

Huan Zhong - Nature Follows Abstraction

2017.8.3 – 2017.9.22

KWM artcenter is honoured to present “Huan Zhong - Nature follows Abstraction”, a group exhibition of 14 artists running from 3 August to 22 September 2017.

Our exhibition title derives from the 4th century B.C. philosopher Zhuang Zi’s concept of ‘Huan Zhong’ in his essay ‘On levelling all things’. ‘Huan Zhong’ refers to the space within a circle. The circle represents the realistic world, while the space refers to the abstract and intangible. Zhuang Zi believed that the “essential” can be attained only when one investigates “Huan Zhong”. If one understands ‘Huan Zhong’ then one can understand nature better. Through committing to abstraction, can an artist have a better understanding of nature? In Showtime’s 2017 television series *Billions*, Asia Kate Dillon’s gender non - binary character Taylor Mason logically concludes ‘nature follows abstraction’ while explaining the predictability of a stock market transaction. This statement seemed to be a perfect co-title encapsulating how we contemplate the nature of abstract image making in the early 21st century.

KWM artcenter has invited both intergenerational and international artists to participate within our own little ‘abstract’ space surrounded by the ‘reality’ of the World Financial Centre and ask if traditionally 20th century questions concerning abstract art such as: “Transcendental or Experiential?” “Abstraction or Nature?” are still relevant in today’s de-centralised art making environments. Does the homogeneity, universality and rationality associated with abstraction still hold? or has a more ‘social’ or ‘economic’ abstraction taken its place reflecting the present world rather than being an extension of the individual.

These fundamental musings are put to the test by positioning the works against an exaggerated ‘modernist’ exhibition design which encourages a comparative reading of the works. The exhibition, which includes paintings, sculpture, photography, textiles and ceramics, demonstrates how the look of abstraction easily crosses mediums. It asks one to acknowledge how, on the one hand, visually, abstraction has been so readily absorbed into daily life and yet, on the other hand, still has the ability to surprise and shock people’s preconceptions of what can be considered art.

The participating artists are Ge Ziyu, Ju Anqi, Li Xiangyang, Liu Gang, Liu Shuang, Meng Luding, Tim Crowley, Wang Guangxu, Xie Guixiang, Xu Qu, Yu Youhan, Zhao Yao, Zhang Huairu and Studio HVN



金杜艺术中心 (KWM artcenter)

The KWM artcenter opened on 20th October 2016. It is located on the second floor of the WFC centre CBD in Beijing. The new art center is supported by the law firm King & Wood Mallesons and an KWM artcenter affiliated private art fund. The KWM artcenter has over 700 sqm of exhibition space, including an exhibition space, a VIP room and an educational space. It will be used to present and promote artists both domestically and overseas. In particular, it will act as a rare art institution at the heart of the economic central area in Beijing. It will provide high-quality art educational activities and courses aimed to cultivate art lovers and collectors. It serves to improve the international influence of Chinese Art and become a powerful communicator of Chinese Contemporary Art.