



Chen Ping

'Garden'

Exhibition Dates: 10th September until 13th October 2020

Location: 11 Market Place, Henley on Thames, RG9 2AA

Informality is delighted to present an upcoming exhibition by Chinese artist, Chen Ping. The exhibition shows a selection of work which explains the artist's deep traditional interest in humanity and Chinese mythology.

There are threads throughout Chen Ping's art that are reflective of both hopeful optimism and shared humanity. From his earliest works to more recent pieces, Ping highlights the symbiotic relationship between humans and the environment around us. This is not an individualised relationship between one single person and their specific relationship with nature, but one that seeks to represent how we are all connected to this relationship. This shared experience is of a cosmopolitan nature – a mutualism that we must embrace if we are to overcome the crises that confront us. Ping's flows of colour have no sharp lines. The images are intertwined. The people, mountains and trees blur into each other and often difficult to distinguish. This is not only expressive of Ping's distinctive style but reflective of his philosophy. Inspired by ancient Chinese proverbs and maxims, Ping draws out these intricacies. He does not see a separation between people and nature, but endless contours that overlap and influence each other. Here, the wild animal is the human, the human the mountain and the tree, and the tree the wild animal. It is a circular relationship that challenges our desire for linearity.

In today's atmosphere, it is simple to ask, 'does art matter?' Do the aesthetics we witness on a canvas placed on a wall or sculptured in a garden mean anything? Viewing the world through the lens that Ping provides confirms that there has never been more important for it confirms to us that we are all interlinked. We are connected and as such, reliant on each other. When viewing Ping's work, one often does not know where to stand: up close to see the layers or from a distance to observe the patterns. This is reflective of our interactions with the world around us – and it is why Ping provides us with a gateway across these worlds.

This is the being of art.

**Extract from essay by Dr James Arvanitakis

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About Chen Ping

Schooled at Guangzhou Academy of fine arts, China, Chen Ping seeks to expose and return to the beginning of cultural values by re-examining the relationship between people, their environment and animals. Ping foreshadows this by discussing through his artistic practice three main themes, time, space and existence.

Chen Ping is technically accustomed to traditional Chinese calligraphy methods and has developed this to create masterful, abstract paintings, morphing reality and revelling in ancient mythology. Chen ping reminds us and deepens our understanding of core values about the human condition with his visual figurative depictions contextualised with myth.

Ping has been exhibited internationally and is held in many major private and public collections. Career highlights include, in 2014 a book consisting of Chen's paintings titled 'unseen mountain' was published and given as a gift to Chinese president Xi Jinping by the Tasmanian Government, in 2013 and 2015 Chen exhibited as part of The Venice Biennale's Personal Structures Exhibition. Other projects include the Fujiang Museum, Expo Milano, Museum of Guangzhou. Major private collectors of Chen's work includes, White Rabbit Collection, Sydney, Popev Collection, Russia, Copezoulos Family, Greece.

About Informality

Informality is a contemporary art gallery that formed early in 2019.

In October 2019, the gallery opened a project space located in Henley on Thames to increase awareness of international contemporary art by supporting an exhibition programme to educate a wider audience on the edge of the chiltern hills. In addition to the gallery's project space, Informality curates site specific projects tailored towards themes of the environment and co-existence.

Informality enhances its exhibition programme with accompanying talks and lectures. These are tailored to aid emerging collectors in researching artists and understanding the art market.

Informality, using its network, also provides a discreet advisory service, offering support on secondary market sales.

For further information please email: info@informality.co