

# Art



# Beyond the Canvas

Oil paintings at the intersection of time, space and nature

made a quiet yet arresting debut at Pearl Lam Galleries with this first solo exhibition. "Beyond of people within society. the Canvas" showcases a selection of more than 20 abstract oil paintings created by Li in the last five years. Simple shapes and lines on plain, monochromatic backgrounds depict a dialogue among her, nature and the universe.

The first painting that caught our eye is the subtly beautiful Skies No. 2, an oil painting of four branches on a green background. Li has used seven different colors to create depth in the background, showing the subtleties and layers she sees in nature, a theme that runs through the exhibition along with the themes of space and looking beyond the canvas. This is one of the most colorful paintings on display as Li tends to employ more grays, browns and blacks in her other works.

Skies No. 1 takes another look at nature but also at modern society. Two sets of a number of slightly cartoon-like birds perch on branches opposite one another. The birds look like they've been printed one on top of the other, harking back to the printmaking experience Li picked up during her university years. The slight differences in appearance

Young Shandong-born artist Li Xiaojing has and the gap between the two sets of birds appears to be Li exploring the divides between different groups

> Several of the paintings use monochromatic colors with detail only in one small area of the canvas. One Short Line looks like a simple piece at first glance, with a few curving lines in the top left corner painted onto a plain-looking dark background. But as we kept looking, we found more and more lines scratched into the oils, lines that represent the non-linear nature of time and space. The painting draws you in and shows the depth and chaos of the universe through Li's eyes.

> The theme of space carries through in several of the paintings in the exhibition, especially so in Shooting Star, an oil painting on two canvases, both of which are painted all black. However, one of the canvases has a series of stars on it, showing the movement of a shooting star across the sky. The fact that it is two separate canvases makes the viewer consider the space outside the edge of the canvas and what lies there. The paintings impart a feeling of emptiness, space and the insignificance of everything. Rachael Harris

"Beyond the Canvas" at Pearl Lam Galleries, through March 15

### Closing

#### THROUGH MONDAY, FEB. 25

#### Gong He: Jericho's Sunset

Young Manchurian artist Gong He's first solo exhibition is a stark and haunting mix of minimalist still-life works and surrealist landscapes. The show focuses on several different series of works Gong has created, with one of the highlights being a collec-tion of drawings inspired by sprouting potatoes. "One day I saw potatoes covered in lots of sprouts by the window. It looked pretty but I realized later that they were going to be rotten from the inside," says the artist. "I realized that I [...] was just like that potato. How can you suppress your desire of life?"

Shun Art Gallery 5252-7198,

#### THROUGH THURSDAY, FEB. 28

#### Kung Fu Wildstyle

Three artists delve into the relationship between hip hop's formation and kung fu cinema. Brooklyn hip hop pioneer Fab 5 Freddy, Chinese graffiti and hip hop persona MC Yan and respected Russian designer / painter Nastya each present five new pieces.

Art Labor 3460-5331 info@artlaborgallery.com

#### Benoit Florencon: **Inner Spaces**

Benoit Florencon is a Shanghai-based photographer with a passion for music. In his photo documentary \*Inner Spaces" he depicts 14 of Shanghai's underground musicians in their studios with quotes from each of them saying what they think about Shanghai's music scene.

Alliance Francaise de Shanghai

### THROUGH SUNDAY, MARCH 3

#### Adou A

Adou's first solo show in China, this exhibition explores the relationships among the photographer, the camera and the photographs' subject. "There is no difference between taking a picture of others and myself," the award-winning Sichuan artist says. "The camera may be pointed outward, but whether you like it or not, it always reveals you."

m97 Gallery 6266-1597.

### Ongoing

#### THROUGH FRIDAY, MARCH 8

#### Gaël Davrinche and **Zhang Dali**

French artist Gaël Davrinche's textured paintings and Chinese sculptor Zhang Dali's monumental bronzes make up this exhibition. Davrinche is showing for the first time in Shanghai. Dali is considered one of the most famous artists in the country.

Gallery Magda Danysz 186-1615-1670.

#### THROUGH FRIDAY, MARCH 15

#### **Electric Fields:** Surrealism and Beyond

Curated by the Pompidou, this large show features 100-plus pieces from

the famed Paris art center. The exhibition's title is adapted from The Magnetic Fields, a book of literary surrealism by André Breton and Philippe Soupault. Marcel Duchamp, Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol (though no Salvador Dali) all make appearances here, in addition to Chinese artists.

Power Station of Art 3127-8535. www.powerstationofart.org

#### THROUGH MONDAY, MARCH 18

#### Li Xiaojing: **Beyond the Canvas**

Twenty new paintings from young emerging artist Li Xiaojing reveal highly intimate reflections. A student of printmaking and oil painting, the Shandong native employs subtle irony and often monochromatic backgrounds. "In my paintings, various forms, blank space and what lies beyond the canvas are all encompassed," she comments.

Pearl Lam Galleries 6323-1989.

#### THROUGH SUNDAY, MARCH 24

## Liu Dao: Need. Want.

Art collective Liu Dao presents their signature blend of video, photography, sculpture and LED animation in a show addressing often overlooked Shanghai sights. The show is meant to be an instinctual journey from crumbling old alleyways to glamorous new skyscrap-

island6 Arts Center 6227-7856, www.island6.org

#### THROUGH FRIDAY, MARCH 29

#### 2013 Chinese New Year

Five artists, Wang Qifeng, Wang Xiaojin, Xu Zhigang, Yu Zijun and Mafi Espirito Santo, paint their take on Chinese New Year. Traditions meet life experiences in this festive exhibition.

Noeli Gallery 131-2085-8588,

#### THROUGH TUESDAY, APRIL 30

#### A Potent Force

Two Chinese female artists Duan Jianyu and Hu Xiaoyun show together. Painter Duan Jianyu creates more traditional pieces that show the com-plexity of human society. Hu Xiaoyun, on the other hand, works in a range of media but especially video, and she tends to look at the self.

Rockbund Art Museum 3310-9985.

#### Shanghai Biennale

This huge event is back for its ninth run, and this year's theme is reactivation. Inspired by new research on resources and energy, the curating team has taken to studying the "energy of sites, memories, will, comprehension and ultimately, the community. An enormous selection of artists from across the globe will be showcasing their work with sculpture, photography and painting amongst the pieces. The Biennale is the inaugural show for the Power Station of Art

Power Station of Art www.shanghaibiennale.org/en

#### THROUGH SUNDAY, MARCH 31

#### **Hoo Mojong**

Her works distinctively post-Impres-sionist and Parisian-Influenced, Mojong Hoo was one of the first Chinese artists to set up a studio in Paris, where she resided from 1965-1990. These paintings are recognizable by their execution of bold strokes and elegant hues to enigmatic effect.

Pudong Shangri-La, East Shanghai

### Listings

Find ALL of Shanghai's art galleries online at www. cityweekend.com.cn. Below are those with the highest BUZZ.

#### Galleries

18Gallery 外滩18号创意中心 Within the confines of the more experimental Creative Center at Bund 18 is this newly Creative Center at Bund 18 is this newly alaunched gallery. Aiming to live up to this new creative arts space's motto, living with art, Danysz will bring in young, emerging, international artists with a focus on new media. There will be monthly shows and weekly events through the Creative Center such as book signings and art talks. 10am-midnight. Huangpu > Bldg 4, 18 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu(near Sichuan Zhong Lu)中山东一路18号4楼(近四川中路). Tel: 6323-7066 ext. 3102. info@bund18.com. artatbund18.com.

Aike-Dellarco Located above M50's sole coffeeshop, this Italian gallery showcases international artists with a focus on contemporary art and innovative new mediums. Recently showcased works include investigations on the relationship between Hong Kong and Shanghai. 10am-6pm. Suzhou Creek > 2/F, Bldg 1, 50 Moganshan Lu(near Nan Suzhouhe Lu) 莫干山 路50号1号楼2楼(近南苏州河路). Tel: 5252-7164. ca.rio@hotmail.it. www.dearco.it

**AroundSpace** This gallery was formerly located in art laneway 696 Weihai Lu, in Jing'an. The lane has now closed down, so 've moved to the Bund. Showcased are mostly Chinese artists, whose paintings and sculpture fill both buildings and a small outdoor area. The Bund > 294 Sichuan Lu(ne Jiujiang Lu)四川路294号(近九江路). Tel: 138-0174-3061. aroundspace@gmail.com. www. aroundspace.org

ART in Capitals This Spanish gallery located in a Spanish villa on Donghu Lu features works by modern masters and young emerging contemporary artists. The gallery also has access to exclusive masterpieces from names such as Picasso, Miro and Dali, Mon-Sat noon-8pm, Sun by appointment. Changning > 2/F, 20 Donghu Lu(near Huaihai Zhong Lu, Metro Line | Shanxi Nan Lu Station or Changshu Lu Station)东湖路 20号2F(近淮海中路,地铁)号线陕西南路站或 常熟路站). Tel: 5404-7702. info@artincapitals. com www.artincapitals.com

Art Labor Shanghai's turbulent search for a new identity makes for great art at Canadian Director Martin Kemble's French Concession gallery. An emphasis on free expression draws many artists trying to discard traditional notions of national and cultural identity. Submissions of artwork Cultural Identity, Submissions of artwork are accepted. Tue-Sat 11am-7pm. Sun 12-6pm. Wi-Fi internet. French Concession > Bldg. 4, 570 Yongjia Lu #411(Near Yueyang Lu, just West between Urumqi Lu in SURPASS COURT)Gallery space: 永嘉路570号4号楼 (Main Gallery: 近岳阳路 A.L. Space: 近茂名路). Tel: 3460-5331. info@artlaborclub.com. www. artlaborgallery.com.

**Add Your Event:** Every issue we publish THE BEST events from our website. The next issue covers March 24-April 6. Upload your events before March 14. www.cityweekend.com.cn



- 1. "2013 Chinese New Year" at Noeli Gallery, through March 29
- 2. Hoo Mojong at Pudong Shangri-La, through April 30
- 3. "A Potent Force" at Rockbund Art Museum, through April 30
- 4. Liu Dao's "Need. Want. Hunt." at island6 Arts Center, through
- 5. "Electric Fields" at Power Station of Art, through April 30

# O Art



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