

音樂老師

He Jian  
何劍



ART+  
SHANGHAI GALLERY



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Super Girl, Chinese pigment and ink on rice paper, 156 x180cm, 2013-2017 (detail of the cover image)





# ARTIST INTRODUCTION



HE JIAN  
何剑

He Jian was born in 1978 in Guanyuan, Sichuan province, and graduated from the Oil Painting Department of the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute in 2000.

For his witty visual combination of ancient and contemporary He Jian graduated with distinction, and continued as a lecturer in the Oil Painting Department of the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute. Since graduation, He Jian has received increasing attention from the international art world and participated in many shows in China and abroad. His education and professional career have been firmly rooted in Sichuan, he is frequently exhibited with his Sichuan-based contemporaries, and together with them, he is recognized as the new face of the Sichuan School Painting.

He Jian held several solo exhibitions in China and South East Asia including *Mind and Matter* at Zhi Art Space, Chongqing, China (2018), *Eternal Wave* at Richard Koh Fine Art, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2012), *Disguised History* at Art Seasons, Singapore (2010), *Living in the World* at Art Seasons, Beijing, China, Singapore (2005).

He Jian's work was featured in the Second Chengdu Biennale: A Confrontation of Ideas (2019), The 17th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh at the National Art Gallery, Dhaka, Bangladesh (2016), Sociological Landscape: The First Suzhou Jinji Lake Biennale, Basel Contemporary Art Museum, Suzhou, China, the Third Guiyang Biennale Art Exhibition, Guizhou, China (2007).

Some of the recent group exhibitions include *Perfect-Buddhism and Art* at the Putian Art Museum, Fujian, China (2018), *Fragmental Fields*, Art Karlsruhe at ASAS, Karlsruhe, Germany (2017), *Contemporary Exhibitions of Artists from the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute*, China Cultural Center, Sydney, Australia (2017), *The Tenth Fine Art Exhibition: Brush Painting in the Contemporary Era* at the China Art Museum, Beijing, China (2016), *Chinese Contemporary Art Exhibition*, Chinese Cultural Center, London, the UK.

Throughout his almost 20-year-career as a professional artist, his exhibitions were notably held at Minsheng Art Museum (Beijing, China), Huang Shane Art Museum (Shenzhen, China), Hive Center for Contemporary Art (Beijing, China), Jiangsu Art Museum (Nanjing, China), the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (South Korea), Today Art Museum (Beijing, China), Qingdao Art Museum (Qingdao, China), Shanghai Zendai Museum of Modern Art (Shanghai, China), and Chongqing Art Museum (Chongqing, China) among others.

His works were also presented at the international art fairs, including Art Central Hong Kong and Asian Contemporary Art Fair (Singapore).



# SELECTED WORKS



Face Series No. 23, Chinese pigment and ink on rice paper, 165 x122cm, 2009 (detail)

By adopting ancient techniques and frescoesque modes of portraying of the contemporary scenes, He Jian doesn't try to challenge the tradition or seek rebellion, nor he is being avant-garde in the fashionable sense of the term. By borrowing ancient techniques and rendering the subjects in a manner more than 600 years old, He Jian emphasizes the fact that people are and always will be products of their own culture and history.

A thick polish of Chinese-ness and a trace of history will hover above every single experience that the Chinese person (or a representative of any other cultural background) will engage in. A side effect of such a marriage of trivial, modern and sometimes superficial to antique, spiritual and profound is humor with a healthy dose of absurdity and wit that all together create the most idiosyncratic and expressive artistic language.



# SELECTED WORKS



His distinctive style of artistic expression is inspired by the frescoes of the 14th century Yongle temple in Shanxi province. At first glance, his works look aged, as if they are in need of intensive restoration, the effect that the artist reaches with the technique of layered paint over a thin surface of rice paper.

Juxtaposing antique techniques of meticulous Chinese brush painting with the subject-matter of Chinese contemporary everyday life as well as his childhood memories, He Jian takes his works into a unique temporal dimension.

TV Cabinet, Chinese pigment and ink on rice paper, 100 x 133 cm, 2015









# SELECTED WORKS



He Jian, as if the director of the theater play or a stage designer carefully selects the personages he portrays, thoroughly 'arranges' the setting, that they will be placed in and the prompts that will help to illustrate their story. He seeks to capture and expand on the most typical scenes that encapsulate the essence of what it became to be Chinese and live the Chinese way in the context of a globalized world that China became a part of after the Reforms of Opening up.

Portraying people presents a primary interest for He Jian. The artist analyses his subjects of various status, gender and age at the moment of leisure, work or celebration. Businessmen, college students, couples, children fall under the artist's scrupulous examination. Abacus, sewing machine, video games, radio, birthday cake, white rabbit nougat candies, bottles of whisky and Chinese alcohol, relics of past and items of the present, enter the realm of He Jian's paintings 50 years after the Cultural Revolution.

## TATOO NO. 3

Chinese pigment and ink on rice paper  
200 x 172 cm, 2008





FAMILY SERIES NO. 5  
Chinese pigment and  
ink on rice paper  
172 x 200 cm  
2008

**The Family series** recalls the memories of a specific time and mindset in the Chinese society that refers to the concept of five virtues honored in a Chinese family - 五好家庭. (Being law-abiding, child-bearing, involved in public activities, friendly with family members and neighbours, frugal and clean). Conventionally, Chinese social structure has been based on these family values.

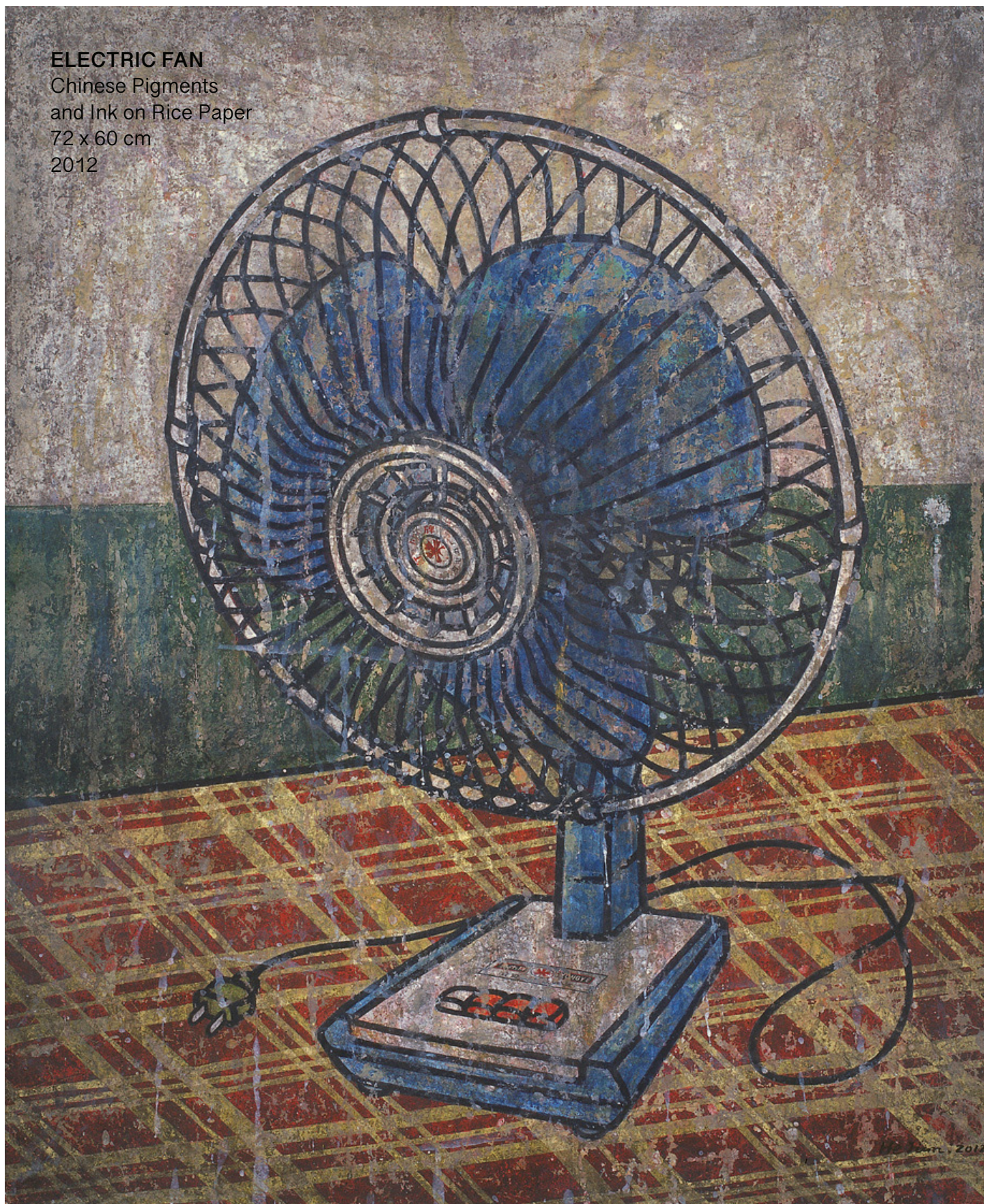
After the Reforms and Opening-up, newly occurred values have reduced the emphasis on the importance of the family and social harmony. The complexity of newly developed social structures have accelerated the pace of life, and weakened the familial links, which only lead to arising frustration and anxiety amongst people, and longing for human connections, warmth and security of familial home.



# SELECTED WORKS



**ELECTRIC FAN**  
Chinese Pigments  
and Ink on Rice Paper  
72 x 60 cm  
2012







Game Machine, Chinese pigments and Ink on Rice Paper 60 x 72 cm, 2011



# SELECTED WORKS



Amplified Radio, Chinese pigment and ink on rice paper, 120 x 190 cm, 2015 (detail)

*"For a long time I've been pondering the tools and materials of traditional Chinese painting, the limits and problems of its expressive abilities, and its possibilities in a contemporary context. Specifically, I try to use the mottled texture of the ancient frescoes and the independent quality of their lines to create an image that tends towards realism. My images usually attempt to capture the complex feelings caused by unprecedented cultural jumble encountered by people in today's world, as well as the indescribable aching associated with memories and the passing of time."*

-He Jian



# SELECTED WORKS



Idealist's Balcony, Chinese pigments and Ink on rice paper, 180 x 513 cm, 2013  
(featured work at Anren Biennale: a Confrontation of Idea (Chengdu, China, 2019))

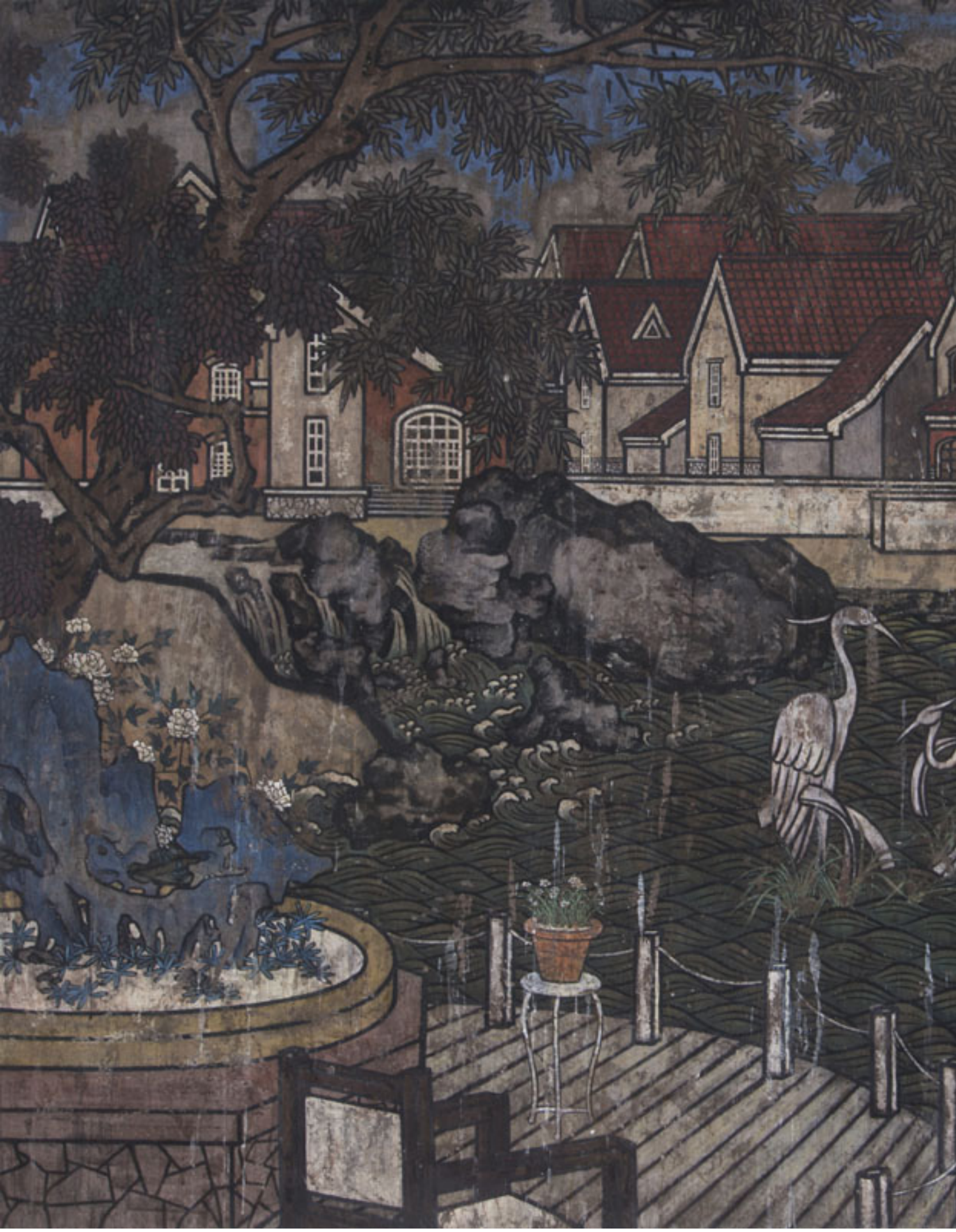




*"I have focused my artistic practice on exploring the possibility of penetrating Chinese traditional brush painting techniques and media into the international contemporary art context. I try to expose what is happening to Chinese people today - an unprecedented mix of cultural feelings, and indescribable emotions when recalling memories that have gone by with time".*

He Jian









FRAGRANT HILL NO. 1 Chinese pigment and ink on rice paper , 145 x 186 cm, 2014





**1978** Born in Sichuan, China  
**2000** Graduated from the Chinese Painting Department,  
Sichuan Fine Arts Academy

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2018 Mind and Matter, Zhi Art Space, Chongqing, China  
2012 The Eternal Wave, Richard Koh Fine Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
2010 Disguised History – by He Jian, Art Seasons, Singapore  
He Jian's Solo Show, H.T. Gallery, Beijing, China  
2009 He Jian's Solo Show, Chao Yi Tang Gallery, Beijing, China  
2006 He Jian's Solo Show, Weibang Gallery, Seoul, Korea  
2005 Living in the World – by He Jian, Art Seasons, Beijing, China, Singapore

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2018 'Perfect - Buddhism and Art at the Putian Art Museum, Fujian, China  
Outpost, Art Project, Xiamen International Conference Center, Xiamen, China  
Art Central Hong Kong, Art+ SHanghai Gallery, Shanghai, China  
2017 Fragmental Fields, Art Karlsruhe, ASAS, Karlsruhe, Germany  
Vigorous Growth of Art in the Southwest of China –  
Contemporary Art Exhibition of Teachers from Sichuan Fine Arts Institute, China Cultural Center, Sydney, Australia  
2016 Art Central Hong Kong, Art Seasons Gallery, Hong Kong  
Brush Painting in the Contemporary Era: The 10th China Fine Art Exhibition, China Art Museum, Beijing, China  
17th Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 2016, National Art Gallery, Dhaka, Bangladesh  
China Contemporary Art Exhibition, Chinese Cultural Center, London, UK  
2015 Reflections of Spring – Using Narratives Towards an Order of Literacy, Art Seasons Gallery, Beijing, China  
See a Part in Eye, See the World in Mind: Contemporary Chinese Ink Painting  
Exhibition, The Gallery, Shanghai  
Works of Teachers of the Chinese Painting, Department of Sichuan Fine Arts Institute, Minsheng Art Museum, Beijing  
2014 On the Road, Nomination Exhibition of Chinese Young Artist, Guan Shanyue Art Museum, Shenzhen  
Variation – Contemporary Chinese Ink Art Series II, Hive Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China  
Social Landscape Narration in Chinese Contemporary Painting and its Cultural Concept Changes, East Lake Park, Chengdu, China



## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 Lesser Logic – Linguistic Encoding and Discursive Expression in Contemporary Art, Parkview Green Art Gallery, Beijing, China  
Invitation Exhibition: New Gongbi Painting, Jiangsu Art Museum, Nanjing, China
- 2013 Reality and the Aesthetic Regime of Art, Wangjiang Community, Chongqing  
Rewriting the Landscape: India and China, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, South Korea  
Serene Scent: New Ink Painting, Red Gate Gallery, Beijing, China
- 2012 Sociological Landscape, The 1st Suzhou Jinji Lake Biennale, Basel Contemporary Art Museum, Suzhou, China  
Art Stage Singapore, Art Seasons, Singapore
- 2011 This Time - Contemporary Art Exhibition, Esse Art Space, Beijing (The Moment, The Existent, Real Space, Beijing, China)  
Art Seasons 10th Anniversary, ART SEASONS, Singapore  
Art Taipei, Taipei, Taiwan, China  
Harmonious, Beautiful – 1st Exhibition of Sichuan Gongbi (Brush Painting) Association and Invitation Exhibition of Gongbi Painting Masters, Sichuan Museum, Chengdu, China
- 2010 Life as Art – Contemporary Art Exhibition, Yueshan, Sichuan, China  
Art is Life – Contemporary Art Exhibition, Leshan, China  
Tips – Contemporary Ink Art, My Humble House Art Center, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2009 Water and Color – Contemporary Ink Art, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China  
Prospects – Contemporary Art, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China  
Prospects – Contemporary Art, Zero Field Art Center, Beijing, China  
Temporary – Contemporary Art Exhibition, Scola Art Center, Beijing, China
- 2008 Los Angeles Art Fair, Yi Lai Gallery, Los Angeles, the USA  
Post Traditional, Art+ Shanghai Gallery, Shanghai, China  
Brush and Ink Strategies, Qingdao Art Museum, Shandong, China  
Art Miami Fair, Art Basel Miami Beach, USA
- 2007 Sichuan School of Painting – 30 years, Cultural Exchange Center of Ministry of Culture, Beijing, China  
Face East, Robischon Gallery, USA  
Word of Mouth from the Four Corners, The 3rd Guiyang Biennial Art Exhibition, Guizhou, China





- 2006 The Self-Made Generation: A Retrospective of New Chinese Painting, Shanghai Zendai Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, China  
The Power of Art on Paper, Art Seasons, Beijing, China  
The Power of Art on Paper, Art Seasons, Beijing, China
- 2005 Capturing Youth – New Trends in Contemporary Art from Chongqing, Art Seasons Gallery, Beijing/ Singapore
- 2004 Ideal of New Generation – Chinese New Generation Artist Award Exhibition, He Xiangning Art Museum, Shenzhen, China  
L'un, L'autre, Sino-French Cultural Year Sichuan Art Institute Contemporary Art Exhibition, Toulouse France  
Realistic Mirage - Chongqing Youth Artists Exhibition, Shanghai International Exhibition Center, Shanghai  
Art Singapore 2004, Asian Contemporary Art Fair, Singapore  
New Wave, Art Seasons, Beijing, China
- 2003 Chongqing Chillis American Tour Exhibition, Ohio State University Art Museum, USA  
Changing Face – Feng Bin, Bai Hai, He Jian Works Exhibition, Adleta Gallery, USA  
International Exchange Exhibition between China and Korea, Chongqing Art, Chongqing, China  
Winter @ Art Seasons, Art Seasons, Beijing, China
- 2002 Art in History and Today, Opening Exhibition of Chongqing Art Museum, Chongqing, China
- 2001 Chongqing Chillis, Kassel, Kulturbahnhofs, Germany  
Huang Binhong Prize for New Sprouts of Chinese Painting, Beijing, China  
Models – Paintings on the Frame, The 1st Chengdu Biennial Art Exhibition, Chengdu  
Contemporary Art Museum, Chengdu, China
- 1999 Renew China – New Look of Chinese Painting from Sichuan Fine Arts Institute, Soobin Art Gallery, Singapore  
The 9th Chinese Art Show of Chongqing Region, Chongqing, China  
Calm Existence, Art Museum, Sichuan Fine Arts Institute, Chongqing, China

## COLLECTIONS

Singapore Art Museum  
Chengdu Contemporary Art Museum  
Chongqing Art Museum  
He Xiangning Art Museum  
Huang Binhong Art Museum





# Gallery Contact

## 联系方式

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