

Cai Jian: Holdhold&Holdholdhold

Artist	Cai Jian
Opening	September 4, 2022 16:00 – 19:00
Exhibition Period	September 5 – October 23, 2022
Venue	MadeIn Gallery, No.1, -1F Sunken Garden, Lane 9 Qufu Road, Jing'an District, Shanghai

MadeIn Gallery is pleased to present Cai Jian's solo exhibition "Holdhold&Holdholdhold" on September 4th, 2022. This is the artist's first solo exhibition at MadeIn Gallery, featuring a new series of sculptures.

In his painting series "Horizon" from 2019, Cai zoomed in on the bubble inside spirit levels and insisted that each bubble, with a varying location, constituted a new reason for being. His work was a testament to the illusiveness or artificiality of time, space, and our perception thereof in an age intruded by digital technology. In the subsequent "Hyperfocus" series, Cai fiddled with the optical speckle on lenses and dramatized the mutual gaze between the camera and the viewer.

For the current exhibition, Cai continues his "readily available ready-made" mode of practice and extends it from painting to three-dimensional works. The exhibition's same-titled sculptures, with their volume and colour, reflect the inspiration that the artist draws from rock climbing. When interacting with the "shape of ready-mades" as part of his creative process, he deploys the existential logic of the object itself to construct a new visual signification.

Cai's practice is characterized by his discovery and imagination of new delights and ways of the existence of objects in contemporary society. Integrating diverse references including technology, material, and ready-made, he challenges the determinacy of our existential value while expanding its boundaries. Ultimately, he points to the absurdity, constantly being renewed, that clouds the relation between the object and its creator.

About Cai Jian

Cai Jian (b.1993, Chaozhou, Guangdong Province, China) graduated from the Oil Painting Department of Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts in 2018, and currently lives and works between Guangzhou and Shanghai. Spanning painting, sculpture, and installation, Cai Jian's practice is rooted in an interest in materials, objects, and the repetitive action in the process of painting, and expands to the research of Pop art and culture. Through repeated depiction of daily objects and cultural symbols, Cai unfolds his exploration of materials, images, and the contemporary visual culture.

Cai's recent solo exhibitions include: "Horizon", Mine Project, Hong Kong, 2021; "Sequenced and Reconstruction", Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts second studio showing room, Guangzhou, 2017. He also participated in various group exhibitions, including: "USB Multi-Port Linking Exhibition", MadeIn Gallery, Gallery Func, QIAO SPACE, Shanghai, 2021; "Hereditary Territory", Powerlong Museum, Shanghai, 2021; "Guangdong Contemporary Oil Painting", Jiangmen Art Gallery, Jiangmen, 2020; Ucity Art Museum of GAFA, Guangzhou, 2020; "Cube", Zhi Art Museum, Shenzhen, 2020; "Illusive Particles", MadeIn Gallery, Shanghai, 2020; "Potential Actor Project No.14", Songzhuang Contemporary Art Archive, Beijing, 2019; "2018 China-Korean Exchange Exhibition", Korean Cultural Center, Beijing, 2018; "The Choice of the Graduate Star", Boxes Art Space, Shenzhen, 2018; "GAFA B.A. Degree Show", Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, 2018; "Eternity Infinity", University City Art Museum of Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, Guangzhou, 2017; "Inform Those Who Were Not, Instruct Those Who Were Not", University City Art Museum of Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, Guangzhou, 2017. Cai was nominated for the "Signature Art Prize" of ARTCLOUD China in 2019 and won the Guangdong Contemporary Oil Painting Exhibition Li Tiefu Art Award in 2020.