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contemporary chinese art

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2015 Hua gallery

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# THE WORD HUA MEANS TO PAINT, OR A PAINTING, IN CHINESE.

Hua Gallery specialises in the exciting and sometimes controversial space that is Chinese contemporary art.

As Chinese contemporary art continues to fascinate and intrigue collectors around the world, demand and appetite for fresh and innovative art from this fast-changing region continues to escalate.

Hua Gallery represents and exhibits cutting edge, stimulating works by established contemporary Chinese artists, as well as emerging contemporary Chinese artists who are not as yet internationally recognised.

Hua Gallery's founder and director, Shanyan Koder, has developed strong relationships with her artists, and hopes to build a Chinese contemporary art collection in her gallery that is different and inspirational. Every artist represented by Hua Gallery is chosen for their artistic individuality, the creative symbolism in their work, and the emotional energy their work creates.

# A LOVE FOR ART

It was serendipity that brought Shanyan Koder and Karen Levy together. After a chance meeting at an exhibition in London several years ago, they discovered their common passion for Chinese contemporary art, as well as an in-depth knowledge of the Asian art world. More importantly, they share a vision to promote Chinese contemporary artists to an international audience, raising global awareness of the talented, young artists from across China.

The work of artist, Zheng Haozhong, is being presented to the Western public for the very first time in this inaugural collaborative exhibition. This momentous occasion marks the beginning of a new series of online exhibitions showcasing the works of the new generation of Chinese contemporary artists.



Shanyan Koder developed a passion for fine art from a young age. Coming from a family of private collectors, Shanyan's knowledge of the art world was built over two decades of collecting for her family collection, as well as for her own private collection.

In recent years, Shanyan has had the pleasure of providing a tailored and independent fine art service to new and established collectors as Founder and Director of Shanyan Koder Fine Art, advising across Impressionist, Modern and Contemporary Art.

Shanyan is also Founder and Director of Hua Gallery, now an online platform for Chinese contemporary art. At her online gallery, Shanyan combines her passion in Contemporary Art with her Chinese heritage, and presents a striking online exhibition programme of contemporary Chinese art.

In addition to her work in Fine Art, in early 2014 Shanyan formally partnered with luxury jewellery label Buccellati as their Ambassador and Muse.

Originally from Hong Kong, Shanyan read English and Law at the University of Cambridge and has worked at Goldman Sachs and Sotheby's. Shanyan currently spends her time between London and Hong Kong with her husband and daughter, where she continues her work as collector, private advisor, online gallerist, and Buccellati Ambassador.



Karen Levy is the co-founder of The Art of this Century, a private art platform. With over 10 years of experience working at leading institutions including Sotheby's Bond Street, Philips, and Asia Society, Karen continues to advise collectors and corporations on international art with a special focus on Asian art. She is also actively involved with her family's DSLcollection, one of the most prominent western collections of Chinese contemporary art.

# ZHENG

"Artists output thoughts while painters rely on intuition, so I hover between these two identities of artist and painter. My paintings, films and installations are props of thinking. As each medium has its own meaning, I will discuss the meaning of meaning and the value of value in itself. I will discuss myself!" Zheng Haozhong

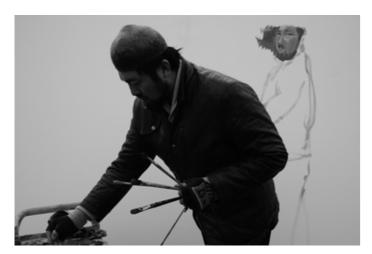
A graduate from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, Zheng knew that he wanted to be an artist at a very young age. He started painting at 15 and his principal inspiration at the time was Rembrandt. "When I saw one of Rembrandt's works, I knew that Rembrandt was a master! I told myself that I also want to be a master!"

Zheng likens his paintings to a set of props – each painting expresses an idea or feeling and it is through experiencing the combination of his works in an exhibition that the viewer gets a real glimpse into the artist's innermost thoughts. That is one of the reasons that Zheng has typically produced series of paintings, the most recent of which is entitled "Desolate Beach". Working directly from real-life subjects, Zheng often spends days working with his models and a crucial part of his creative process is the meticulous filming and documentation of his work-in-progress, which in turn allow the audience to fully immerse themselves in the artist's world.

In 2014, Zheng was awarded the John Moores Painting First Prize (China), the UK's most prestigious painting prize.

### IN CONVERSATION WITH

# ZHENG



# Q: Your first contact with art. When did you first come across art?

Art is very broad and difficult to define. Even I cannot be sure when I first came across art. But the first time I received training in art was during my primary school years. The first formal studies in art were during high school, which was also when I started developing a passionate interest. At the time, I felt that I had a gift and art was a way to release my ambition. I set a goal for myself and aspired to be a great artist.

# Q: What is your most commonly used medium? You use all different kinds of media for your work but which one do you prefer?

At the moment I'm very focused on oil painting, but personally I am very happy to work across all media to express myself. I cannot deny that painting has the ability to captivate an audience, but I don't wish to be limited to only painting in my creative process.

### Q: What is your inspiration?

My inspiration comes from my knowledge and perception of the world, from the interrelationship between the universe and myself. It's my feedback of the world around me.

#### Q: Where do you like to work?

I like working in different environments. That way, I can have a variety of experiences.

#### Q: Describe a memorable artistic encounter.

Everyone's vision is somehow influenced by others... over time this becomes your own perception. My most memorable artistic encounter would be seeing all the artworks that have shaped my creative process. For me, Keefer and Flaubert are key inspirations. So is Dostoyevsky. For me, it is very difficult to truly understand and describe the work of these masters.

## Q: What would you like for your first show? Which city and why?

I hope to have a large exhibition space to show my work. It doesn't have to be in a major city and regardless of whether it is a commercial gallery or an academic institution, I hope that my first show will take place in a site that is recognised for its professionalism, influence in the art world, and genuine respect for the intellectual spirit.

# Q: How does your work compare to Western contemporary art? Do you think there is a connection between East and West?

My art belongs to the present day... it is my response to the world around me. For example, whenever I read the works of Dostoyevsky, I imagine the connection between the great Russian philosopher and myself, an ordinary man born and living in China. I believe that art transcends space and the physical world we live in.

# Q: Tell us more about your different series (Wanderer, Nature, Ergophobiac)

The different painting series represent characters in my own endless novel – a wanderer, a workaholic, and nature itself. These three play

key roles in our world. We can say that Homer is a wanderer, and a poet. Cezanne is a workaholic, and an artist. I realise that when I classify people into these categories, it is not completely accurate. For me, the paintings in these series are like props to enable the viewer to understand my thoughts.

## Q: Are you close to any other Chinese artists? Do you like to work alone?

There are several other artists who live nearby. I love creating, whether alone or with other artists.

#### Q: Who is your favourite artist?

I like Cezanne, Bacon, Hockney, Freud, and many others.

# Q: If you could choose another artist to collaborate with, whom would you choose? And why?

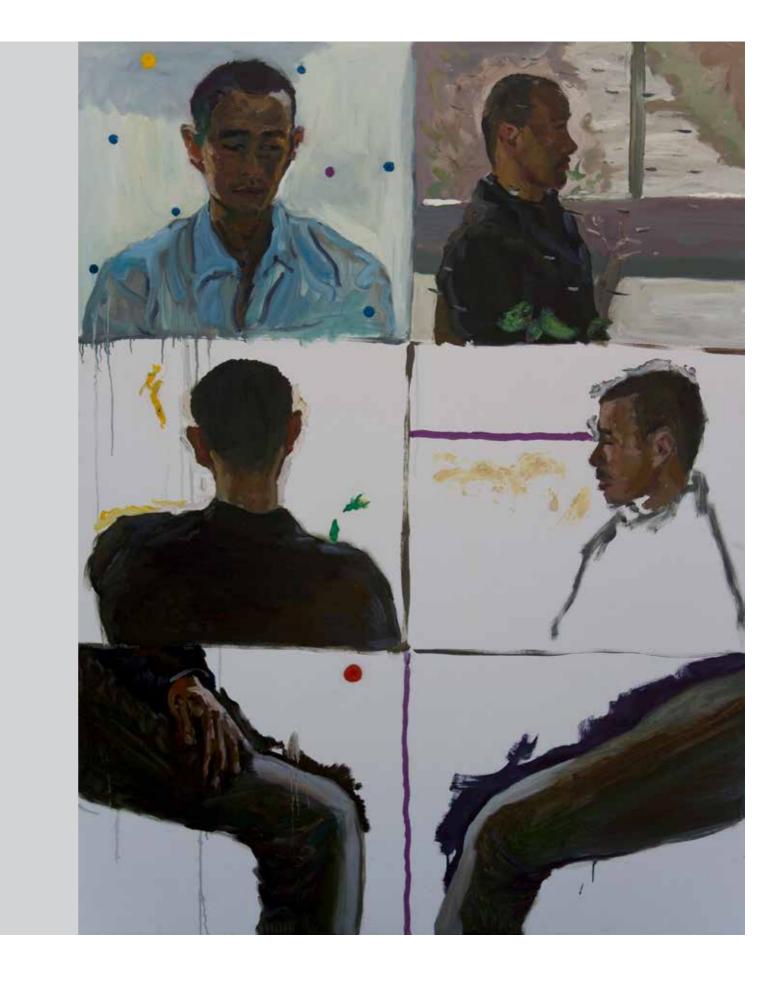
I would love to have an exhibition with Cezanne. In fact, I have already planned a series about Cezanne, which is currently on hold until I receive additional financial support.

## Q: What is the biggest challenge or obstacle for you as an artist?

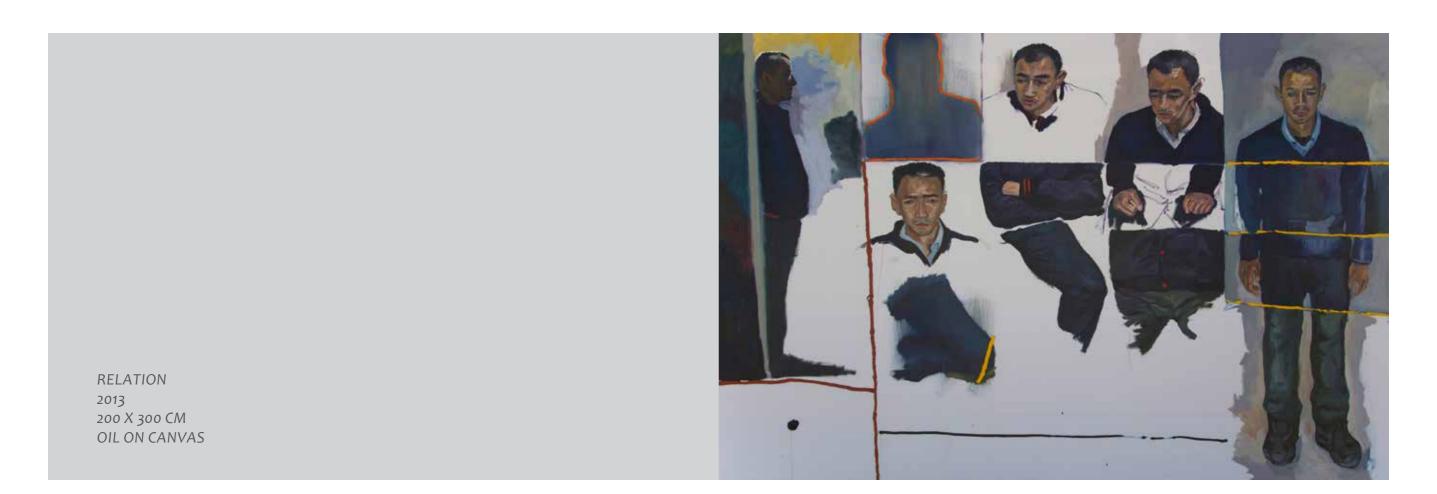
Artists need to continuously break away from old feeling, to generate new emotions, which then develop into his view of the world.

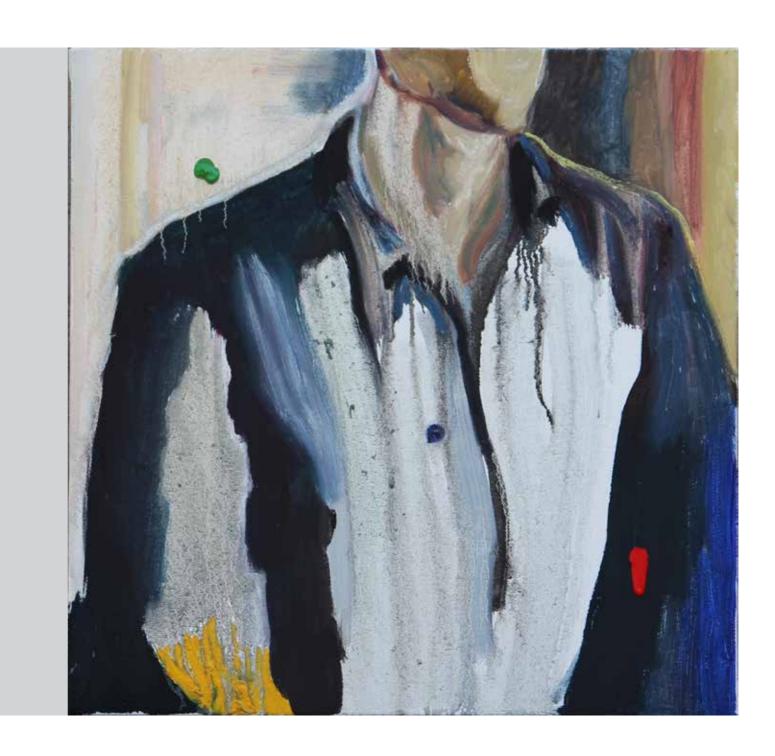


Helen Ho (L) is recognised as a specialist in Chinese contemporary art. She is the curator of one of the most prominent private collections of Chinese contemporary art in Europe, and has consulted with private clients, galleries and auction houses in the UK, Europe and Asia. Helen is a published author of numerous articles and dissertations on Chinese contemporary art.

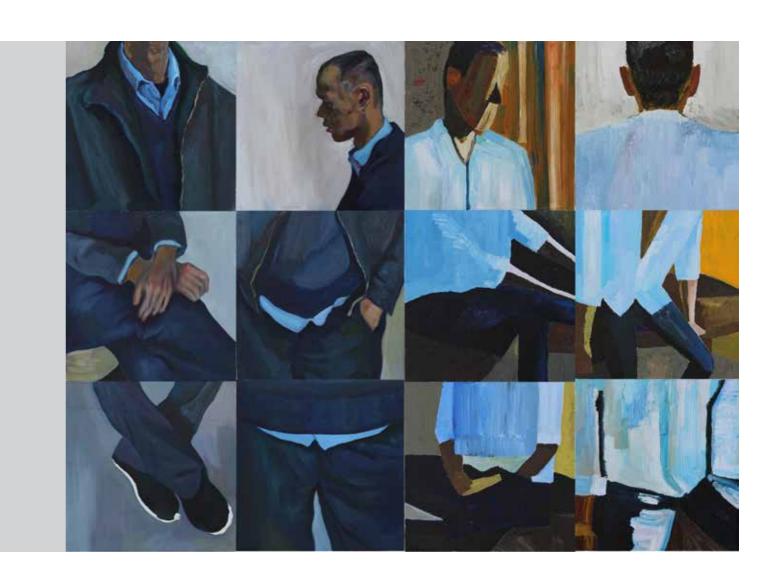


QIU CHEN 2013 200 X 150 CM OIL ON CANVAS



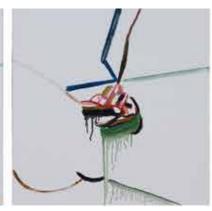


ERGOPHOBIAC 2013 60 X 60 CM OIL ON CANVAS



ERGOPHOBIAC 2013 60 X 60 CM (8 PARTS) OIL ON CANVAS

















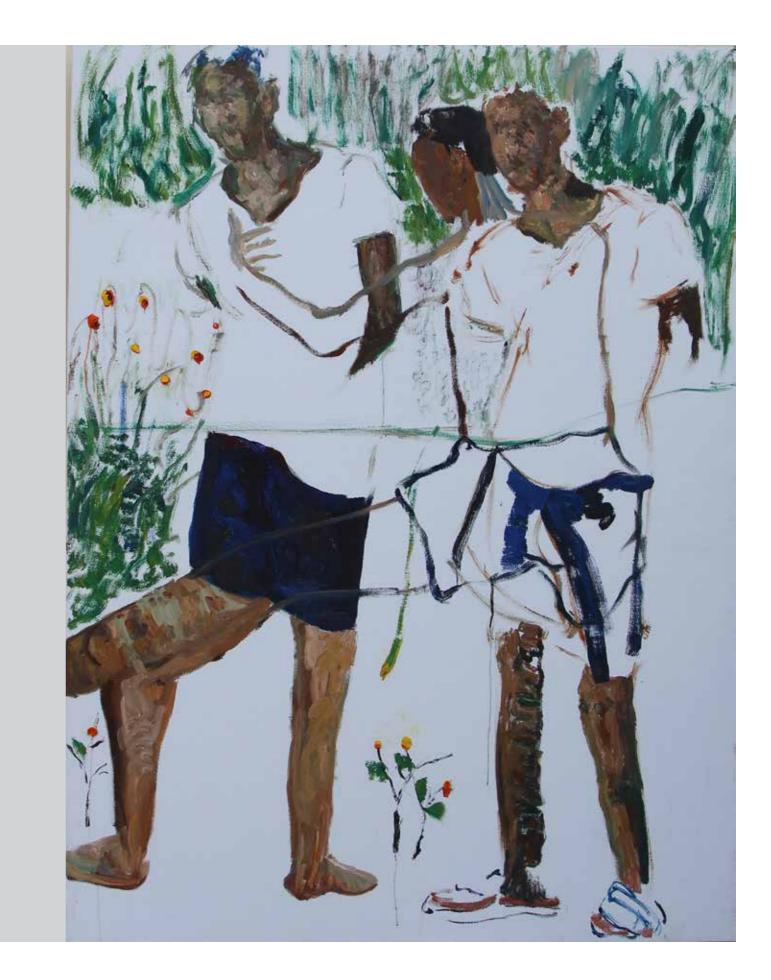
ERGOPHOBIAC 2013 110 X 120 CM OIL ON CANVAS

ERGOPHOBIAC 2013 150 X 380 CM OIL ON CANVAS





ERGOPHOBIAC 2013 200 X 300 CM OIL ON CANVAS



ERGOPHOBIAC 2013 200 X 150 CM OIL ON CANVAS



COLLECTION (PART 1 OF 5)
2014
180 X 250 CM
OIL ON CANVAS

COLLECTION (PART 2 OF 5) 2014 180 X 250 CM OIL ON CANVAS









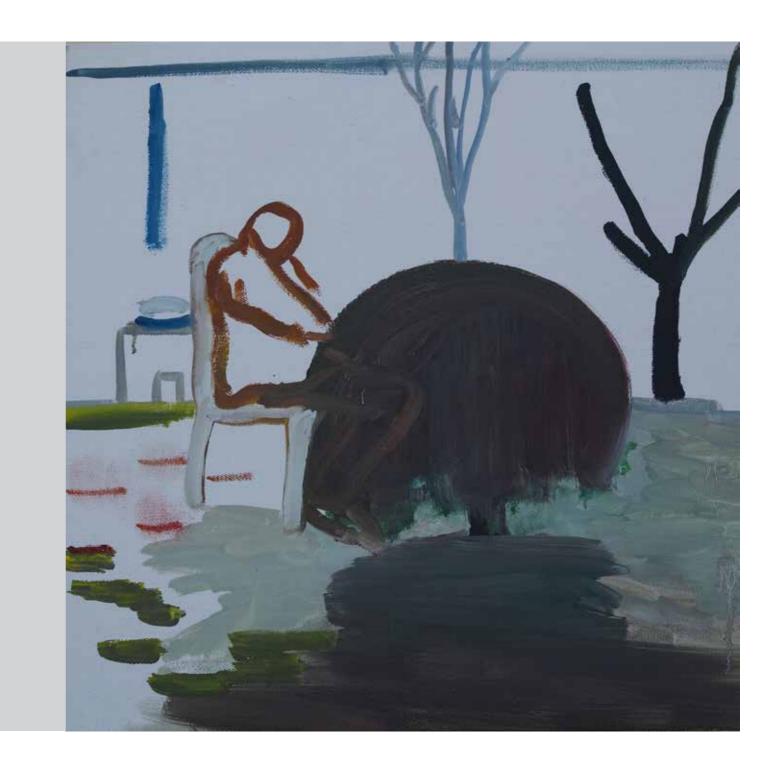




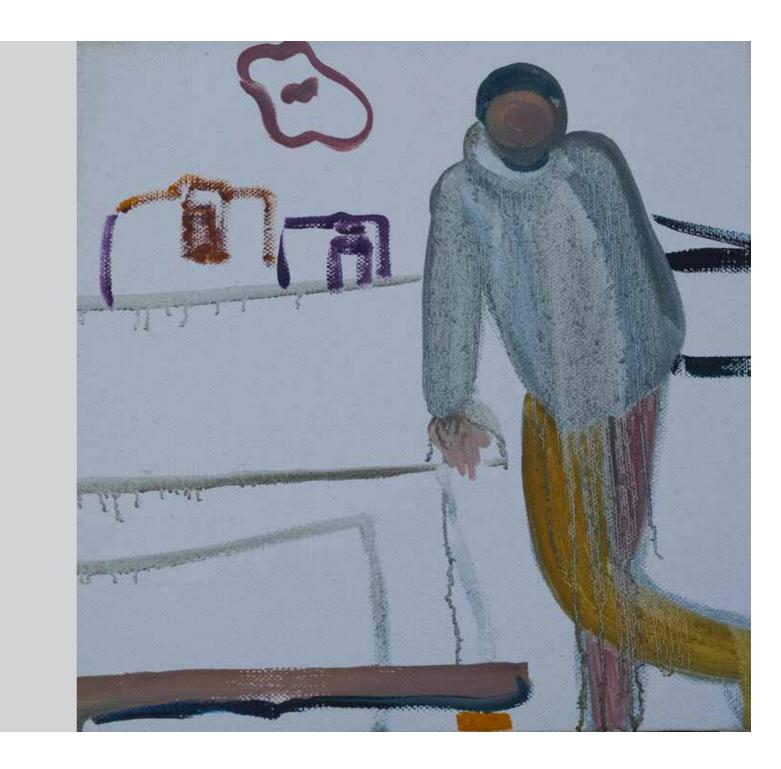


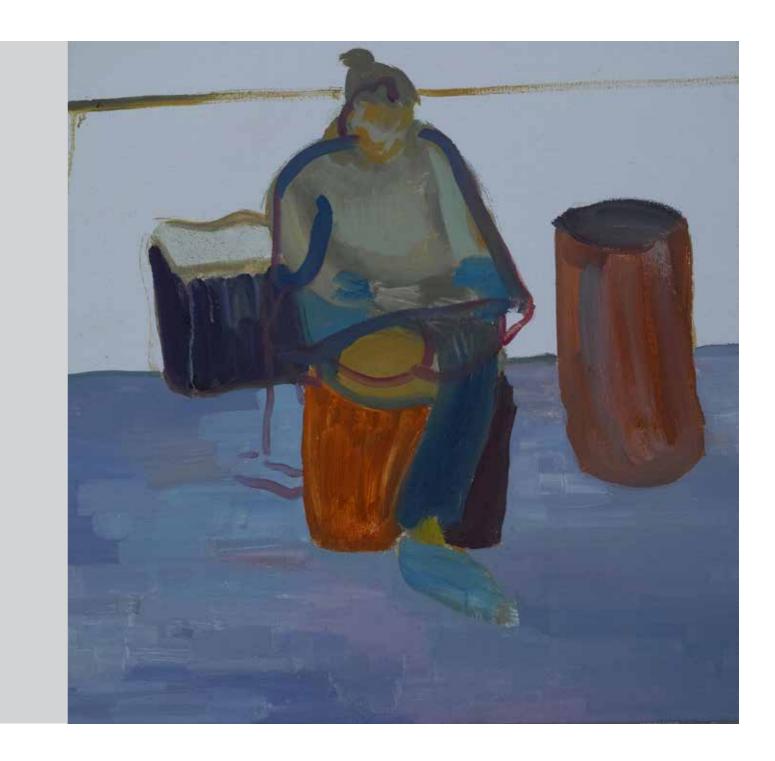


NATURE 2013 200 X 300 CM OIL ON CANVAS













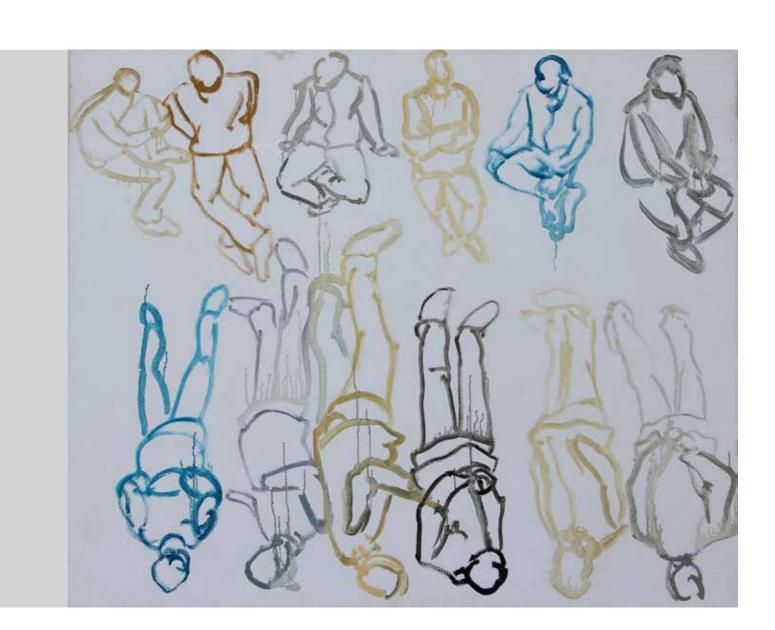


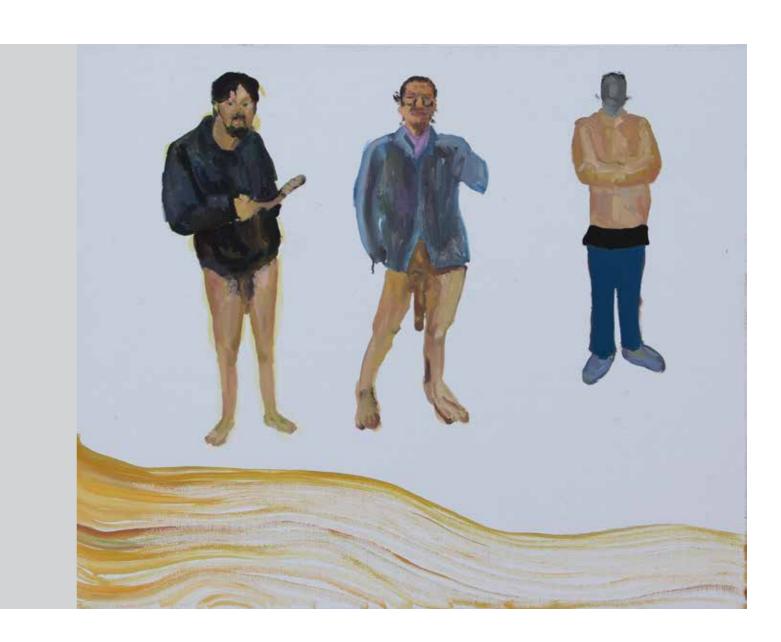


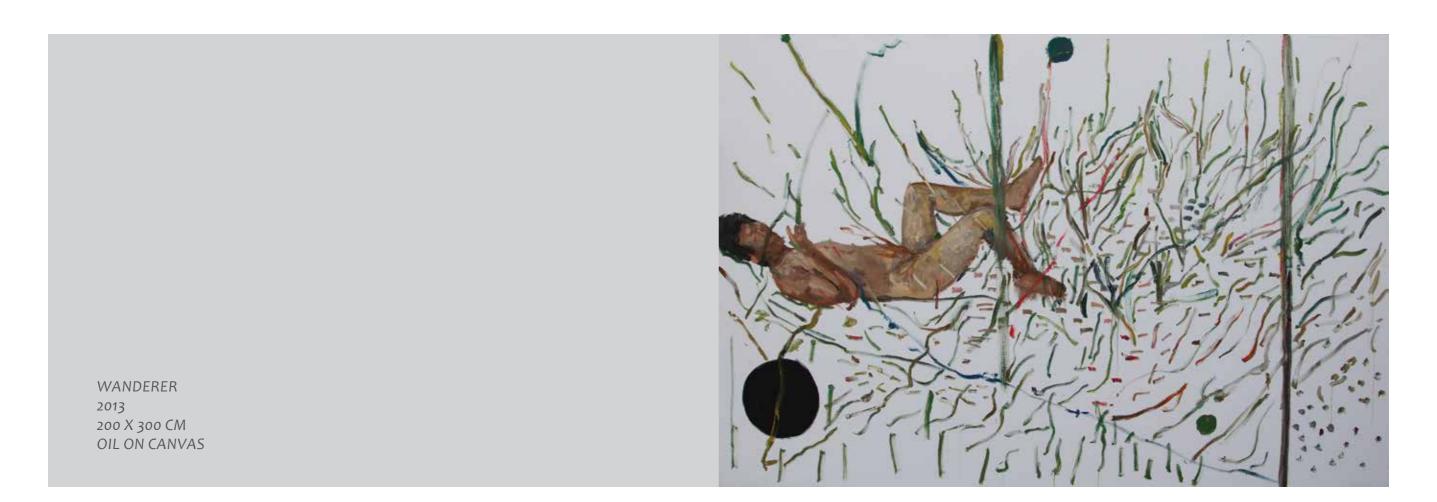


WANDERER 2013 110 X 120 CM (4 PARTS) OIL ON CANVAS











## BIOGRAPHY

# ZHENG HAOZHONG



Zheng Haozhong was born in 1985 in Shandong Province, PRC. He currently lives and works in Shandong.

#### **EDUCATION:**

2008

BA, Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, China

#### **AWARDS:**

2014

John Moores Painting First Prize (China)

#### **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS:**

2014

Liverpool Biennial, UK

Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK

Himalayas Art Museum, Shanghai

#### **FUTURE SOLO EXHIBITIONS:**

2016

Chinese Arts Centre, Manchester, UK

K11 Art Museum, Shanghai, China

