Li Lei (b. 1965)



About

Li Lei was born in 1965 in Shanghai, where he now lives and works. Li is the former Executive Director of China Art Museum, Shanghai (Shanghai Art Museum) and a Professor at Tongji University. He also works as National First-Class Artist, the Deputy Director of Experimental Art Council in the China Artists Association and is a Visiting Professor at the Fine Art College of Shanghai University.

For over 20 years Li Lei has been engaged in the creation of, and research into, Chinese abstract art. He has endeavoured to combine the core concepts of Chinese culture with the international language of mature abstract art and to create a path for abstract in China. His painting series includes Zen Flower, Drunken Lake, Shanghai Flower, Memories of South and The Flame of Pompeii. In 2014, he began to experiment with space integration art, taking spatial narrative, spatial expression and spatial analysis as objectives of his dramatic visual practice. The development in Li Lei's painting style has been identified as "philosophically eclectic and moderate", a distinctively Chinese kind of poetic abstraction. Li Lei has had solo exhibitions in Beijing, Shanghai, New York, Frankfurt, Linz, Boxmeer, Amsterdam and Brussels.

Education

Graduated from Huashan Professional Art School, Shanghai, China

Career

Assistant Director of Shanghai Art Museum

National First-class Artist

Visiting Professor of Fine Art College of Shanghai University

Deputy Director of Experimental Art Council in China Artists Association

Visiting Professor of Tongji University

Solo Exhibition

2015 "*Water to Water- Li Lei Solo Exhibition*", Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong, China

2014 "*Shanghai Flower – Abstract Art by Li Lei*", MoCA Shanghai, Shanghai, China

2013 "*Mind and Comprehension – Exhibition of Li Lei Abstract Paintings"*, Shanghai Longmen Art Projects, Shanghai, China

2010 "*Canvas and Bronze – Solo Exhibition of Li Lei:"*, Elisabeth de Brabant Art Center, Shanghai, China

"*Abstract Melody Li Lei Works Exhibition", Leo Gallery, Shanghai, China*

2009 "*Shanghai Flower–Works of Li Lei", Z-art Center, Shanghai, China*

"*Out of the Sky – Li Lei Solo Exhibition",* Alp Galleries, Frankfurt, Germany

2008 "*Out of the Sky – Li Lei Solo Exhibition*", Alp Galleries, New York, U.S.A.

Group Exhibition

2026 *"Life and Form",* 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong

2019 Ink Now Shanghai: Inquiry on Water, Shanghai Suning Art Museum, Shanghai, China

"Mind-Scape V: Summer Group Exhibition", 3812 Gallery, London

3812 Artists Group Show, INK NOW Taipei Art Expo, Expo Dome, Taipei Expo Park, Taipei

2018 *"Mind Temple",* MoCA Shanghai, Shanghai, China

"Somewhere I Belong", L.AN Gallery, Shenzhen, China

2017 *"The Exhibition of Annual of Contemporary Art of China",* Minsheng Art Museum, Beijing, China

"Multiple spectacle – Arts from Asia", Ningbo Museum of Art, Ningbo, China

"Tracing the past and shaping the future", Powerlong Museum, Shanghai, China

"Blue", L.AN Gallery, Shenzhen, China

2016 *"Abstraction and Beyond – A Research-based Tour Exhibition of Chinese",* Minsheng Art Museum, Beijing, China

2015 55th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

2014 Xinjiang Art Biennale, Urumqi, China

2013 *"Form of the Formless: Exhibition of Chinese Contemporary Art",* Sishang Art Museum/Hubei Art Museum, Beijing/Wuhan, China

"Rhythm and Method Abstract Art in China and Germany", Hubei Art Museum, Wuhan, China

2012 Nord Art 2012 International Art Exhibition, Kunstwerk Carlshütte, Büdelsdorf, Germany

2011 *"Far Away Beauty Lingers",* Other Gallery, Shanghai, China

2010 *"Reconstruction - The Top Exhibition of Chinese Contemporary Abstract Art",* Today Art Museum, Beijing, China

The 8th Shanghai Biennale – Rehearsal, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China

2009 *"Merging Emerging – Art, Utopia and Virtual Reality",* MoCA Shanghai, Shanghai, China

2008 *"CHENXIANG: Eye Level Art Opening Exhibition",* Aquilaria Agallocha, Shanghai, China

2007 *"Open Watercolor Painting Exhibition",* Guan Shan Yue Art Museum, Shenzhen, China

2006 *"Third Space –the Chinese Version of the Abstract Art Exhibition",* Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China

2002 *"Metaphysics",* Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China

2001 *"Shanghai - Inchon Arts Exchange Exhibition",* Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China

Public/Corporate Collections

National Art Museum of China (China)

China Art Museum (China)

Today Art Museum (China)

Hubei Art Museum (China)

Shandong Art Museum (China)

Shenzhen Art Museum (China)

Sichuan Art Museum (China)

Guyuan Art Museum of Zhuhai (China)

Minsheng Art Museum (China)

Z-art Center (China)

Museum of Contemporary Art (China)

Xuhui Art Museum (China)

Ningbo Museum of Art (China)

National Exhibition and Convention Centre (China)

MGM Cotai Chairman Collection (China)

Publication

2018 *Li Lei: Explosion of Colour—A Chinese Abstract Art*, Unicorn Publishing Group LLP

2016 *Li Lei: The Apsara's Flowers*, Shanghai People's Publishing House

2015 *Li Lei: Water to Water*, Hong Kong Arts Centre

2014 *Li Lei: Shanghai Flower*, MoCA Shanghai

2013 *Mind and Comprehension: Abstract Art by Li Lei*, Longmen Art Projects

2010 *Abstract Melody: Li Lei*, Leo Gallery

2009 *Li Lei: Chinese Abstractionist*, Germany: Hatje Cantz

2007 *Contemporary Artists in Today's China - Li Lei: High Building, People Far Away, and the Water and the Sky Merging in One Color*, Sichuan Art Publishing House

2006 *Portraits of Contemporary Chinese Artists - Li Lei: A Poetical Abstract*, Hebei Education Press

2003 *Shanghai Oil Painting Master: Li Lei*, Shanghai Bookstore Publishing House