



Lu Luo
(Chinese, born 1971)

Biography

Known for her use of traditional Chinese costumes and vibrant textiles, Lu Luo encounters the canvas as a stage upon which stories come together, woven into a colourful tapestry through which narratives of identity and expression are felt in the intricacies of texture.

Born in 1971 in the province of Sichuan, China, Lu grew up in the midst of the hustle and bustle of an opera house, joining her parents and their theatre group during their tours around the province. Lu Luo attended the Si Chuan College for Visual Arts in Chongqing. There she met her future husband Zhuang Hong Yi. With him she left for the Netherlands in 1992, where they continued their art education at the Minerva Art Academy in Groningen.

Artwork and technique

Inspired by the fervour of Chinese opera, Lu Luo often applies elements of the visual and formal language of its gestures and costumes, physically intertwining and recontextualising the traditional garments into her art as the substance of drama to empower and rethink the notions of femininity, nationality, mediality, and belonging. She has developed her works into a distinct style that expresses an attunement to the complexities of beauty and pain, darkness and light, as the composition of surfaces in flux. The notions of strength and vulnerability form a union in the tangibility of the rhythms of colour, form, and materiality within her image, as Lu approaches them with a playful yet dauntless tenderness.

Her techniques have evolved from re-appropriating the original fabrics of traditional costumes into a more abstract approach to art, life, and the notions of form and representation, using gradients of colour and line to compose each piece into an affective environment that conceals and reveals the constant movement within – like a never-ending dance. She developed other methods and image elements with which she can incorporate the characteristic shapes, patterns and specific symbols that adorn the garments. For example, the paintings may be plastered with strips of paper or with parts of pre-printed Chinese cardboard packaging, creating a composition of surfaces reminiscent of the theatrical plays.



She also regularly uses coloured rice paper with which she makes thin rolls that she runs parallel to each other. In a way these bands can refer to the thick yarns which create the shapes. It creates as it were a new tissue of fabrics for recreated kimonos. By combining distinct colours and shape experiments with explicitly Chinese visual elements, Lu Luo creates a bridge between Western and Eastern culture. The emphasis on the two-dimensional plane, which is an explicit fact in Asian culture, thus enters into a dialogue with the pronounced material nature of the work; the use of everyday and non-artistic materials in the work of art is a characteristic feature of the visual arts that developed especially in the Western cultural world since the second half of the 20th century.

Selected Exhibitions

2007

Solo: Groninger Museum, NL

2005

Solo: Museum Rijswijk, NL

2003

Solo: The Centre for Contemporary Art, Dordrecht, NL

2002

Solo: De Boterhal, Hoorn, NL

2001

Solo: City Hall, Zutphen, NL

Solo: Stedelijk Museum Zwolle, NL

Solo: The Centre for Contemporary Art, Deventer, NL

Solo: The Centre for Contemporary Art, Zwolle, NL

Groninger Museum, NL

Selected Art Fairs

PAN Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL

Art Miami, Miami, USA

EXPO Chicago, Chicago, USA

Art Palm Beach, Miami, USA

Art Cologne, Cologne, Germany