

Wangsim is pleased to announce the opening of Wang Yi's solo exhibition at the Mandarin Oriental, Guangzhou, titled *The Shape Salon*, to celebrate the reopening of the hotel's 4<sup>th</sup> floor dining space—now TANG, a magnificent new restaurant doubled up as a gallery space. The exhibition features a selection of recent paintings and sculptures from the Shanghai-based artist's past 10-year practice and spotlights his long-term obsession with depicting cities, history and nature with a pure abstract reasoning.

The range of processes employed in each of Wang Yi's works on view reveals the extraordinary depth of his artistic strategies. Starting from former, geometric simplicity, the artist painfully applies hundreds of layers of color, exploring the effects of repetition, dissolving, shading, overpainting and contrasting. In these vibrant and vital works—some finished with layered resin and all seemingly pixelated without a focal point, the initial continuities of color and shape (which the artist picks out of natural or urban landscapes) have been reconfigured to produce a new order. It represents two important facets of the artist's practice, the solitary, independent inner seeking and his reflection on the ambiguous dynamics of China's modern history.

'Reflection of Shadow'—one of the artist's longest-running series, seems to be brilliantly dark and bright at the same time. Aiming to depict a visual force "brighter than light", Wang continues using the gridded patterns and the labour-intensive painterly techniques to establish a blurred structure with sharp edged glowing forms. Embracing philosophical elements of chance, paradox, and tension, Wang creates astonishing images with seemingly infinite reflections imbued with vibrant drama. His works challenge our understanding of Western abstraction while subverting established histories of art and culture.

The exhibition also features a commissioned series *Ksana*, created for TANG's inaugural art project. In these mystic and explosive abstractions, the past and present of fast-evolving metropolis such as Shanghai and Guangzhou are interpreted on aluminium surface with meticulous brush strokes and Wang's signature glazing technique, which draws from glazed ceramics of China's Southern Song dynasty. Laying numerous thin, translucent layers to blur, enrich or reduce colours, shapes and forms, Wang engages in a delicate and prolonged interplay between change and stability. The resulting visual shifts continually between Western and Eastern traditions, echoing manmade and natural wonders, and material weight of time itself. The presentation also features artist's important paintings and sculptures from his 'Overlapping' and 'Floating Square' series.

Traditionally referring to a large building for a specific purpose, TANG is designed with a unique one—it is going to house a year-round, rotating, academic (yet certainly sumptuous) art program. Organized on the occasion of the grand opening of TANG, *The Shape Salon* kickstarts dynamic cultural dialogues, and the inspiring pairing of creative and culinary gatherings.

WANGSIM 欣然宣布位于广州文华东方酒店举办的「堂中形：王一个人项目」开幕，展览系酒店重启四楼餐饮空间盛世之中重要的一环。酒店打造的全日制餐厅取名「堂」，由传奇星厨坐镇，也同时成为一个典雅精致的艺廊空间。是次展览展出上海艺术家王一一系列最新绘画与雕塑作品，这些作品反映了艺术家带着纯粹的极简推论对于城市、历史与自然风貌的阐释。

展出的王一创作作品中丰富多变的绘画技巧体现了他制造图像策略中的深度。由正式的、成几何形状的极简基础出发，艺术家细致地将层层颜料在画布表面反复进行堆叠、稀释、晕染或对比。在这些明亮且极具生机的抽象作品中——部分作品带有透明的树脂表层，但几乎全部作品均看似像素化且失焦迷蒙，艺术家从城市或自然景观中选择的初始颜色和形状之逻辑被重组并创造了全新的肌理与秩序。这体现了艺术家独立的自我审视和他对于中国近代历史与发展的反思。

「影子的影子」是艺术家创作生涯中重要的系列作品之一，作品呈现绚丽且静谧的氛围，甚至显得“即明又暗”。在试图找寻“比太阳更亮的光线”的过程中，艺术家持续使用网格形式和极其耗费精力的绘制方式来搭建图像中随机错动的模糊结构和尖锐的明亮局部。这些气势惊人的作品受到东方哲学中有关时机、悖论和张力的启发，作品中带有棱镜般无线反射的视觉效果和让人难以忽视的戏剧性，挑战着观者对于西方抽象的传统观念，甚至颠覆我们对于文化和艺术史的现有认知。

展览中亦包含为项目全新创作的委托系列作品「一闪」。这一系列的「中式抽象绘画」的构图和颜色不禁让人联想到夜空中刹那间未知的爆炸。王一的灵感来源于上海、广州等中国高速发展的大型都市的历史与今朝。艺术家选择工业铝板作为绘画的基底，以源自南宋古瓷釉面的「罩染法」技巧对于铝板表面进行上百层的颜料叠加，每一层半透明、极薄的颜料不断更改、渲染、消除初始颜料与形状本身，这一过程仿佛一场在变化与稳定之间微妙而持久的博弈。最终呈现的电子化视觉图像带有中西方的古典技艺，强化了瞬间与漫长、机制与手工等悖论。展览中同时展出艺术家「漂浮的方块」、「重叠」系列绘画作品以及两件小型雕塑作品。

「堂」古意大概为用土垒成的大型建筑结构，后引申为有特别用途的房屋，令人欣喜的是，广州文华东方酒店的「堂」自启动就带着一个特别的文化用途：既作为一个支持学术性、美术馆级艺术项目、全年无休的大型平台。作为「堂」艺术项目的首展，「堂中形」将启发多层面的文化对话，并邀请艺术界、餐饮界、文化界人士携手合作、集聚一堂。

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