



水墨新論

MARK PEAKER

The New Age of Ink Wash

Ink wash painting encodes the history and language of thousand years of Chinese art and aesthetics. In the modern time, contemporary ink wash has returned to the spotlight in the art world. Talking about the trendsetter of ink wash paintings, 3812 Gallery is a name not to be missed. The co-founder of the gallery Mark Peaker talked to Precious about the new scope of contemporary ink wash and art.

水墨，蘊藏了中國逾千年的美術根源與美學語言，時移世易，當代水墨再度成為藝壇炙手可熱的潛力股，說起本地當代水墨的領軍者，不得不提畫廊3812，其創辦人Mark Peaker跟品尊細說當代水墨和藝術世界的新視野。

Text_Elly Lai
Photographer_Jason To



Chloe Ho "On Mount Olympus II"

3812 Gallery is located on Queen's Road West, Sai Ying Pun. Situated above the "Bird Bridge", the ground-level gallery has an extensive 4-metre high exhibition space. Co-founder Mark Peaker was busy preparing the upcoming Ink Asia 2016 which would be held in 2 days' time. Putting down his work for a moment, Mark introduced to us the ink wash of our time.

Born in Cambridge and raised in London, Mark Peaker used to work in a bank. He abandoned the high-paid job and devoted himself in art, opening 3812 Gallery in 2010 with co-founder Calvin Hui. His aim was to create a platform in Hong Kong for Chinese artists to showcase their contemporary artworks. Since the opening, the gallery has successfully organized numerous exhibitions, focusing on paintings and designs from the 20th to 21st centuries, with contemporary ink wash as the specialty. The gallery does not only preserve traditions, it brings synergy into different scopes of art. One thing that never changed is their devotion to ink wash paintings. "Ink wash is the unique expression of Chinese art. It has a long history. Similar to Chinese culture itself, contemporary ink wash is a broad concept which is embracive and multi-dimensional." An innovative move of the gallery was to organize the first edition of Ink Asia in 2015, marking the first large scale international art expo for contemporary ink wash. It was the effort of the gallery's co-founder Calvin. "Compare to decades ago, the galleries and auction houses in Hong Kong are more established now. Fine Art Asia and Ink Asia are platforms to make art more accessible. We are not trying to build another West Kowloon; we just want to expand the space to promote arts."

畫廊3812位於西營盤皇后大道西地下，「雀仔橋」之上，推門而入，地面是香港少見擁有逾4米層高展場的藝術空間，畫廊創辦人之一Mark Peaker正忙於準備兩日後舉行的《水墨博藝》，卻不忘笑意盈盈地停下來，跟我們解構當代水墨世界。

生於劍橋、成長於倫敦的Mark Peaker，原職銀行界，毅然改行投身藝術界，2010年與畫廊另一創辦人許劍龍(Calvin Hui)開設畫廊3812，原意是在香港為華人藝術家打造一處展示當代藝術作品的平台。迄今為止，畫廊已成功舉辦了無數展覽，展出的作品包括20世紀到21世紀的繪畫和設計藝術，主攻當代水墨作品。在畫廊3812之中，既是傳承、也是創新，即使已貫穿不同藝術範疇，仍多年不改「初衷」—水墨的熱愛。「水墨是中國人自己的藝術語言，擁有悠久的歷史根基，當代水墨是一個廣義的概念，如同中國文化一樣具有包容和多元性。」說起創新，2015年打響頭炮「水墨藝博」，開創了首個當代水墨為主題的大型國際藝術的博覽會，畫廊另一創辦人Calvin正是背後重要推手，「比起十多年前，現今香港的畫廊、拍賣行更成氣候，Fine Art Asia、水墨藝博等讓藝術變得更平易近人，我們不是要籌辦另一個西九龍文娛藝術區，而是爭取多一點空間推廣藝術。」



Hsiao Chin "Dancing Lights"

In just 6 years' time, 3812 Gallery has been frequently named by foreign media as the top gallery in Hong Kong. It is one of the most important platforms to showcase contemporary Chinese art. From a commercial perspective,

Mark contributed their success to the vast network of collectors and artists. "Galleries grow on artists, and artists grow on galleries. The two have to breed on each other to survive. Calvin invested a lot of time to look for different artists in China. There are many new minds every year, and 3812 discovers and supports those with potential, yet not blindly follows the market trend. Every creation is a selfless devotion to art. We do not organize exhibitions just to sell artworks." On the second floor of our gallery hangs Hsiao Chin, a Taiwanese contemporary abstract pioneer's work 'Dancing Lights - 8'. "Hsiao is still active today. This is a painting he created in 1963, and it still exudes immense energy."

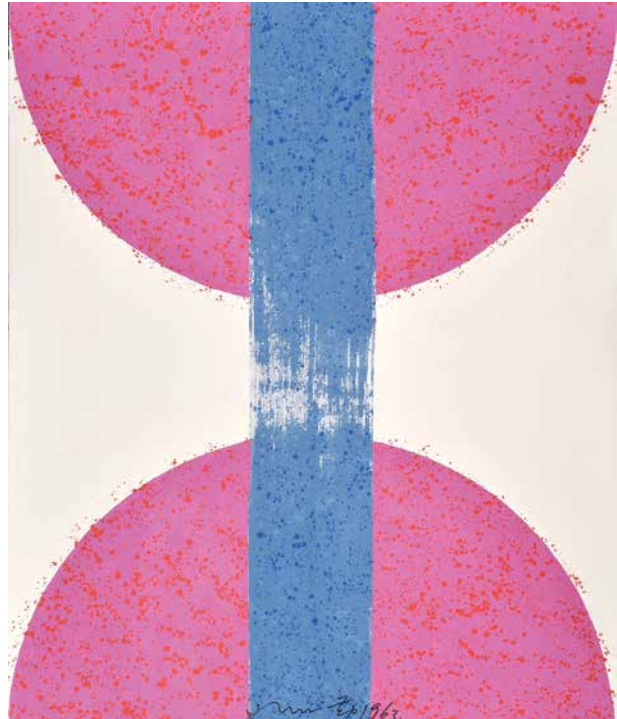
Traditional ink wash has been rather isolated in the past, but it is completely different now. The stereotype of ink wash has been black and blue, yet Mark finds infinite possibilities in it. "For instance, the much sought-after Chinese artist Yu Yang experimented cold ink on rice papers, inventing new visual effect. The up-and-coming local young artist Chloe Ho used coffee, mixed ink wash and traditional



ink wash as the medium, preserving the traditional landscapes in an abstract style. We once invited a guest from Louvre who bought Chloe's painting back to New York, and then the

NY Forbes Galleries called me and asked to bring Chloe's works for exhibition. This is one of the good examples of taking contemporary Chinese art to the international stage."

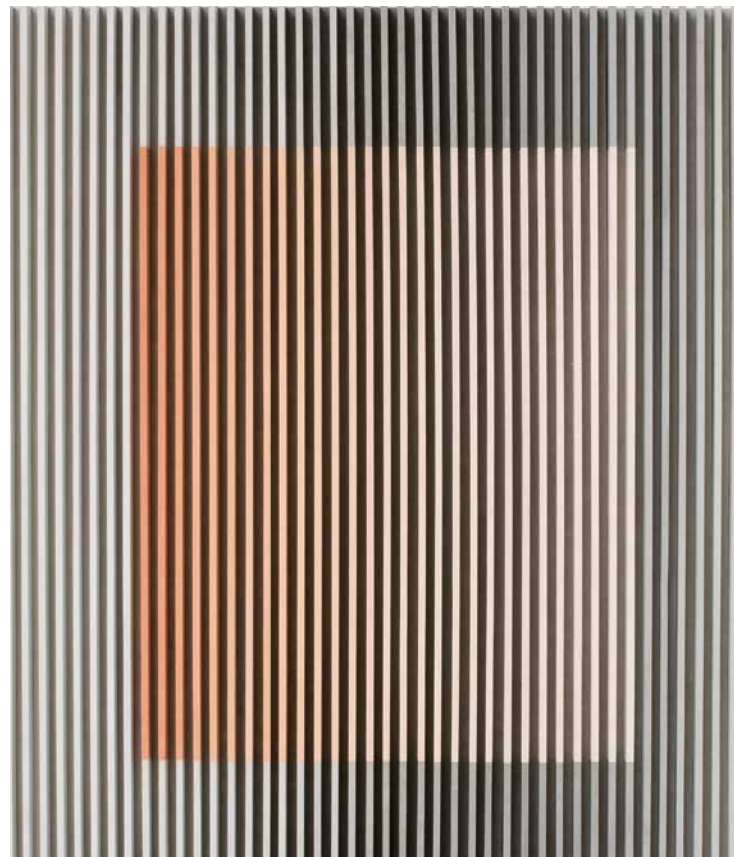
Residing in Hong Kong for years, Mark viewed this place his home. He had no reserve in promoting arts, "there is a school near 3812. Many students would gather in front of the gallery window and observe. Everyone can take something from art." Apart from his work, Mark actively involves in arts education. He is a member of "Shakespeare4All Hong Kong", a charitable organization that encourages local students to express themselves in English through adapting Shakespeare's play. "There is a saying - one minute on the stage, ten years of practice off the stage. The moment on stage may be short, but it takes a lot of time, effort and hard work behind the glamour. Performing English plays is certainly a challenge to local primary and secondary students, but it is moving to witness them overcoming the difficulties in language and act. The first step is hard to make, but it is all worthwhile."



短短六年間，畫廊3812多次被外國傳媒喻為香港首屈一指的畫廊，成為香港最重要的中國當代藝術的平台之一。以商業角度來看，Mark認為成功因素涉及收藏家、藝術家等重重人脈關係，「畫廊隨藝術家壯大，藝術家亦隨畫廊成長，兩者共存共生。Calvin投注大量時間於中國尋找不同的藝術家，每年都有大量藝術家湧現，3812致力發掘有潛質，卻沒有被市場潮流洗腦的藝術家，全情投入每個創作過程，而不是為賣出作品而創作搞展覽。」畫廊3812二樓掛著的《光之躍動-8》，這幅作品由台灣現代抽象藝術之先驅蕭勤所作，「蕭勤至今依然熱情於藝術，這幅畫作於於1963完成，至今仍流露著生命力。」

傳統水墨在藝壇上一度被視為孤芳自賞，如今水墨藝術產生翻天覆地的變化。水墨的刻板印象離不開黑、藍色，Mark認為當代水墨有無限可能性。「例如內地藝術家于洋透過理性的『冷墨』實驗形式，將水墨在中國宣紙上的帶來新的視覺觀賞層面，近期備受藝壇關注；另一本地年輕藝術家何鳳蓮(Chloe Ho)，她以咖啡、混合水墨及傳統中國水墨畫為媒介，在作品中依然能看到山水這種傳統的原素，但卻是抽象形式呈現。有一次我們邀請了法國羅浮宮的嘉賓，當中有人買了Chloe的作品置於紐約家中，其後紐約福布斯藝廊更致電給我，希望展出她的作品，這正是一個當代中國藝術成功帶到國際的好例子。」

居於香港多年，Mark直言視此地為家，對於推廣藝術義不容辭，「3812附近有一間學校，不少學生放學後都在畫廊的玻璃門前探看，其實我也樂於看到每個人步入畫廊欣賞藝術，任何人都可以吸收藝術的養分。」工作之外Mark同時積極參與慈善團體「香港小莎翁」的藝術教育工作，透過改編莎士比亞的名劇，藉著演劇讓本地學生流暢自信地用英語表情達感，「台上一分鐘，台下十年功，一刹那的演出，這些小朋友背後付出很多時間、心血和努力。雖然英語話劇對本地中小學生是一項挑戰，但看著他們克服語言上的困難及兼顧走位動作，勇敢踏出第一步，跨越障礙建立自信，非常令人動容。」



Yu Yang_A Tube of Paint and 2ml Ink No.3_Ink on paper, wood