

[Gold-Unicorn]
2010 Graphimage by Wei Ligang
at Contrasts Gallery, Shanghai

contrasts

8th August – 1st September, 2010

Vernissage: **Sunday, 8th August, 2010, 4–7pm**
Contrasts Gallery, No. 181 Middle Jiangxi Road,
Shanghai, China 200002

SHANGHAI – Contrasts Gallery will present Wei Ligang's solo exhibition entitled **[Gold-Unicorn]** in Shanghai from 8th August to 1st September 2010. The show will feature Wei's latest acrylic on Xuan paper calligraphic and abstract paintings.

Wei Ligang, a pioneering figure of Chinese Contemporary calligraphy, dedicates his first solo show at Contrasts Gallery to the Chinese Unicorn (Qí) – one of the most mysterious totemic creatures in Chinese mythology. In Wei's aesthetic, the Gold Unicorn symbolizes the creative power of writing, the vital and mysterious energy of Chinese characters. Wei's use of thick black against the golden background illustrates the grapheme itself under different shapes. "Qí" represents the miraculous and powerful aspect of Wei's painting. Like the Chinese Unicorn's spirit, Wei's strokes are mysterious and unpredictable, yet punctuated by a palpable strength and totemic power. Gold is the noble, luminous and wise world of Wei's *Graphimage*, which embodies the long Chinese cultural heritage and recalls the elegance of the Ancient State.

In **[Gold-Unicorn]**, Wei's calligraphy conceptualizes abstract landscapes. Throughout this series, gold backgrounds are harmoniously contrasted with solid black to light grey, deep red to saturated blue. In *Ascending* (2010) and *Buddha Fingers* (2010), Wei rides the chasm between abstract and figurative. In *Zhanghu Study, Jiyuan Collection* (2009), endlessly flowing and spinning brush strokes give way to birds, horses or flowers. But in *Bronze Sparrow Terrace* (2010) and *Wooden Horse* (2010), Wei concentrates on the significance of each stroke and the structure of each character opposed to the representative aspect of the picture.

This new body of work is the result of Wei's tireless exploration into Chinese characters. Influenced by his academic background in mathematics, Wei has the ability to deconstruct Chinese characters into abstract patterns that nevertheless stay true to a deeply rooted classical origin.

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About Wei Ligang

Wei Ligang was born in Datong City in Shanxi Province in 1964. He majored in mathematics at Nankai University and was assigned to teach at Taiyuan Normal University after graduation. During this time, Wei developed his interest in Chinese calligraphy. He became the President of the Calligraphy Society at Nankai University, which allowed him to learn from the best calligraphers in the region, including the reknowned Li Henian. In 1988, Wei dedicated himself to his medium and in the late '90s, moved to Beijing to concentrate on and further develop his art. Still pushing boundaries, he uses Chinese calligraphy as a resource to create China's own form of abstract painting.

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About Contrasts Gallery

Contrasts Gallery, based in Shanghai, 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, Contrasts Gallery has evolved from a philosophy rooted in Chinese "Literati" art, which promotes art for the sake self-cultivation and embraces creativity without hierarchies. 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. The gallery's 2010 schedule includes exhibitions by many leading Chinese contemporary figures: Shao Fan, Zhang Hao, Wei Ligang, Li Tianbing, Lan Zhenghui and Yi Zhou.

www.contrastsgallery.com

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