

BEN BROWN FINE ARTS

China – A Summer Show 2015

23 July – 10 September 2015



ZHANG Huan, *Memory Door (Gun)*, 2007

Silkscreen mounted on antique door with bas-relief woodcarving, 135.3 x 254 cm / 53 1/4 x 100 in.

Ben Brown Fine Arts Hong Kong is proud to present *China – A Summer Show 2015*, a survey of contemporary Chinese works that offers bold insights into versatile practices of ink, watercolour and photography. Each of the showcased works, displaying a diverse range of forms and concepts, tells a compelling story of Chinese artists working on a global scale.

The exhibition features works by Ai Weiwei, Cai Guo-Qiang, Chen Wei, Guo Hongwei, Koon Wai Bong, Xu Bing, Yan Pei-Ming, Ye Linghan and Zhang Huan. In *Painting is Collecting – Birds No. 5* (2012-2013), Guo Hongwei paints a fresh scene resembling that of a Chinese birds market in light watercolour techniques whilst alluding to vitrines of a natural history museum in the west, underlying a curiosity concerning the world. Xu Bing's *Square Word Calligraphy by Khalil Gibran* (2008) synergizes Western and Chinese culture by transcribing English words into Chinese block text, demonstrating the nuances of linguistics in different transnational contexts. On a more personal level, Ai Weiwei addresses issues of identity with his *Fairy tale – 1001* (2007) chairs, each a metaphor and representation of the individual Chinese citizens who were brought over to Germany for his *Documenta 12* installation which was a realization of a massive encounter of East-West imagination and a dream (fairy tale) come true for those who had never had the opportunity to do so. Yet, in Chen Wei's *In the Waves* (2013), the clubbing scene is depicted as a temporary haven where the younger generation in China chases their dreams as the unescapable reality is just looming outside the perimeters of the nightclub.

These artists' renditions reflect the shifting paradigms of Chinese aesthetics, traditions and innovations. Individualistic outlooks come together as a transcultural collective experience of a modern-day China in the 21st century in *China – A Summer Show 2015*.

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Ai Weiwei

Fairytale – 1001 Chairs (Nr.D – 029), 2007
Qing Dynasty wooden chairs [1655 – 1911]
102 x 53 x 59 cm / 40 1/8 x 20 7/8 x 23 1/4 in.



GUO Hongwei

Painting is Collection – Bird #5, 2012-2013
Watercolour on paper
76 x 56.5 cm / 29 7/8 x 22 5/8 in. per work, Set of two



Chen Wei

In the Waves #1, 2013
Archival inkjet print
150 x 187.5 cm / 59 1/8 x 73 7/8 in., Edition of 6 + 1 AP



XU Bing

Square Word Calligraphy by Khalil Gibran, 2008
Ink on paper
44 x 229 cm / 17 3/8 x 90 1/8 in.

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