

# ‘Black Mountain,’ a Solo Exhibition by Zhu Jingyi at Karin Weber Gallery, Hong Kong

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Karin Weber Gallery presents “Black Mountain,” an ensemble of selected works by Zhu Jingyi in Hong Kong. The show offers “a personal vignette of innovative Chinese ink artist by chronicling his artistic evolution,” as the gallery puts it. The show marks first solo exhibition of the artist at Karin Weber Gallery.

The show has immense significance for the artist. Not only since it his first show at the gallery also because it provides him a platform to share his life experiences and reveal defining moments during his creative journey. These key factors have pushed the artist to infuse a traditional medium like Chinese ink with a contemporary approach and in this way he challenges the very DNA of the ink painting genre.

“I wanted to find the darkest black, so I experimented with a lot of mediums on paper such as oil, acrylic and emulsion paint. Whilst using oil, I discovered the potential three-dimensional effect and then I stumbled upon resin, which could be melted and took shape instantly. I applied some basic concepts of architecture to turn ink from two dimensional to three dimensional,” says Zhu Jingyi. This moment has been marked as the turning point for Zhu, this is precisely when his signature ‘Standing Inks’ technique was finally born.

The gallery says, “Zhu became fascinated with traditional Chinese ink painting, its grand and mature view on the world, while studying Chinese painting at university and asked to copy paintings from the Song Dynasty. Yet as he worked on Chinese inks, he always felt that the ink was not dark enough.”

The earlier works in Zhu’s oeuvre were mostly landscapes that he developed with low relief and with delicate, wiry web-like forms reflecting trees, mountains and rocks. “As he matured, he created more imaginative, complex works like Overflowing and Meeting of Wind and Clouds, with the ephemeral taking on denser forms as creative impulses flowed from an unconscious or subconscious state,” the gallery writes. The demonstration of Zhu’s excellence and expertise in the way he controls over the materials he uses reflects in the standing sculptures like in “Whirlpool”. The latest works are however, lighter and demonstrate a more playful mood as the artist tries to interpret and make sense of the apparent chaos present in nature.

Zhu incorporates an array of methods and adapts several forms for his works including standalone sculptures, low relief images and abstract woven shapes. Through his works the audiences can experience his constant search for self identity and it seeks expression to explore.

‘Black Mountain,’ is on view from June 7 through July 21, 2018 at Karin Weber Gallery, Karin Weber Gallery, 20 Aberdeen Street, Central, Hong Kong.