

contrasts

ALCHEMY: ZHANG HAO'S SPIRITUAL JOURNEY
INK BRUSH AND SCULPTURE BY ZHANG HAO
At Contrasts Gallery, Shanghai

April 9 – April 26, 2010

Vernissage: Friday, April 9, 2010, 4–7pm
Contrasts Gallery, No. 181 Middle Jiangxi Road, G/F, Shanghai, China 200002

SHANGHAI – Hangzhou-based artist Zhang Hao's first solo exhibition at Contrasts Gallery will feature a mixture of painting and sculpture to create a reactionary feeling between the gallery space and his works. The visual effects of each room in **ALCHEMY: ZHANG HAO'S SPIRITUAL JOURNEY** combine to create a pure and spiritual concept. An opening reception will be held on Friday, April 9, 2010 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm at 181 Middle Jiangxi Road, G/F, Shanghai, China.

Blending traditional Chinese artistic elements with contemporary language, Zhang Hao demonstrates a type of abstract, yet familiar style of ink painting and calligraphy. **ALCHEMY** illustrates the artist's vision and beliefs at their best. In the words of Zhang Hao: "The exploration of form has already arrived. When the material quality of ink painting and the expression of language (a combination of traditional elements and contemporary syntax) merge at a single point, a unique form of art begins. Exploring the origins of this form is made possible through one's senses and inner spiritual world. The energy for this exploration is derived from the realities of contemporary China, and unfolds across the time and space of "Travel" – from this come feelings and expressions.'

In keeping with the traditions of Chinese ink painting and calligraphy, Zhang Hao uses his senses as motivation and desire for his artistic creativity and the spiritual goal that his artwork expresses. His ink paintings exude an inherent

contrasts gallery principal gallery
no. 181 middle jiangxi road
shanghai, china 200002

对比窗艺廊
主画廊:
江西中路181号 邮编 200002

tel 电话 (8621) 6323 1989
fax 传真 (8621) 6323 1988
website 网站 www.contrastsgallery.com

power through the visual presence of the brush. The concept of purity and spiritual feeling are the basis for **ALCHEMY**. Each painting radiates the unique importance of brushwork, especially the use of the single brushstroke. Zhang Hao's works seem effortless to the untrained eye – calmly painted strokes composed on a gigantic scale, gradually accumulating in strength to form a sense of heaviness. The artist needs to be 100% confident before placing a single stroke, as every stroke in ink painting is permanent and cannot be modified.

In this sense, it is not important what he writes, but how it is written – each painting is built up of a recognized set of brushstrokes, and the execution of these brushstrokes forms a unique personal performance. The characters hold no literal meaning and represent pure, basic forms – valuing the presence of personality over technical skill is the essence behind Zhang Hao's ink painting.

Born in Tianjin in 1962, Zhang Hao graduated from the studio of Professor Shu Chuanxi, department of Chinese painting, at the Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts (now the China Academy of Fine Arts), in Hangzhou, China. He currently resides and works in Hangzhou, both as an artist and Professor at China Academy of Fine Arts, and as a visiting Professor in the department of art at Anhui University.

His work has been widely exhibited throughout China, and is collected by several museums including The British Museum, London.

#

About Contrasts Gallery

Contrasts Gallery is dedicated to presenting creative excellence in art and design from East and West to the international art community. Founded by Pearl Lam in 1992 in Hong Kong, the Gallery nurtures and promotes creative talents where art, architecture, and design intersect. The gallery's exhibition program is designed to create new cultural exchanges by representing artists from all parts of the world working in divergent traditions and across disciplines. Contrasts Gallery is based in Shanghai with an additional gallery in Beijing.

For additional information and images, please contact:

Moxian Sun moxian@contrastsgallery.com +8621 6323 1989