

Tony Bevan, Trunk (PC1512), 2015, acrylic and charcoal on canvas, 147 x 163 cm (57 7/8 x 64 1/8 in.)

**TONY BEVAN**

 **杜松 DU SONG**

17 NOVEMBER 2016 – 7 JANUARY 2017

PRIVATE VIEW WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER, 6-8pm

Ben Brown Fine Arts Hong Kong is delighted to present *TONY BEVAN: 杜松 DU SONG*, an exhibition of recent paintings by British artist Tony Bevan. This is the artist’s third solo show at the Hong Kong gallery.

The exhibition will feature a new series of tree paintings in which the artist focuses on the sinuous curvature, abstract patterning and emotive power of the trunk of a juniper tree. By concentrating solely on the trunk of this wind-bent tree, the artist meditates on its unique curvilinear form and the varied corrugations of its bark, while cutting out the superfluous details of roots, branches and background. The trunk form hovers on a stark background—either raw canvas or vermillion ground—creating a tension as it extends to the lower and right edges. The tree’s bark is depicted through intricate striations suggestive of the flow of a river or blood pulsing through a limb. Bevan infuses all of his subjects—whether heads, architectural structures, trees or stones—with a life force and intensity that transcend their original representation.

In 2013, Ben Brown Fine Arts Hong Kong exhibited Bevan’s *Trees* series in which the artist serially depicted an ancient Chinese tree, portraying it in its realistic entirety, from its furled branches to its roots. The *杜松 Du Song* series is a myopic, abstracted extension of the *Trees* series as Bevan continues to explore the expressive and textural possibilities of such a complex form, now honing in on the vitality and intricacy of the tree’s trunk and its anthropomorphic and symbolic qualities. Bevan was struck by a photograph of a juniper tree on El Hierro in the Canary Islands, Spain, which he first saw two decades ago; since that time the photograph has been pinned to his studio wall along with myriad inspirational images, sketches, photos and ephemera and just now has manifested in this intensive new series.

Bevan typically works in a restrained palette of red and black, vigorously applying his pure acrylic pigments and charcoal directly onto raw canvas or paper laid down on the floor of his studio. He preserves the splinters and dust of charcoal and powdery pigment on the surface of his works, resulting in a dynamic tactility and insight into his working method.

**ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Tony Bevan studied at the Bradford School of Art and then in London at Goldsmiths College and the Slade School of Fine Art. Since 1976, Bevan has exhibited widely, holding his first solo US show at L.A. Louver, Los Angeles, in 1989. Bevan has also exhibited at the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), London; Whitechapel Gallery, London; and the Israel Museum, Jerusalem. A major retrospective was presented by the Institut Valencia d’Art Modern (IVAM), Valencia, in 2005. In 2007, Bevan was elected a Royal Academician of the Royal Academy of Arts in London. His work exists in many prominent international collections, such as the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; National Portrait Gallery, London; and Tate, London.

**The artist will be in attendance at the private view and is available for interviews.**

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Monday – Saturday, 11AM - 7PM