



Roots Contemporary was founded by Samantha Ripa di Meana to show works by Chinese artists who question how ancient traditions are being challenged by tumultuous changes in their society. Today the Chinese contemporary artists are rediscovering calligraphy with all its traditional refinements.

Their roots are anchored in a profoundly different civilization providing an energy and power of observation barely understood in the west.

Following a decade of Chinese Pop Art, Roots Contemporary invites you to explore Chinese painting through the kaleidoscope of a broader ancient Chinese art. In the framework of the BOAF, Roots Contemporary brings the ancient tradition of calligraphy back to its original context. www.r8ts.biz

Fondé par Samantha Ripa di Meana, la galerie Roots Contemporary expose les travaux d'artistes Chinois qui s'interrogent sur les mutations rapides de leur société, sur les traditions face à la modernité. Aujourd'hui les artistes Chinois Contemporains redécouvrent la calligraphie et ses raffinements.

Leurs "racines" sont ancrées dans une civilisation profondément différente donnant une énergie et des modalités de fonctionnement qui sont mal comprises par le public Occidental.

Après une décennie d'hégémonie du Pop Art chinois, Roots Contemporary vous propose d'explorer la perception de la peinture chinoise au travers du caléidoscope de l'art Chinois. Dans le cadre de la BOAF, Roots Contemporary remet dans son contexte la tradition millénaire de la calligraphie. www.r8ts.biz

Venue:

BOAF

Brussels oriental Art Fair

53 Rue Lebeau

1000 Brussels

www.r8ts.biz



SHEN FAN

Shen Fan attended the Fine Arts Department of the Shanghai Light Industry Institute in the late 80'. In the 1990s, he became one of the first Chinese artists to be invited overseas, studying at the European Ceramics Work Centre in the Netherlands. He explored wash technique and oil painting on paper and then on canvas and became one of the major Abstract Artist of the Shanghai art scene.

The works after 2000 takes up an idea the artist was already pursuing in 1994. He was hoping his works would be interpreted as an abstraction of calligraphy.

Shen Fan's most recent work has made use of neon lights. The first of these was shown at the 2006 Shanghai Biennial. "Landscape: A Tribute to Huang Binhong"(1845-1955) was a five-by-ten meter neon light installation set to the slow plucking of a traditional Chinese musical instrument, the zither. Joe Martin Hill in the December 2006 of Yishu Magazine commented that this work was worthy "to contemplate the weight of history and its contemporary reformulation."

Born in 1952, lives and works in Shanghai and is one of the main figures of SHANGHART Gallery.



YANG HUI-BAHAI

Yang Hui known as Bahai, graduated from the National Academy of Decorative Arts in Beijing. He participates at the New Wave of Chinese Art in the 80's in Shanghai. He was Professor of Art at the University of Light Industry in Shanghai, Fine Arts Department from 1986 to 1990.

He is recognised as one of the major abstract Chinese Painters. His name is reported in the "History of Chinese Contemporary art 1985-1986"(1991) and in "The History of abstract Shanghai Art"(2006). The Shanghai born artist immigrates to France after Tiananmen. He is Chinese by birth, French by nationality and Shanghanese in his heart.

Bahai works since 20 years between France and China. He has participated to numerous exhibitions, solo or group in Galleries and Museum all over China, Taiwan, France and Russia. In Shanghai, Bahai is also known as the testimony photographer of the 1990.

In 2007, his solo exhibition: "The old folk in the teahouses" at the Duolun Museum Of Contemporary Art, brings him back on the front of the art scene. Curated by Jiang Wei, the exhibition creates a link between Chinese abstract painting and the reality of Chinese life.

Born in 1962, lives and works in Shanghai.



Other artists in Sablon:

Jing Wei Hong (b.1967) Nanjing
Chai Yiming (b. 1965) Shanghai
Wu yiming (b. 1966) Shanghai
Zhang Hai Tian (B. 1951) Shanghai

Special exhibition:
Roots Contemporary

33 rue du College
1050 Brussels

"Dream Stones" II

Xu ke was born in 1958 in Shanghai. He graduated from the Shanghai Industrial art School and Shanghai Fine arts academy in a time of great chaos. He couldn't start his artist's career until he was 40.

He is a typical representative of the "wasted generation". The generation that lived and grew at the time of the Cultural Revolution, having to abandon all personal development to serve "the big step forward".

Xu Ke's work is about calligraphy and dream stones. He uses a 5000 year old calligraphy technique and turns it into a contemporary expression.

Contacts:

Roots Contemporary

Samantha Ripa di Meana
Tel: +32 474367870
samanthardm@yahoo.com
sam@r8ts.eu

and

Annuschka Leung
Tel: +32 474 611263
Annuschka.art@gmail.com