



Li Lei, *Mad Water* - 20, 2017, Acrylic on canvas [detail]

3812 gallery
London | Hong Kong

Li Lei



1965 Born in Shanghai, China

1983 Graduated from Huashan Professional Art School, Shanghai, China

Currently lives in Shanghai and works as: 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

About



Li Lei's childhood family photo

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.



Li Lei producing artwork



Li's engagement with art extends far beyond his own art practice, indeed he contributes actively to developing the art scene in Shanghai. Li Lei was responsible for the creation of the *Shanghai Youth Biennial* in 1999; he also established the annual *ART Shanghai* in 2003; was artistic director for the creation of the *Biennial Shanghai Abstract Art Exhibition* in 2004; and, in 2006, presided over the *Shanghai Biennale*.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2019 *Poetic Abstraction: Lei Lei*, 3812 Gallery, London
- 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.



Li Lei, *Yangyun-2*, 2018, Acrylic on canvas

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2022 *Blessings*, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2021 *After Nature I*, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2020 *RECONNECT: The Summer Exhibition 2020*, group exhibition, 3812 Gallery, London & 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.A.N 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.A.N 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
- 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 - Incheon Arts Exchange Exhibition*, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China

Public/ Corporate Collections

National Art Museum of China, Beijing
China Art Museum, Shanghai
Today Art Museum, Beijing
Hubei Art Museum, Hubei
Shandong Art Museum, Shandong
Shenzhen Art Museum, Shenzhen
Sichuan Art Museum, Sichuan
Guyuan Art Gallery, Zhuhai
Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai
Z-art Center, Shanghai
Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai
Xuhui Art Museum, Shanghai
Ningbo Museum of Art, Ningbo
National Exhibition and Convention Centre, Shanghai
MGM Chairman's Collection, Macau

Publications

- 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

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