

Shao Yong: *Landscape Kingdom*

February 15 - March 27, 2019

Opening Reception: February 15, 2019, 6-8 pm

Location: 559 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10011

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New York - Crossing Art is pleased to announce: *Landscape Kingdom*, an exhibition of the series of artworks by Chinese artist Shao Yong. This is the debut exhibition in the United States for Shao Yong, in which he features two series of his works: the Landscape Kingdom and Abstract Ink series. The opening reception will be held on Friday, February 15th from 6pm to 8pm.

Thousands years ago, Tao Yaunming, a Chinese poet of Eastern Jin Dynasty portrayed an idyllic terrain of peach-blossoms in his writing, which became the prototypical utopian land for generations of Chinese artists. Deeply influenced by the theme of landscape, Shao Yong attempts to explore contemporary ink painting in the context of urbanization and globalization.

In his landscape series, Shao applied traditional Chinese painting techniques — using ink and brush to illustrate a world of purity and wholeness through layers of color variations. Not simply following traditions, Shao successfully produced a distinctive visual style that evokes a sense of tranquility and pinpoints the current social issues, merging historical elements with contemporary culture. To further break through the geographic boundaries of the West and the East in contemporary ink painting, Shao intentionally included pigs, a playful yet slightly satirical subject matter, in his works, making a timely reference to the year of pig while creating a compelling visual effect.

As a longtime Tibetan Buddhist practitioner, Shao Yong tends to use simple but intensive color blocks to express the philosophical realms of spirituality. In his Abstract Ink series, Shao set red, yellow, and blue as the major tone for his work. In Tibet, red and yellow are often associated with shrines and Kashaya robes worn by monks. By juxtaposing these two colors, Shao tries to create a state of sublimity and holiness, inviting viewers to embrace the power of love and faith in religion.

Shao Yong innovatively blends the concept of Western abstract paintings into his Chinese landscape paintings, through which he celebrates the traditional techniques and culture. To Shao, the timeless theme of landscape and spirituality represents a harmony between humans and nature. As he said, “the external world is changing all the time, but for us, keeping the inner peace and seeing through this illusory outer world is the eternal.” His hope is that modern society can find this harmony.

About the Artist

Shao Yong was born in Shanxi, China in 1973. In 1997, he graduated from Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts, majoring in Chinese painting. He became an independent artist in Beijing in 2002. In 2008, Shao began his landscape series and abstract ink paintings. He held the exhibition “Shao Yong-Blue and White Ink Painting” in several cities in China. In 2017, Shao was appointed as the president of Chinese Contemporary Ink Painting Research Institute of Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts.