



Zhuang Hong Yi
(Chinese, born 1962)

Biography

Born in 1962 in Sichuan Province, China, Zhuang Hong Yi is one of China's most influential artists. Characterised by daringly-bold colour palettes, Hong Yi's sophisticated, repetitive, and precise floral motifs both reflect his Chinese background and integrate a Western allure as a universal symbol of prosperity and optimism.

After Zhuang Hong Yi finished his artistic education at the Sichuan Fine Arts institute - the oldest and one of the most prestigious art academies in China - in Chongqing, he and his wife (the artist Lu Luo, b. 1971) moved to Groningen, The Netherlands, where they both became apprentices at the Minerva Academy. After finishing his studies in 1997, Zhuang quickly received recognition as an artist. Many international exhibitions followed.

The artist's Chinese roots remain clearly visible in his work, both thematically and through the use of his materials. His residence in the Netherlands over the past decades has profoundly influenced his work. The renowned and incredible unique Flowerbed series are a clear example of this crossover of Eastern and Western influences. Zhuang Hong Yi currently resides in Switzerland, however even after many years of residence in Europe, Zhuang still holds his main studio in Beijing where he travels several times a year to work, collect new materials and to find inspiration.

Artwork and technique

The flower motif is dominant throughout Zhuang Hong Yi's work. In Chinese culture the flower is a significant image, which carries countless meanings and emotions. Zhuang's well known Flowerbed works are crafted from delicate pieces of painted rice paper, which he has bent and folded into hundreds of tiny buds that subtly shift colours as you move your body and eyes from one side of the work to the other. The floral hybrids evince an artist with genuine sensibility - the painstaking process of folded rice-paper layered with acrylic and oil paint belies an almost ascetic level of discipline.

Zhuang also implements a more traditional painterly approach through his Landscape works that bear influence of Impressionism and other Euro-American artistic practices in which he applies acrylic in heavily gestural impasto with rice-paper flowers. Working with a freedom of style, his daring strokes of bright colours are expressive and unconfined. Colours melting together and paint dripping down make the canvas blossom under the eye: appearing to move and thrive with the viewer, a beautifully defiant natural symbol in the face of aggressive global urbanization.

Utilizing a traditional Chinese material, the works also represent traditional Chinese aesthetics: Zhuang Hong Yi's paintings are meditations on color, nature and form. The entrancing effect of colors changing in unexpected ways in the artists work, enhances the traditional flow of a flower field in Spring time, yet is also utterly contemporary and abstract. Zhuang's work is built upon his native country's well-established artistic traditions and boundaries, which he has married with the Dutch encouragement of freedom of style. Embracing his present without losing his past the artist strives to define a sense of self that exists between the two.

This is the personal struggle that Zhuang enacts visually and through his artistic processes, which vacillate between phases of controlled planning, emotional gesture, and careful editing. Objects of appealing beauty, mysterious and alluring - at once both foreign and familiar - are the result. Zhuang Hong Yi's liberation in terms of both aesthetics and technique make his work unique and instantly recognizable.

Zhuang Hong Yi explains:

"My art is about happiness, enrichment, and re-enchantment. Today there is so much negativity and pain in the world; I want people to feel joy by reconnecting them with the calmness of nature. It's why the flower is so dominant in my paintings. Flowers are a universal and unifying symbol for peace and prosperity."

Exhibited

Over the years, Zhuang has created a significant broad following across the globe with exhibitions throughout continents. The artist has been the subject of multiple museum exhibitions and his work is held in numerous esteemed public and private collections: spreading positivity worldwide.

The Dutch art scene quickly embraced the works of Zhuang Hong Yi. Some of Zhuang's first exhibitions included the 'Kunsthal' in Rotterdam (1999) followed by a solo show in 2001 in the internationally renowned Dutch museum for contemporary art Groninger Museum. In 2007, the Groninger Museum honored him and his wife Lu Luo with a large duo exhibition called 'Atelier Beijing'. In 2013 his work was selected for the 55th Biennale di Venezia.

Recent the Solo shows include the Museum Ulm, Germany and Museum De Zwarte Tulp, The Netherlands, 'East of the East' XU Gallery, Shanghai, China and the 2021 exhibition 'Inflorescence' in the Erarta Museum for Contemporary Art, St Petersburg, Russia. Over the summer of 2020 SmithDavidson Gallery presented 'In Bloom', a solo exhibition simultaneously held across three continents to celebrate the longstanding relationship with the artist of well over a decade.

Multiple monographs about Zhuang Hong Yi's works have been published in the past 20 years, most notably *The Monumental Works* catalogue following the artist's second exhibition in the renowned Groninger Museum.



Selected Exhibitions

2023

SmithDavidson Icons, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam, NL
Solo: Art on Paper Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL

2022

Contemporary Art Exhibition, SmithDavidson Gallery, New York, USA
Solo: *Energize*, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam, NL
Solo: UNIQ & SDG for Zona Maco Art Week, Mexico City, Mexico
Solo: *Blossom*, House of Arts Polanco, Mexico City, Mexico

2021

Solo: *Inflorescence*, Erarta Museum of Contemporary Art, St. Petersburg, Russia

2020

Solo: *In Bloom*, Zhuang Month, Miami, USA; Mexico City, Mexico; Amsterdam, NL

2019

Solo: *Colors of Spring - Lentekleuren*, Museum de Zwarte Tulp, Lisse, NL
Museum Pinakothek der Moderna, Charity Auction, Munich, Germany
Solo: XU Gallery, Shanghai, China (Official opening by Mr. David Smith, SmithDavidson Gallery)

2018

Solo: *BLOOM*, Karmelklooster, Drachten, NL
Solo: *SUMMER*, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam, NL
Solo: *Zhuang Hong Yi's Flowerbeds*, Museum ULM, Ulm, Germany
East meets West, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam, NL

2017

Modern Masters, SmithDavidson Gallery, Miami, USA

2015

Global Art Exhibition, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam, NL
Rabobank Private Banking Corporate Exhibition, Amsterdam, NL
Soho House, London, UK

2014

XingJiang Biennial, XingJiang, China
Fusion convergence-T Museum, HangZhou, China
Beida Saikelie Museum, Beijing, China

2013

Solo: *Will Make the World*, Found Museum, Beijing, China
Museum de Oude Wolden (MOW), Bellingwolde, NL
Voice of the Unseen - Chinese Independent art 1979-today,
Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
Back to Groningen, Museum de Oude Wolden, Groningen, NL
Colors of Nature - Zhuang Hong Yi & Simon Ma, a traveling duo
exhibition in Amsterdam, NL, Shanghai, China and Miami, USA

2012

Solo: *World of Flowers*, Leslie Smith Gallery (Currently
SmithDavidson Gallery), Amsterdam, NL

2011

Exhibition of Contemporary Asian Art, Mandarin Oriental, Miami, USA

2010

Museum Zoetermeer, Zoetermeer, NL

2009

Museum Kampen, Kampen, NL

2008

Empty City ShangHai, YuanGong Museum, YuanGong, China
Art is nothing?, Beijing 798, Beijing, China

2007

Solo: Groninger Museum, Groningen, NL
Start from XiNan, GuangZhou Museum, China

2003

Solo: *Art Contemporary Century*, Dordrecht, NL

2002

Groninger Museum, Groningen, NL
De Boterhal, Hoorn, NL

2001

ChenDu Biennale, ChengDu, China
Solo, Groninger Museum, Groningen, NL
Stedelijk Museum, Zwolle, NL

1999

Westfries Museum, Hoorn, NL
Kunsthof Rotterdam, Rotterdam, NL

Selected Collections

Reinfried and Ana Pohl Collection, Marburg, Germany
Dieter and Gabriele Kortmann Collection, Cologne, Germany
Elke Wahler Collection, Monte Carlo/France/St. Moritz, Switzerland
Museum Ulm, Ulm, Germany

Selected Art Fairs

Art on Paper Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL
KunstRAI Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL
PAN Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL
Zona Maco, Mexico City, Mexico
Art Miami, Miami, USA
EXPO Chicago, Chicago, USA
The Armory Show, New York, USA
Art New York, New York City, USA
TEFAF Maastricht, Maastricht, NL
Palm Beach Modern + Contemporary, Palm Beach, USA
Art Silicon Valley / San Francisco, San Francisco, USA