogether very minimalistic expression in some paintings clash with the riot of colors and hectic imagery of busy canvases. The mood of contemplative calm and silent wisdom that emulates from one series of works is juxtaposed with the audaciousness, straightforwardness, and sheer wilderness that charge from the surfaces of the others.

Miscellaneous visual vocabulary that the artist appropriates in his work may suggest that he forges his creations in a dialogue with the world art history, but hearing his story and reasons behind creation, it becomes clear that the artist is rather engaged in a monologue. There are all kinds of riddles hidden in his works, but they are just for him to solve - riddles of his subconsciousness. "I am just all fragmented," says Nanchuan, "work by work I try to piece myself together." Creative impulses, minute sensations, and feelings that arise are immediately recorded on his iPad, some of these 'records' find their way on to the canvas, some forever remain a pixelated memory in his visual diary. In such a raw and uncensored manner, he permits himself to access the self and indulges in untrammelled expression leaving interpretation and meaning attribution for later or simply never.

His art practice may thus be seen as an act of self-authentication and self-access. His creations are less a report of something seen than a distillation of a mood or a spirit felt. His most potent language is not the detail or outlines of the composition observed, but the intimation that came to him in contemplation. This he dresses in the abstraction of color, line, plane, and by employing it, he conveys the inexpressible. And so, we ask, shouldn't such spontaneous outpouring from the wellspring of creativity be seen as the mark of true art?

About the artist Nanchuan Daocheng

Born in Lijiang in 1993, Nanchuan Daocheng belongs to an ethnic group of Naxi people. After graduating from high school, his choice fell on New York – the city big enough to contain the insurgent spirit of a young Naxi man from Lijiang. Upon his arrival in 2015, Nanchuan enrolled in the Fashion Design Department of the Parsons School of Design. Quickly realizing that the intricacies of sewing and stitching were not for him, he transferred to the Parson's Fine Arts department.

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About Art+ Shanghai Gallery

Founded in October 2007 and located along the Suzhou River within walking distance to Shanghai's famous Bund area, Art+ Shanghai Gallery is a dynamic art space dedicated to the exhibition, promotion, and development of Chinese contemporary art. Art+ Shanghai Gallery showcases a range of established and emerging contemporary artists from within China and abroad, stimulating and celebrating the diversity of the sprawling contemporary art scene. In addition to holding group and solo exhibitions, Art+ Shanghai Gallery offers art consultation services, hosts cultural events, and participates in international art fairs.