

Weaving Resemblance and Dissimilarity
Solo Exhibition of Shi Jindian
Invited Artist: Shi Shao

Curator: Zhang Linmiao

Exhibition Duration: March 6th - May 10th, 2020

Artist: Shi Jindian & Shi Shao

Venue: Art+ Shanghai Gallery

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Tue-Sun, 10 am -7 pm (Monday Closed)

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Press Release

Art+ Shanghai Gallery is honored to present Shi Jindian's solo exhibition "*Weaving Resemblance and Dissimilarity*" as the opening show of 2020 together with the artist's daughter Shi Shao as an invited artist. The exhibition will spotlight the works of the father complemented by a series of paintings by his daughter. For the very first exhibition of Shi Jindian at Art+ Shanghai Gallery, we attempted to comprehensively showcase his multifaceted oeuvre of work, including his most well-known creations of interwoven stainless-steel wire processed under controlled combustion, and a series of paintings that the artist has been working on for more than a decade. Shi Shao's works exhibited next to her father's add a warm touch to the overall narrative, setting each other's works off and creating a pleasant contrast. The lines in the hands of the artists are inherited from ancient China, yet they continue to outline the contours of the contemporary in this complicated moment.

Shi Jindian's craftsmanship and poetry were recognized by the West once he was invited by Hermes to exhibit his works in the display windows in Hong Kong and Shanghai. In the context of Oriental art, a line has always been an important means of expression for artists whether it was a vivid line drawing on ceramics, freehand drawing of the past generations, or exquisite brushstrokes of the court painters. Having gone a strict and repetitive training the masters used lines not only to vividly portray a beautiful scenery but also to capture the invisible charm hidden behind them. In his masterpiece, "The Story of Art" Gombrich also points out in one of the chapters the importance of line in Chinese art. In my opinion, the stainless-steel wire is Shi Jindian's *line*. Weaving and sketching all the visible and invisible forms, it is his line of the contemporary that is long, far-reaching, and flexible that connects ancient with modern. The exhibition also includes a series of paintings that Shi Jindian started to work on around ten years ago. His painting and installation series have been carried out at the same time mutually inspiring each other. In *Repetition of line* (《线的重复》) and *Superposition of line* (《线的叠加》) series, as the titles imply, the use of lines is an important means of expression. The artist used a knife to peel off the surface or a black pen to draw the line segments, sometimes making an addition, sometimes making a subtraction, and then repeating the process. *Carbonized Line* (《碳化的线》) is more of a flat expression of the three-dimensional wired and fired series.

Shi Jindian's daughter Shi Shao who is also an artist was influenced by her father's art ever since she was a child. In this exhibition, she presents the *Conversation* series. In her work we also see traces of lines, however, the artist adopts a different way of artistic creation contrary to her father, and this starts an interesting dialogue between the father and daughter. When Shi Shao creates her works, she first applies a layer of paint as a base. Before it dries, she uses threads to make a certain shape, that she, in turn, covers with another layer of paint. When the paint is completely dry, she peels off the lines buried in it. Numerous traces are left behind. The whole process is like taking a picture with a film camera. The image on the picture is a trace of the chemical potion. Shi Shao said, "At first, I preferred the traces smooth and picture clean. Around 2015, I deliberately peeled off the pasted lines while the paint was still wet, so that the picture was mottled, making a combination of lines and blocks. The painting looked rougher and more powerful. The lines entangled in each other are reminiscent of people conversing with each other, while the content of the conversation is the trace of language left by one's thinking. "Shi Shao's delicate and gentle art has more feminine qualities. Compared with her father's work, the shape of the thread is softer, yet has a unique tenacity. The softness and rigidity that differentiate the works of these two artists embody the quintessence of the exhibition "*Weaving Resemblance and Dissimilarity*".

About Shi Jindian

Shi Jindian (师进滇) is a Sichuan-based sculptor born in 1953, who graduated from the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute in Chongqing in 1974. Unlike traditionally solid and opaque sculptures, Shi Jindian's works are ethereal replicas of everyday objects rendered in stainless steel wire mesh. Choosing to use stainless steel wires, "a material that was brand new, completely untraditional," he learned to crochet two-dimensional strands into three-dimensional forms using tools of his own devising.

After weaving wire mesh around an object, Shi destroys or extracts the object to leave only the steel 'shadow'. The result, he says, is a kind of fiction, a virtual reality that can be walked around and touched. Shi Jindian has produced sculptural replicas of a range of objects, from hulking military vehicles like bikes and jeeps to delicate musical instruments like violins. Accurate to the smallest detail and sometimes taking years to make, his works transform even the most industrial forms into objects of airy contemplation. Finding serenity in the complex toil and texture, Shi Jindian appreciates when people touch his sculptures, as in doing so, they can also touch "the state of mind that emerges from the labor of my hands: tranquility and calm."

Shi Jindian has produced installations for interior and exterior spaces, and his works can be found in the public collections of the Montpellier Contemporary Chinese Art Biennale (France), Seoul Art Museum (Korea), White Rabbit Collection (Australia), and Hermès (Shanghai, Hong Kong) among others.

About Shi Shao

Born in 1978 Chengdu 2002 Graduated from the Art College of Chengdu Normal University

Lives and works in Chengdu.

2010 International Contemporary Emerging Female Artists Chengdu Invitational Exhibition, Chengdu
Luodai Art Granary Art Exhibition, Chengdu, China

Urban Heart Language, Contemporary Female Artists Exhibition,

Chengdu Corridor Contemporary Art Space, Chengdu, China

STEP09 Milan Contemporary Art Fair, Milan, Italy

Pink Role Model Invitation Exhibition, Chengdu Covered Bridge Contemporary Art Space, Chengdu,
China

Her Horizon, 2009 International Contemporary Emerging Artist Invitational Exhibition, Chongqing
Jiangshan Museum of Art, Chongqing, China

Shi Shao's paintings are made up of single or multiple threads of colourful lines, with some of them round and some pointed, intertwining in different densities. She plays with the images to emphasise their lightness as well as injecting energy into the threads. With the process of adding and removing the threads, the resulting images of the actual lines versus their silhouettes and the repetitiveness of such process draws upon certain lifestyles in the contemporary world.

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.