

CHEN YING

Artist	CHEN Ying
Curator	YANG Zi
Opening	July 8, 2022 16:00 – 19:00
Exhibition Period	July 8 – August 31, 2022
Venue	MadeIn Gallery, No.1, -1F Sunken Garden, Lane 9 Qufu Road, Jing'an District, Shanghai

MadeIn Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new and recent works by artist Chen Ying on July 8, 2022. Curated by Yang Zi, this is Chen's third presentation at MadeIn Gallery, after "Traceable" (2018, duo project) and "Reality & Regeneration" (2017). Occupying the entire gallery space, the current exhibition showcases his latest works and foregrounds his efforts to relate abstract painting to insights into digital technology, which amount to a brand new entry point for his practice.

Imbued with theatrical and supernatural qualities, Chen's painting incorporates forces of creation, destruction, and transformation into interconnected tableaux. Composed of bright-coloured, two-dimensional plane shapes, the canvas shows the momentum to extend into the physical space of the viewer, serving as a testament to the artist's self-assured handling of the picture.

What lies underneath Chen's abstract painting is his observation of the conflict, and the ensuing tension, between painting and the increasing proliferation of hyper-industrial aesthetics. As he keenly notices, "a painting as it is and its digital rendering are not to be treated as the same", and "one's perception and judgment of a painting in a physical space-time is no longer applicable when it is digitally converted and disseminated." Furthermore, the dominance of digital technology is squashing into the artist's dominion over creation and exploration. For Chen, this is cause for concern, as is highlighted on his canvas: with seemingly accessible pictorial forms and a straightforward palette, he confronts classic painting techniques and brings out the timeliness and playfulness in his works.

Curator Yang Zi recognizes Chen Ying's work as an open spirituality. "In Chen's recent practice, spirituality is not the end of an arduous introspection or self-exploration, but the quintessence of social and material life," Yang comments. "His creative approach that starts from simple material perception exudes an outward disposition, which triggers a resonance between the self and the era." Chen realizes that it is no longer the result that matters in painting, not "to what extent a single work is completed". Instead, his painting has been one with his action – that is, a never-ending action of reflecting on art history, on the so-called "smooth" zeitgeist, on the relation between humans and technology, as well as the action of making personal judgment. As the artist sees it, such action is a must for all contemporary art, painting included.

About Chen Ying

Chen Ying (b.1982, Qiqihar, China) currently lives and works in Shanghai. He majored in Scenography and graduated from the Central Academy of Drama in 2010.

Chen's recent exhibitions include: "El Lissitzky's Rooms", Surplus Space, Wuhan, 2020; "The Image Is Not at Ease", MadeIn Gallery, Shanghai, 2020; "Chen Ying: Solo Exhibition", KWM Art Center, Beijing, 2019; "Extreme Mix", Guangzhou Airport Biennale, Guangzhou, China, 2019; "Chen Ying: Traceable", MadeIn Gallery x Carlos/Ishikawa @CONDO, Shanghai, 2018; "Chen Ying: Reality & Regeneration", MadeIn Gallery, Shanghai, 2017; "Form Consumption over Substance Reflection", MadeIn Gallery, Shanghai, 2017.

About Yang Zi

Yang Zi is an independent curator. He received his bachelor's degree in philosophy and religious studies from Nanjing University. In 2020, he was awarded the first Sigg Fellowship for Chinese Art Research; he was the jury member of 2020 Gallery Weekend Beijing; in 2019 and 2021, he served as one of the primary judges of Huayu Youth Award; he was a finalist for the 2017 Hyundai Blue Prize.

Yang Zi has nearly ten years of experience in art critic writing and curation. In 2011, he served as editor of LEAP. He wrote extensively for a range of publications such as LEAP, Artforum China and the Art Newspaper China. He was the curator and head of Public Programs in UCCA. He curated numerous exhibitions and public programs, including "The New Normal: Art and China in 2017", "Pity Party", "Land of the Lustrous", "In Younger Days", "Zhuang Shi" and other projects, as well as solo exhibitions by many artists.