

# HADRIENDE MONTFERRAND GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

OPENING : 20 JANUARY 2018

## HAO SHIMING | CORNERSTONE

2018.01.20 - 2018.03.03



Cornerstone No.1 | acrylic on stone, carving | 32 x 22 x 36 cm | 2018

Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery is pleased to present "Cornerstone", a solo exhibition of Hao Shiming. The show will open on January 20th and last until March 3rd 2018. This is the second solo exhibition of the artist with the gallery. The exhibition will showcase the artist's latest works painted on stones and the paper series "Da Guan".

Hao Shiming's works expertly combine their own particular semantic "threads" by destroying and reconstructing symbols taken from Chinese historic literature, to become the foundation of an artistic method derived from calligraphy. On one hand, this

inspires a search for the pursuit of the spirit inherent to traditional culture. On the other hand, this aesthetics attempts to reach an expression identical to calligraphy by experimenting further the possibilities of materials and space. In his production of recent years, no matter whether it developed from the earliest themes of the "chairs" series, to the "birds" series or to the "birds and flowers" series, or whether it progressed from the "mountain and water" series to the calligraphy series, or whether the choice of materials evolved, from silk scroll to paper to stone, Hao Shiming became ever more proficient with each type of artistic possibility through his own practice and his growing acquaintance with the traditional Chinese artistic system.

The present works painted on stones is Hao Shiming's latest creative innovation. Stones as works of art in themselves possess a kind of abstract beauty. In traditional Chinese culture and in the eyes of many ancient literati their beauty surpasses that of many figurative images; it is also the utmost expression of the strength of life. Throughout history, the appreciation of stones brought together Chinese people meditating on life, observing nature and the distinctive aspect of all creations; they also contain the important concept of Chinese aesthetics. The appearance of stones in literati paintings also usually indicates the interest of ancient scholars towards them. As Hao Shiming alone combines the painting and light carving of his own calligraphy characters, he preserves the original attribute of the stone, combining his own artistic language with the emergence of the stone's materiality. Through this aesthetics he manages to establish a dialogue with traditional Chinese painting. Similarly, in the present works of the "Da Guan" series, he takes his inspiration from the "Da Guan Inscriptions", which were collected into books of inscriptions from official stone carvings. Through deconstructing and reconstructing the copied inscriptions from this source using ink and paper he tries to recreate the spirit and knowledge of these scriptures. Through the use of both mediums he thus effects a deft fusion of traditional culture with contemporary aesthetics.

Born in 1977 in Heze, Shandong province, Hao Shiming graduated from the Chinese painting department of the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts in 2000 before completing a master's degree at Beijing Normal University in 2014. He currently works at Hubei Provincial Academy of Fine Arts and divides his life between Wuhan and Beijing. Hao Shiming's works combine tradition and modernity, trying to create a new kind of identity. His works have been exhibited at the National Museum of China, the Shanghai Museum, Today Art Museum, Museum, Shanghai Duolun Museum and Wuhan Museum amongst many others.



## HADRIEN DE MONTFERRAND GALLERY

HDM Gallery is a contemporary and modern art gallery with a special focus on Chinese contemporary art. Founded in Beijing by Hadrien de Montferrand in 2009, it opened a second space in Hangzhou in 2013 headed by Olivier Hervet. A third space will open in London in October 2017.

Since its inception, the gallery has hosted solo shows of established Chinese artists including He An, Zhao Zhao and Jiang Zhi. It also launched the careers of younger artists such as Lu Chao, Wang Yi and Zhu Rixin. To broaden their audience, the gallery has tried to form partnerships for their promotion abroad. Thus, He An presented 2 solo shows at Galerie Daniel Templon in Paris and Brussels, Lu Chao's work was the object of a solo show at Galerie Nathalie Obadia in 2016 and Wang Xiaoshuang will exhibit his work at Galerie Diane de Polignac in October 2017.

Besides, the gallery has sought to bring Western artists to a new audience in Asia, often by presenting them alongside well-known Chinese artists. Dual shows of Venezuelan artist Elias Crespín with Ding Yi, of Cameroonian artist Barthélémy Toguo with Guo Wei and French artist Jean-Charles Blais with Wang Keping are part of this logic.

Finally, the gallery devotes some of its roster to widening the appeal of 20th Century art. It thus presented shows of works on paper by modern masters and two group exhibitions of preparatory sketches for propaganda paintings entitled "History in the Making".



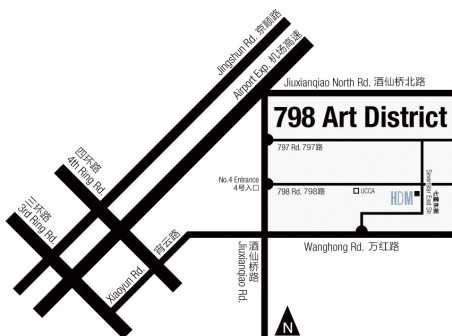
## FOUNDERS

Hadrien de Montferrand has long served as a bridge between the Art worlds of China and Europe. His more than 15 years experience in the Art World, at various auction houses and Art institutions included roles as marketing director for ARTCURIAL, the largest French auction house, and the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing. Hadrien has lived and worked in China for more than 10 years.

An entrepreneur to the core, Laurent Dassault has expressed great support for Hadrien's initiative in China. Laurent serves as the administrator of the "Friends of Pompidou Museum's Association" in Paris, and heads the development committee for ARTCURIAL, auction house.

"When an economic zone develops, creativity always follows," he argues. "China's artists are the 21st century's great creators. It's a pleasure to be a part of this ambitious and thoroughly original project."

Olivier Hervet graduated with an MA in Classics from Oxford University in 2008. After working for HDM Gallery since its inception in 2009 where he developed the gallery's network of young collectors, he became a partner in 2012 with the goal of opening a second space in China. He opened HDM Gallery in Hangzhou in November 2013 offering a platform for the development of China's young creation.



### Gallery Contact:

+86 10 59789320

[hdm\\_gallery@163.com](mailto:hdm_gallery@163.com)

798 Art District, No.4 Jiuxianqiao Lu

Chaoyang District, Beijing, China

Duration: 20 January - 3 March 2018

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday from 11am to 6pm

(Or by appointment)

[www.hdemontferrand.com](http://www.hdemontferrand.com)



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