

# *This Too Is Guo Fengyi*

Artist: Guo Fengyi

Curator: Aimee Lin

2020.06.03 – 2020.08.03



KWM artcenter is pleased to present the Chinese artist Guo Fengyi's solo exhibition entitled *This Too Is Guo Fengyi* from 3rd June to 3rd August, 2020. The exhibition contains two sections. In the main hall there are 14 works on paper and one group of early drawings and notes. In the screening room, we are presenting Guo Fengyi's archive from the Long March Project, an experimental text from the writer Jia Qin and an interview between the artist Xu Tan and Guo Fengyi from 2007. This exhibition aims to re-introduce Guo Fengyi's artistic practice to a new public. By way of literally following her brush strokes one can perceive the evolution of her mysterious imagery's formation.

Guo Fengyi's drawings were first introduced to China and subsequently to an international contemporary art public through a series of exhibitions entitled "The Long March Project: A Walking Visual Display" initiated in 2002. The exhibitions *Guo Fengyi: Who Is Guo Fengyi* (2005), *Guo Fengyi: I Am Guo Fengyi* (2009), and the exhibition *Guo Fengyi: Landscape portrait* (2014) directly set out to establish the artist's identity primarily followed by presenting a criteria through which the artwork could be appreciated. Guo Fengyi's 30 year extraordinary history of visibility and acceptance internationally has helped a reevaluation of her work in China. At the beginning she was recognised as an "alternative" or an "outsider artist". In the exhibition *To See from a Distance Is Still to Be Seen: Guo Fengyi* at The Drawing Center, New York in spring 2019, the Director of the institution and Art History expert Laura Hoptman pointed out that Guo Fengyi was an artist who 'broke the narrow and unchanging nature of contemporary art'. The phenomenon of Guo Fengyi over 3 decades has contributed to a profound widening of how people perceive what can be considered art.

Nowadays with a renewed understanding, there's no need for us to pontificate over a contemporary definition of Guo Fengyi's art. We no longer need to position Guo within the category of 'controversial' or 'outsider artist'. Therefore, today in 2020, through *This Too Is Guo Fengyi*, we hope to provide every audience, whether professional or not, a chance to further recognize Guo Fengyi and concentrate on her art without the restraints of any prejudgements. Her art is informed by her life long mystical practices and the wisdom gained from outside conventional knowledge systems. Her drawings demonstrate her curiosity and her insight into life and the universe, the traditional and the contemporary, and Chinese and world culture. Her work reveals her voice, her story and how she brings wisdom, strength and inspiration to others through a unique language.

Through this exhibition, we would like to present Guo Fengyi from different perspectives. Firstly from her 'I' perspective which exists in her paintings, notes and words, and is represented in the world we have created in the main hall of KWM artcenter. Secondly, in the screening room, from a 'she' perspective, in the form of photos, videos, documentaries and memoirs from the documents of the Long March Project, in the experimental text by the writer Jia Qin and in a recording made by the artist Xu Tan as a member of the "Keyword Project" in 2007. Guo Fengyi's voice as well as the reflections

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北京市朝阳区东三环中路 1 号环球金融中心东楼 201 100020

201, Tower East, World Financial Center, No.1 Middle Road, Dongsanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District, Beijing, P. R. China, 100020  
+86 10 5661 2254 [info@kwmartcenter.com](mailto:info@kwmartcenter.com) [www.kwmartcenter.com](http://www.kwmartcenter.com)

others all are presented at KWM artcenter.



Due to the artistic and personal charm of Guo Fengyi, this exhibition is supported by many art professionals including Xu Tan and He Chi, John Tain from Asia Art Archive, Aimee Lin from Long March Space, Theresa Liang from Long March Project and their respective teams. Guo Fengyi was an artist who painted with the purpose of curing. In her practice, a path to explore her wisdom and view a new way to relate with the world is offered. These, considerations, among others, we hope the viewers experience.

### **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 art center is supported by the law firm King & Wood Mallesons. The KWM artcenter presents and promotes artists both domestically and overseas as well as building up its own collection. In particular, it acts as a rare art institution at the heart of the economic central area in Beijing. It provides 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.