LISSON GALLERY

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Yu Hong's Fragile, Turbulent World

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Yu Hong, *Pyramid*, 2022, acrylic on canvas, 2 parts, each: 300 x 250 cm. Courtesy the artist and Lisson Gallery

On the occasion of her solo show at SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, the artist spoke to *ArtReview* about colour, art historical and literary connections, and the psychological stressors of contemporary life

Yu Hong is best known for her paintings that blend stylistic influences adopted from the Western art historical canon and traditional Chinese painting techniques — resulting in expansive and dramatic landscapes, as well as quieter, more intimate moments. At her latest exhibition at SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, Hong presents six largescale paintings of landscapes populated by human figures in varying states of distress that speak to the psychological stressors of contemporary life, alongside three small studies of hands that are pictured mid-gesture. The exhibition's titular painting, *Night Walk* (2023), sets the tone of the exhibition, immersing visitors in a vibrant colour palette while inviting art historical and literary connections to be made with the subsequent paintings on view.



Courtesy the artist and Lisson Gallery

ArtReview Could we start with how you decided on the title Night Walk, not just for the painting itself, but the whole exhibition – and what this refers to?

Yu Hong Night Walk is one of the most important works in my solo exhibition at the SCAD Museum of Art, and it is also the largest one. It was created based on the painting The Blind Leading the Blind [1568] by Bruegel the Elder, which portrays a group of blind people supporting each other and leaning on their canes, moving forward in a perilous volcanic zone. Under the cover of night and fire, the scorching red light of the magma shines on their faces. Animals and children huddled on a tricycle look at the world shrouded in darkness, but they can only jolt forward under the guidance of the blind person in front of them. This work is full of a tense sense of crisis and has a strong visual impact. I named the painting Night Walk because it has a mysterious and unpredictable feeling. The exhibition curator, Daniel S. Palmer, had the idea of naming the exhibition after this painting, which I think is also in line with the turbulent times we live in. We cannot clear the road behind or ahead of us, so we have no choice but to explore and move forward in the dark.

AR In a similar vein to referencing The Blind Leading the Blind, your paintings allude to other well-known works like Théodore Géricault's The Raft of Medusa [1818-19], Edvard Munch's The Scream [1893] and Caspar David Friedrich's Wanderer above the Sea of Fog [1818]. Can you tell us how these came to inspire you to make this series of work?

YH The paintings you mentioned are all classic paintings that I love very much. Géricault's *The Raft of Medusa*, by way of using a dramatic and grand scene, shows a group of people in despair seeking a last glimmer of hope. Bruegel's *The Blind Leading the Blind* vividly portrays human ignorance and blindness with a worldly yet absurd sense of humour. Munch's *The Scream* portrays the loneliness and madness of fragile individuals. In *Wanderer above the Sea of Fog*, Friedrich shows us a lonely figure overlooking the vast world. These works all depict people in an anxious state trying to find direction when in crisis and turmoil. It is evident that although the problems and experiences faced by people in each era are greatly different, a human sense of anxiety and insecurity has permeated throughout human history, and countless painters have created works based on this. This is something that fascinates me, and it has become the core of my exhibition at the SCAD Museum of Art.



The Scream, 2020, acrylic on canvas, 250 x 600 cm. Courtesy SCAD

AR That sense of anguish, loss and desperation in the large-scale works – why is this something you wanted to portray?

YH The pain, loss and despair expressed in these large-scale works come from real life. In recent years, the impact of the pandemic and the changes in the world's social patterns have overturned the established order and values. People have realised how small and helpless we are in front of the tide of our contemporary times; it has created a strong sense of imbalance. I have tried to express this sense of imbalance in my paintings.

AR There's an interesting generational tension created by your paintings The Old Man and the Sea [2023] and The Scream [2020]: one depicts an elderly man alone on the shore, and the other presents a group of young people. Can you expand on the dynamics or relationship between these two paintings?

YH The painting *The Scream* originates from Munch's painting. I selected the core elements of Munch's painting — the sunset, the bridge and the central person screaming. I made the sunset more vibrant and fluid and I painted a Chinese-style arch bridge. I turned the lonely screaming figure in Munch's painting into a group of young girls shouting in anger into the beautiful sunset, creating a sense of tension caused by conflicting emotions. The other painting, *The Old Man and the Sea*, is based on Ernest Hemingway's 1952 novel. The old man's bony back speaks of his desolate life. After a long struggle in the sea, the old man finally brings back a huge fish bone, which seems to be a manifestation of heroism, but in fact, it is more of sadness and helplessness. This painting is very quiet, as the old man quietly gazes at the sunset, at the calm sea surface, and at the fish bones lying on the beach. This kind of beautiful desolation and the craziness of *The Scream* next to it create a contrast between frenzy and madness on one hand, and quiet and loneliness on the other, and in that sense, reflects the different spirits of two generations.



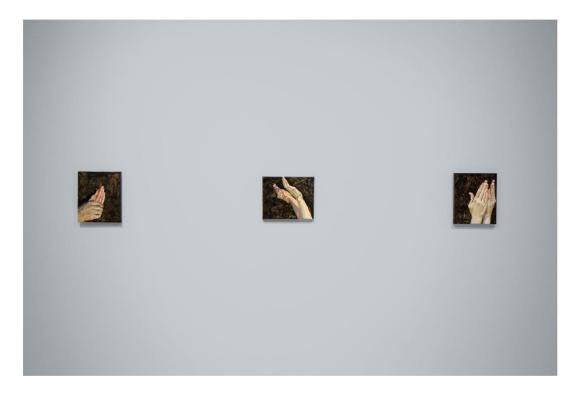
The Old Man and the Sea, 2023, acrylic on canvas, 250 x 300 cm. Courtesy SCAD

AR The paintings Night Walk and The Scream seem to reflect on the shan shui style of painting – what's the significance of traditional forms of Chinese painting in this series and how these might influence how we understand the subject matter?

YH Both of these paintings are horizontally composed on several panels, much like scrolls or album paintings of the shan shui style. Chinese scroll paintings and albums are viewed by the audience horizontally while moving. The characters in my paintings are life-size and, as the audience follow the canvases, they connect with the characters as they gaze at each other. During the viewing process, the scenery and characters move to the side, creating a sense of deep immersion as the scene unfolds. This would be in line with the way the shan shui style of painting is traditionally viewed.

AR There's a really effective contrast between the expansive landscapes of the largescale paintings and the more intimate paintings of hands — creating a push and pull of a more outward-facing perspective and then introspection. What's the relationship between these landscapes and these hands?

YH The works shown in this exhibition at the SCAD Museum of Art are mostly largescale paintings, which are both expansive and create a strong sense of tension. Three small studies of hands are displayed in the most secluded area of the gallery; these paintings happen to be the last works I completed for this exhibition. They form a contrast with the large landscape paintings because they are more personal and private. I believe that this contrast reflects the interconnectedness between the external turbulent world and the fragile inner self.



(from left to right) Companionship, Glow and Hands, all 2023, acrylic on canvas, 31 x 26 cm. Courtesy SCAD

AR The hands in Hands, Companionship and Glow [all 2023] remind me of Qu Leilei's painting series To Face a New Century [1999] — a collection of gestures, which at a fundamental level remind us of our shared humanity. Is this something you were also thinking about when painting the hands? How do you think (or hope) your audience might respond to the gestures in your paintings?

YH The two slender hands in *Hands* are both beautiful and fragile. *Companionship* depicts the warmth and comfort of a man and a woman who have gone through decades of trials and tribulations in life together. The posture of the two hands in *Glow* refers to the instinctive reflex of humans to block and avoid danger or strong lights. These small works are more personal, fragile and sensitive compared to the large paintings. Although the hand is only a part of the body, if we compare it to the face, the hand can often reveal the true psychology of a person in a more effective way. I hope that when the audience sees these works, it will remind them that they might be able to read other people's inner emotions and turmoil through their hands.

Night Walk at SCAD Museum of Art, through 29 January

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LISSON GALLERY

The Art Newspaper China 24 June 2022

喻红: 在双重现实与自我凝视中, 绘制"时间的方向"

Original TANC 艺术新闻中文版 2022-06-24 19:10 Posted on 上海

THNC

People

作为中国当代著名的艺术家,喻红以描绘大型当代具象绘画闻名,在独特的女性视角下,通过细腻地刻画其个人经历,折射同辈人的生活及见证中国社会发生的巨变。近些年,喻红的创作在规模上走向恢弘,覆盖的人群日益多元广阔,在宏观和微观的感性视角下,她呈现了一个"换角度去看就很陌生的世界。"

"最基本的核心创作还是人,只是会从不同的角度去诠释和表达。"人始终是喻红创作绕不开的存在主体。本月初,里森画廊宣布代理喻红。《艺术新闻/中文版》借此契机,与难得从繁重工作中抽离的喻红,进行了交流,以其自身的创作历程为脉络,就其不同阶段的转变、女性身份的影响、新的实践等话题进行了畅谈。



自我凝视触碰生命与时间

回溯多年来的创作生涯,无论是评论家还是艺术家本人,都将目击成长视为一个重要的新起点,而这一起点则源于人生的具体变化。生活的细枝末节在和时间的相互掣肘中,经过一段时日,又以另一番面目留住了光阴。

1994年,喻红生下女儿刘娃,此后将大部分精力投入到家庭事务中。她不止一次提到孩子的出生对自己的深刻影响。这番影响既有生活重心的转移,也指与新生命紧密相伴所萌生的独特感悟。在女儿出生后的第五年,喻红拿起搁置许久的画笔,开始了《目击成长》系列的创作。流失的日子从凝然的双眼前再现,第一幅画描绘的是1966年初临人间的自己。



喻红, 《66年西安》(局部), 1999年

困惑和忧虑渐渐消融在绘画作为劳动的过程里,她也借此维护着内心秩序的稳定:"从构思到完成,一幅画的准备工作是耗时的。慢慢的,那些与自我共存的情绪和浮于表面的东西就过滤掉了,更有价值的事物显现出来。"

在阐述成长经验的同时,喻红用细微的切身体验定格私人时光,见证和记录时代的流变。在展示上,《目击成长》将新闻图片与绘画并置,个体的生活印迹与同时期涌现的公共事件相映照,体现出急速变迁的社会环境对个人的塑造,也唤醒了身处其中的每一代人的私人与集体记忆。



"红豆生南国"展览现场,林冠艺术基金会,纽约,2019年,《〈人民画报〉1972年第4期增刊尼克松总统访华》 《1972年喻红6岁在北京航空学院家中》,喻红,2000年,布面丙烯 摄影:埃德·居米希昂 ® 林冠艺术基金会

鲜明的风格在个人史和社会史的交叠中逐渐形成,并成为与新的创作阶段并行的一条长线。 《目击成长》系列自九十年代末启动后,渐渐衍化为类似情感依托的长期行为。她希望有生之 年能够通过不间断的扩充,让这一触碰时间和生命的视觉日记"成为长诗一样的作品。"

双重现实 对他者的观照

早年间的艺术游历和由此形成的知识储备促成了《金色》系列的开始。从东方佛窟壁画到欧洲中世纪的木板画,她明确表达了对宗教绘画的崇敬:"二十多岁直面这些历史文化遗产时,叹为观止。这些文明的结晶历经多少年的锤炼和多少代的传承。那时,心中就埋下一颗种子,思考如何才能接近这种了不起的状态,但阅历有限,难以把握。经过慢慢的积累和学习后,才找到合适的途径,与崇高的艺术境界对话。"

这场跨时空的对话在对历史的参照中注入了个人对当下的理解。2010年,四件以"天"为开头命名的作品在UCCA尤伦斯当代艺术中心以天顶画的呈现方式形成「金色天景」。画中的男女老少,无论是栖于歪斜的树还是倚靠高度未知的围栏,都处于岌岌可危之境,似乎下一秒就会坠落,或踩空或被挤掉,虚拟的金色世界照向了现实。



"宗教的核心问题是人的问题。为什么活着,人和世界的关系是什么,这些都是无法回避的问 题。"在《金色》系列中,色彩的光辉和打破常规的展示赋予了每位被描绘者以尊严。苍穹之 上的他们如此平凡, 但在归于尘土前, 刹那的存在却无法被忽视。

2013年前后,她走近饱受忧郁情绪困扰的群体,在他者密集的絮语中去勾勒不同的心理图景。 前期采访累积的情绪历经数日方才消散,最终以梦境与现实交叠的样貌渗透在画布的缝隙中。 评论家海因茨-诺伯特·约克斯(Heinz-Norbert Jocks)这样揭示了《忧云》背后的动 因: "不是泛泛地描述或隐喻一种现象。她希望的,是尽可能切肤地去讲述一个忧郁者的特殊 故事。"这一系列进行之时,忧郁作为一种新的时代症候正在都市中蔓延开来。因此,这些展 示生之困境的作品不仅"呈现了深刻的人文关怀",也一如既往体现了画家对时代的敏锐洞察。

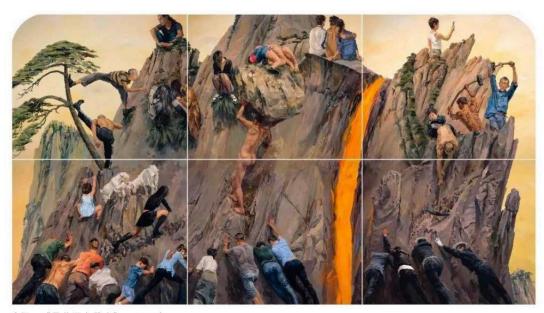


"喻红:忧云"展览现场,长征空间,北京,2013年 图片来源:长征空间



喻红, 《蚊帐》, 2013年 图片来源: 长征空间

近十年来,她保持着恒定的状态,不断拓宽着对人和世界的认知。在需要忍耐的世界「娑婆之境」(龙美术馆,2019)里,《愚公还在移山》(2017)以传统寓言故事引发对当下的思考,荒谬的景象掩盖着本质的矛盾:作为万物之灵的人,坚信人定胜天;但天地不仁,以万物为刍狗。

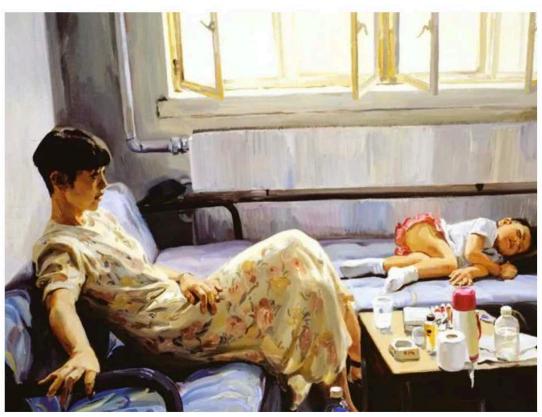


喻红, 《愚公还在移山》, 2017年

身为女性 于无声处

研究女性美术的评论家陶咏白认为,自90之后的新时期起,"女性意识回归了,她们走向性别的自觉,积极地认识自我、寻找自我、解放自我,开始了一番有性别特色的艺术天地。"早在八十年代末,喻红就为身边的女性朋友画下了以色彩为题的肖像,其中也包括自己。在自画像《怀旧的肖像》(1989)里,留着新潮短发身着黑色外衣的喻红双手插兜,表情如姿态一样桀骜不驯。

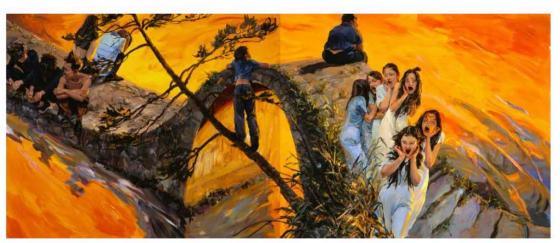
七年后,出现在画中的喻红靠在沙发床上陪伴熟睡的女儿(《目击成长》系列之《1996 年30 岁》),眼神有些黯然,画面色调柔和;又一个七年过后,她推着蔬菜推车,伫立在肉摊前,拎塑料袋的手里捏着一沓零钱,眼神带着一丝疑问,身旁遮阳伞与生肉的红色刺目惊心(《此时此刻》,2003)。如此平淡的两幕场景,却恰如其分表现了女性承担的家庭职责以及对此习以为常的一种疲态。当中国女作家在同时期将关于性别的困惑与挣扎付诸于文字时,她用画笔将《说吧,房间》(林白)和《挎空篮子的主妇》(骆晓戈)如实画出来,在遮蔽性别的大伞下,迈出了向前的一步。



喻红, 《1996年30岁》局部, 2002年

千禧年初,喻红参加了在大连大学举行的"女性与文学艺术",就性别议题与一些学者、作家进行了交流,她的感触更多来自具体的生活经验而非抽象的理论。由于青少年时期接受的基本是无性教育,以致于对女性身份很模糊,直到"工作了以后,特别是生了孩子以后,开始反省这种因素,才意识到这个社会还是一个男权的社会。"(发言收录于《文学艺术与性别》,李小江等著)。

随着近些年舆论热点的变化,她很高兴从年轻一代的女学生身上看到可喜进步。"比起年轻时的我,她们的性别意识更强,会主动从不同渠道了解相关的资料,更清楚女性的处境,懂得如何去选择生活。"



喻红, 《呐喊》, 2020年

从《烈日当空》(1991)的明朗轻快,至《呐喊》(2020)中的压抑恐惧,这中间隔了三十年的时间。出现在「平行世界」(苏州博物馆,2015)里抱头相依的女子(《共渡》,2014),或合力穿越惊涛骇浪或被卷走,在未知结局来临前,船上的女性将被拯救还是只能靠自救?这份设身处地的悲悯在《她曾经来过》(2017)里达到了极致。在VR技术营造的从今溯古的封闭空间里,女人从降生到年华老去,过完了走不出房间的一生。作品在增强观众视觉力的同时,更生动地呈现了创作者对东方文化背景下女性境遇的深切同情。

国际视野下的对话与愿景

这次与里森画廊合作,源于三年前的一个展览。2019年7月,里森画廊伦敦空间举行了「余像:当代艺术」群展。作为参展艺术家之一,喻红和工作团队有了直接的接触,为今日的正式合作写下序曲。

近十年来,越来越多的国际画廊将更多的目光着眼于全球范围内的女性艺术家,以挖掘其创作 在艺术史发展过程中不可或缺的作用及伴随其中的市场价值,里森画廊中国总监董道兹 (David Tung) 在接受《艺术新闻/中文版》采访时表示: "毫无疑问, 目前女性艺术家的市 场特别活跃,价格屡创新高,在某些情况下,如果不是早该如此,也是实至名归。然而最重要 的是回到艺术史的角度,还原这些艺术家对她们各自所处的艺术生态的贡献,以及对当代艺术 整体对话的贡献。喻红是她同时代中国艺术家中最有代表性的艺术家之一,她在80年代末90 年代初将一种新的现实主义引入中国,以其日常生活中的时刻与人物作为主题,并以发展的实 践,在当代社会快速变化的步伐中捕获人们的心理状态。"

面向海外市场、与不同文化背景观众进行多维度的对话、喻红对于个人生涯的新篇章也表示了 积极的期待。在今年6月16日至19日举行的巴塞尔艺术展巴塞尔展会上,喻红的布面丙烯绘画 《方向》(2020)首次在里森画廊展位亮相。作品受2020年纽约爆发的一系列社会事件的触 动,回京后完成。画面上,一个被铁钩吊起的人向斜前方伸臂,向后伸直的双腿夹住了一个上 身赤裸的男子的脖颈。这两个身份不明受不同外力桎梏的生命,很难说谁更自由一点。当人们 视为正常的一切被摧毁后,找到未来的方向成为重要而迫切的问题。



喻红, 《方向》, 2020年

从家庭到社会,从个体到集体,在不断突破小我的实践中,喻红笔下所及已超越了画布表面,揭开了一个层次更复杂更难以确定的世界。她抱持着六零后这代人的理想主义精神,以绘画作为介入社会的主要实践手段和思考途径,尽管这番精神意识时常会受到外界的挑战甚至撼动,但她对社会变迁、人类命运和文明走向等宏观问题的忧思从未停止。



喻红, 《穿洞云》, 2017年

喻红最近一次以画中人亮相是在丈夫刘小东个展上。同名肖像画《喻红》(2021)在「刘小东:你的朋友」(UCCA尤伦斯当代艺术中心,2022)中展出。画中的她站在小院的玉兰树下,手握一把修剪枝叶的红铁钳,若有所思。

据董道兹透露,喻红刚刚完成大型的新作,接下来三年,双方将进一步加深合作。"她最具野心的作品,尚未到来。"

撰文/王丹华

*若无特殊标注, 本文图片由里森画廊与艺术家提供

LISSON GALLERY

The Art Newspaper China 08 March 2019



与喻红在上海进入"娑婆之境":目击中国 30 年社会变革与一代女性的个人成长

上海。经过两年多的筹备,喻红的最新个展"娑婆之境"于3月8日在龙美术馆(西岸馆)开幕。作为对于喻红迄今为止30年创作生涯的系统性梳理和进一步探究,本次展览以四个章节的形式,共展出了约80件艺术家不同时期的作品。作为对于历史的衔接和回应,喻红从过往的多个系列中撷取素材,为本次展览全新创作了10幅人物肖像。除此之外,展览还展出了包括最新创作的大尺幅三联绘画《天上人间》(2018)、《新世纪》(2017)、《愚公还在移山》(2017)等绘画和最新VR作品《半百》。



"喻红: 娑婆之境"展览现场, 摄影: 苏杭, 龙美术馆 (西岸馆), 2019年



对于生于 1966 年、自 1988 年起就 活跃在中国当代艺术领域的喻红来 说,她的人生际遇和创作生涯几乎 在每一个时间节点上都与当代中国 的发展紧密契合。正如本次展览的 策展人杰罗姆·桑斯(Jérôme Sans) 所说,喻红"在某种形式上,是中国 快速变革的社会的目击者,是中国 女性角色发展过程中重要的角色"。

艺术家喻红, 照片由艺术家工作室提供



"喻红:娑婆之境"展览现场,摄影:苏杭,龙美术馆(西岸馆),2019年

"娑婆之境"的众生纪录

展览名称"娑婆之境"原取自佛教经典,本有众生在大千世界中堪于忍受痛苦和烦恼之意。但是在策展人桑斯看来,这一佛教术语的含义在喻红的画笔之下得到了更为广袤的延伸。桑斯在接受《艺术新闻/中文版》的专访时说:"喻红的作品并非宗教的展现,而是人生哲学的化身,是一名艺术家和一位女性的人生在各个方面交叠的呈现。"喻红的创作受到多种宗教艺术和文化的影响,但无论是佛教,还是来自西方的基督教艺术,每一种影响在喻红的笔下都是均衡的。在桑斯看来,这也是喻红"极其具有当代性的地方"。他说:"喻红生长在一个无神的环境中。她的作品总是包含最普世的含义。因此我们将展览名称向着更普世的方向进行了诠释。"

展览的第一部分"重生之时"以展示喻红为此次展览最新创作的四幅大型寓言绘画为线索,最终汇聚在艺术家关于"人性"的讨论上。观众步入美术馆的一层展厅之后,将首先在视线左侧看到《新世纪》(2017)这幅大尺幅的横向作品。在《新世纪》中,喻红对于"上帝创造亚当"的场面所进行的重新演绎和头戴动物头骨面具的人形在瞬间的视觉体验上具有明显的宗教意味。然而当观众进一步观察,便会逐渐注意到画面中不断浮现的诸多细节,譬如"上帝"身后的女摄影师、蒙在"亚当"脸上的饮用水瓶、蹲在"亚当"旁边戴着口罩、拿着相机拍照的男人和身后的小女孩——一幅宗教与世俗的交融和共存呈现在观众眼前。这种融合的混合状态同样存在于展览第一

部分的其他作品中。

《愚公还在移山》(2017)展现了一幅恰如中国古代寓言《愚公移山》中众人推山的情景,但是一旦稍加注意,观众便会注意到人群中与巨石抗争的"西西弗斯"等异于他人的形象。"同样的事情有不同的处理方式,有些人在推山,有的人在爬山,有的人山顶观景,还有西西弗斯一直在往山上推巨石,这样的状态可能会让这个世界变得越来越混乱,越来越不确定",喻红说,"这个世界的变化和动荡就是它的本来面目,不会更好也不会更坏,它就一直这样下去"。这种同一情境下不同人物的行为虽然看似混乱,但却是我们所处的世界当下的本来面目。



喻红,《新世纪》,布面丙烯,2017年

喻红,《天上人间》,布面丙烯,2018



创作于 2018 年的《天上人间》是一幅纵向的三联大尺幅绘画。与常见的横向三联画不同,《天上人间》分为上、中、下三个部分,而观众在观看时,也需要分别以仰视、平视和俯视的视角观看。上、中、下三部分的画面中依次描绘了在云端、在空中和在海面冰川上的人物形象,正如喻红所说,是"把这种既真实又超现实的空间跟现实中的人结合在一起"。与《新世纪》相对的《云端》则仿佛是一幅以上帝视角对于世间万象的审视,画面中间部分燃烧的火焰又好像将观众拉入炼狱。

对于此次展览中多次出现的宗教元素,喻红在接受《艺术新闻/中文版》的专访时指出,自己并没有对宗教上升至信仰层面,反而还是对宗教艺术及其创造并置身其中的场域更加感兴趣。"我觉得宗教绘画最有意思的是它是在一个场域当中。它不是一张画或者一个雕塑。不管是过去最早的岩洞里的壁画,或者是后来佛教的洞窑壁画,或是西方的教堂壁画,其实它都是一个场域。就是说绘画不仅仅是一张画挂在墙上。绘画或者周围的东西都是元素,是一个整体的东西",喻红说。



喻红, 愚公还在移山, 布面丙烯, 2017

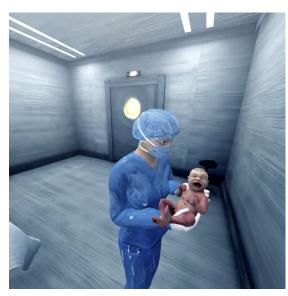
陷入虚拟世界的"半百"回望

喻红对于"场域性"的兴趣也延伸到了展览第三部分的 VR 作品《半百》 (2018)中。她在采访中说:"VR 跟我对绘画场域性的兴趣有关系。因为 你戴上那些(VR)设备,就直接被丢进一个场域里。这不像绘画,你进一个洞窟有一个过程。也许你心不在焉,或许你根本就没有进入,但是 VR 就强迫你必须进入。"2018年间,喻红绘制了一系列共 24 幅绘画,以线性方式记录了一名婴儿从呱呱坠地到年过半百的人生历程。除了对于个人经验的记录,其中,对于红色娘子军的芭蕾舞、折纸花的女孩、毛主席逝世等场景的描绘为观众提供了清晰的时间线索和时代背景,将个人经历和中国现当代的社会变革融为一体。

而在这一系列的最后两幅作品中,我们发现,手拿镜子的女性正是喻红自己。喻红以这一系列绘画作为全新 VR 作品的基础,在技术团队的支持下创作了全新的 VR 作品,将平面绘画转化为沉浸式的环境,配上来自相应年代的歌曲,带领观众快速体验艺术家半百的人生。值得一提的是,美术馆的工作人员会在观众观看作品之前为观众拍摄一张照片,这张照片也会变成每一位观众观看这部 VR 作品独一无二的体验。对于喻红而言,由绘画改编成 VR 的《半百》实际上和绘画的起源有着紧密的联系。正如桑斯所指出的:"艺术在诞生之时就是在一种沉浸且特别的环境下出现的。(喻红)希望回到由绘画所营造的氛围中去,重新深入塑造观众对于现实的体验。"

值得一提的是,《半百》和喻红 2017 年的 VR 作品《她曾经来过》在制作方式上可谓截然不同。在《她曾经来过》中,喻红在设计团队的协助下先搭建了虚拟现实的场景,然后再在上面绘画;**在《半百》中,这一系列 24 幅画作则是 VR 影像的创作基础元素。**对于一向以架上绘画为人熟知的喻红来说,近年来在新型媒介突破背后的原因或许让很多人感到好奇。





(左)喻红,《半百 No.16》,布面丙烯,2018 (右)喻红《她曾经来过》2017 年 (②喻红和科拉当代,图片提供:艺术家和科拉当代

在策展人桑斯看来,喻红在 VR 领域的尝试为这个从传统架上绘画走出的 艺术家塑造更加丰满的形象。他指出:"喻红最为人熟知的身份是一名画家,绘画是她的艺术创作中的重要元素,也是横跨所有当代艺术创作的媒介。她是一名画家,也是一名摄影师、影像记录者或多媒体艺术家。艺术 领域总是试图通过削弱一个人的特质将其锁定在某种单独的媒介中,而这次展览就试图向观众全方位展示喻红的艺术创作。"

而喻红在展览开幕当天进行的讲座中表示:"我觉得媒体和媒介都不重要,

任何媒体都有新的时候,也有旧的时候,关键是这个东西是不是适合你, (是不是)成为你一个有力的表达(手段),这是比较重要的。30 年来, 我都希望让绘画更有意思,我一直相信绘画是非常有力量的,因为绘画是 平等的,这是人的本能,小孩拿起笔就会画画,绘画不可能消失,关键是 我们是否能够用绘画表达新的东西。"



"小个人"和"大时代"

1990年代起,喻红开始以年为计量单位,通过绘画记录该年的某一件重要新闻或者生活事件,时间跨度涵盖了自出生起迄今为止的每一年。同时,喻红还在当时创作了以身边女性为素材的"她"系列,其中不乏艺术家肖鲁、曾登上《时代周刊》封面的"80后作家"春树等人。而在此次全新创作的十幅肖像中,喻红选取了包括肖鲁、春树、姜杰等人为他们再次进行画像,与早先的肖像并置展出,形成照应,以这一持续性的线索串联起 30 年的创作和人生历程。

"我的艺术方法是一个不自觉的成长过程,大学毕业以后画了一些年轻的女性同学肖像,其实就是关于个人的青春焦虑、困境",喻红在展览开幕当日的讲座中分享道。在这种"不自觉的成长过程"中,喻红逐渐发觉了自己对于时间力量的兴趣。"我一直觉得时间是一个特别让人敬畏的东西,时间真的可以改变一切,可以无中生有,可以有中生无。"而早在十年前就为

喻红策展的桑斯看来,喻红 30 年间的发展历程在某种程度上恰似一名观念艺术家:"她的作品有着极为清晰的结构……以一种无法言喻的方式随着时间发展,就像自然一样,在缓慢和迭代中保持持久的激荡。



喻红,《她——艺术家》, 布面丙烯、照片, 绘画:150x300厘米, 照片:150x68厘米, 2005年



喻红,《河南画报》1995年第51页 失业妇女求职登记,1995年喻红29岁和女儿在家中,1995

展览第四部分"目击成长"位于美术馆二层展厅中,从观众角度来看,这项持续多年的系列创作或许是中国甚至世界近50年来社会发展的缩影。诚然,喻红在每年创作一幅自画像的同时,亦会选取一则当年的新闻大事进行并列呈现。例如,1967年,喻红在画面中再现了1岁的自己和姥姥在西安的情景,而同年选取的新闻事件则是"《人民画报》1967年第8期第17页革命样板戏《红灯记》"这则报道,同样的,喻红重现了1973年7岁时在北航南操场的场景,同年选取的新闻报道是《人民画报》对"两种社会、两种生活"的报道。在喻红看来,自画像和社会、世界新闻并置呈现的意义远超过记录,是对"小个人"和"大时代"关系的讨论。当女儿刘娃在1994年出生之后,艺术家喻红同时也成为了一名母亲。

身份的延伸让喻红更多地思索个人成长和发展的本质。喻红说:"从《目击成长》开始关注社会和历史的时候,就是因为年龄的增长、自己有了孩子之后,去回顾自己的成长历史,(去思考)我们是如何被家庭、被社会、被世界塑造的。每一个孩子出生的时候都是很可爱的,我们的生活环境、我们的时代、地域、文化给了这个孩子很多重要的东西。她可以自己去塑造自己,陷入到这个时代当中。我的作品基本的讨论就是小个人和大时代的关系。"

展览中还呈现了喻红在准备此次全新的肖像绘画时对友人们的访谈录像。当录像中的受访对象对着镜头娓娓道来时,虽然喻红并未入镜,但是观众却无法忽略这位观察者的在场。"我的创作其实大多数都是关于人的,我最关心的其实是人性,人在这个世界上的状态,"喻红说,"作为一个画家,

我觉得我的工作就是观察这个世界。虽然我也生活在这个现实世界、娑婆世界当中,但(我也)尽量保持一个距离去观察……我觉得作为一个艺术家就是观察世界。"

(采访、撰文/Laura Xue)

LISSON GALLERY

Art and Design
November 2016



Yu Hong's Garden of Dreams

喻红的一场游园惊梦

文 Article > 王 蕊 Wang Rui ;图 Pictures > 中央美术学院美术馆 CAFA Art Museum

艺术家喻红个展《游园惊梦》在中央美术学院美术馆开幕,展览由中央美术学院院长范迪安策展,展出了艺术家近两年创作的19件架上绘画作品,及远赴捷克创作的3件玻璃雕塑作品。展览以多重维度观看和理解世界的方式展览,喻红以精湛的写实画风并置、拼贴相异时空的场景和人物——横跨了古代与现代、西方与东方、梦境与真实。新个展距离喻红第一次在中央美术学院美术馆参加群展已经相隔26年,此次以个展形式重返,喻红的思考几经变化,艺术创作进入更加熟稔的阶段。

与展览同名的画作《游园惊梦》的内容是在一个大的废弃的园林里发生的事情,把空间、结构和有趣的故事串连起来。作品中涉及《刻舟求剑》、《水中捞月》、《盲人摸象》等寓言故事。喻红说:"我挺喜欢叙事性的,但是我的叙事性不是在讲一个故事,它是一种象征,比如说刻舟求剑,我都不知道它应该是一个什么时代,也没有一个具体地域,是南方、北方?古代,还是现代?所以他们既没有服装,也没有身份,他们其实就是人,最基本的人。《刻舟求剑》、《水中捞月》、《盲人摸象》这些寓言基本上讲的是人的自以为是。人以为自己很聪明、能够了解世界、把握控制世界,实际上是盲目和失效的,我用这些故事来表达人性最基本的东西,所以淡化了故事本身的情节、背景。"

作为油画艺术家,喻红承认,现在最受欢迎的新媒体或影像,因为现代科技的高速发展,使很多东西

成为了可能,这也是一种必然的趋势,人喜欢看动 的东西,人也要看不会动的东西,假如家里的一切 都动起来,那么人也是要崩溃的。绘画最大的特点 就是人要反复地阅读、反复地观看,每次看都有新 的收获,这是它的一个特性,这也是艺术创作最难 的部分,让人每次看都觉得有新鲜的东西。而喻红 的新作品, 更多地是去聚焦一些有故事性和情节性 的绘画, 比如在绘画中加入一些中国传统故事的情 节,像《刻舟求剑》、《盲人摸象》这些寓言故事。她 说其实她一直很想画中国古代的有意思的故事,但 是往往需要一些契机才能把这些东西画出来。创作 《游园惊梦》的契机一个是因为要办这个展览,还 有一个原因是去年和一个朋友一起出去拍摄, 朋友 提议去北京郊区的一个小公园, 里面有很多水、亭台 楼阁, 以及很多中国传统的园林建筑, 它们都是水泥 做的, 供周边老百姓休息使用, 整个院子荒草丛生, 像是处在废弃的状态,但拍摄当天,阳光明媚,荒草





当中也有很多关于奥菲莉亚的作品,我这张就是根 产生一种迷惑。" 据英国的一个绘画基本结构,又做了一些演绎。"

喻红说,她希望可以画出的,是心理时空和现实 时空交揉在一起的东西,这就是在某种意义上的 真实状态。她说:"我只能试图去接近真实,却无 法界定真实。当我们触摸到一个真实的时候,这 个东西很可能在第二天是不存在的, 也很可能就 变成另外一种形态了,这个事情会使我们对世界

"画越大,需要的内容和结构越大。就像你写一个 短篇小说和长篇小说是完全不一样的,虽然可能有 的长篇就是从一个短篇发展过来的, 但是结构、线 索和构架能力是完全不一样的。所以画大是一个挑 战。因为我现在还能爬得动梯子, 所以想趁着能爬就 先画一些大画, 再过几年爬不动了, 以后肯定越来越 小,没准儿画一些小人书那样的绘画。"喻红说到。

喻红是早早就显现自己的天分和名气的少见的女 性艺术家。还在上大一时,18岁的喻红就以素描习 作《大卫》被刊登上全国高校美术教材的封面,被 公认为"中央美院史上最的大卫像"。据说徐冰的 《大卫》是他花了一个寒假的时间画成的, 当时老 院长靳尚谊先生到画室看了许久没有作声,后来传 出老院长靳尚谊靳老评价徐冰的《大卫》是央美建 院以来画得最好的一张,成为当时央美学生争相学 习的典范。但是仅仅过了一年喻红的《大卫》就诞



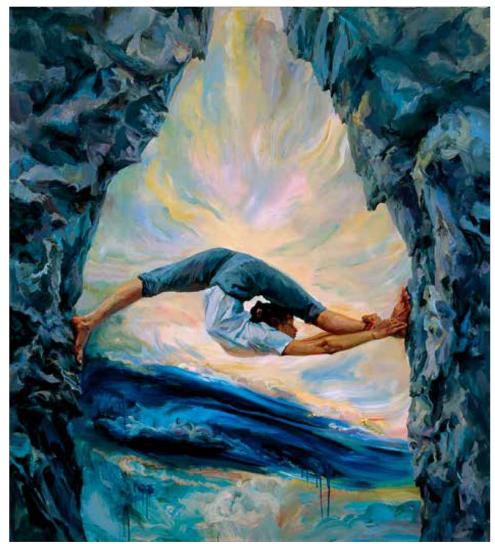
喻红,《金属的声音》(The Sound of Metal), 2016, 布面丙烯, 200 x 200 cm



> 喻红。《守株待兔》(Idle Hope),2016,布面丙烯,300 x150 cm

生了,当时喻红年仅18岁,那张大卫是喻红央美一年级时第一张素描作业,画了4周。这张素描被评价为具有文艺复兴时期素描的血统和精神,全面超越了徐冰的,取代了徐冰《大卫》央美第一的地位,并且20多年来央美没有诞生出其左右的《大卫》。

喻红认为,画画其实很理性,想达到一个爆发的状态,不一定非得要拳打脚踢,首先有很多的技术性的东西需要去履行。画完可能挺好,第二天以后哪儿又觉得不行,再重画,一遍一遍来。画到最后的时候挺高兴的。反而是中间的时候很累。刚开始画,当然在一个白布上画是很愉快的,等到画到中间有点儿像一个工匠做一个项链一样,要一个一个环接上,那是很苦的,但是等都接好了是很高兴的。每一次新的技术都会对绘画有影响,绘画不断地去剥离那些可以被技术代替的部分,最后可能越来越核心的事只有人能做,只有需要手工来完成的东西,那才是绘画性的作品。现在喻红每次创作,都要在草稿本上画草图,最后再确定色彩稿。



>喻红,《天门》(Sky Gate), 2016, 布面丙烯, 200 x180 x 4 cm

喻红平时也会拍照片。她觉得路边电线杆特别有意思,这些复杂的结构特别好看。我们想象的电线杆就是一个杆子上面有些横着拉的线,其实电线杆就像人一样,在不同年代不同时期,有不同的样子。几十年前的电线杆是木头的,现在都是水泥的,外面贴上网以防贴小广告,这些都是社会生活的见证。

这些生活道具上可以体现出时代、生活的变化,挺有意思,她经常会拍这些东西。另外一个获取灵感的渠道是从网上搜集图像。她说:"我个人所见范围是有限,不可能看到所有的人或者景象,网络会帮助我看我没有看到的东西,很多人都把随意拍的生活场景放在网上,很有意思,他的角度可能和我的不一样,对我有一定的提示。"

喻红说:"我其实是一个非常简单的人,经历也很单纯,整个生活就是这么平静地,一天天过去。咱们的时代就是这样的,没有动荡也没有战乱,但是

很多人不相信生活本身真实的样子, 老是喜欢一些虚妄的、矫饰的, 甚至是虚拟的生活。我倒觉得洗尽铅华和处世不惊是一种非常宁静的力量。"

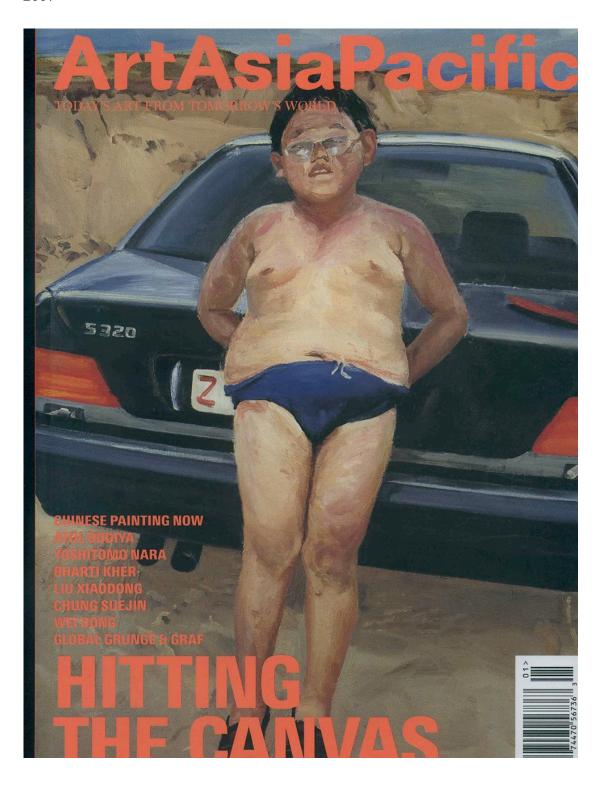
正是这种宁静的力量,让喻红与现实,与艺术和谐 共处。喻红不只是一个艺术家,也是一个生活家, 一个驾驭生活而不为其所拖累的人,一个从日常 中切近生活与艺术本质的人。陈丹青评价喻红说:

"最早的时候我就发现她内心非常骚动,年轻时骚动很容易,我没有想到过了十几年到现在,她还会画出这样的东西。"妈妈说喻红从小天性豁达,纯洁无私。豁达就是喻红的第一个法宝,那不是来自世故,而是来自洞彻。

喻红的经历在世俗看来很令人艳羡:生的落落大方,能做自己喜欢的事,还小有成就,能携手自己的爱人,还终成眷属。这样的女子在现实中是傲娇的,然而她却并不因此而骄傲,反而触动了她将视角触及身边平凡的女性。■(编辑:王蕊)

LISSON GALLERY

Art Asian Pacific 2007



Yu Hong: Formal Twist

PROFILE

By Xenia Piëch

CONTEMPORARY CHINESE ARTIST YU HONG'S

paintings on canvas are characterized by emotionally-charged figures executed in dense, bold and colorful brushstrokes. Her ongoing series, "Witness to Growth," (1999-), which traces and documents moments in each year of her own and daughter Liu Wa's lives, and her more recent series "She," (2003-), which portrays women of various social backgrounds in their daily environment, are all in this style. In late 2005, however, the artist began experimenting with drawing on a much more capricious and malleable surface—silk.

"I have wanted to paint in a more traditional Chinese medium for a long time but I am terrible at ink painting," Yu Hong says with a hearty laugh. She started with different cloth surfaces, such as cotton, linen and several kinds of silk. The first two seemed too unwieldy for her purposes and by way of climination she arrived at the ideal material: ruan duan, a special type of satin. Her next obstacle was the paint. After many trials and spoilt bolts of silk, Yu Hong identified the proper proportion of water to pigment that would allow her figures to appear fluid without sacrificing corporeality. The artist mounted the first works as traditional Chinese scrolls but was disappointed with the seeming inertia of the figures and inferior surface texture, which resembled paper. Although making her four- and sixmeter long scrolls more vulnerable to damage, she suspended her works from the ceiling.

Her first subjects were the girls attending gymnastics class with her daughter. Yu Hong refers to these untitled early works as her "gymnastic girls" (2005). Following her usual practice, the artist first photographed her subjects and transposed their images onto the flowing silk in rapid, light strokes more reminiscent of sketching than painting. The artist's basic conceptual interest—the individual in her personal and social environment—is no different from that of her earlier paintings, but this new medium and form of mounting lends her subjects a more visible frailty.

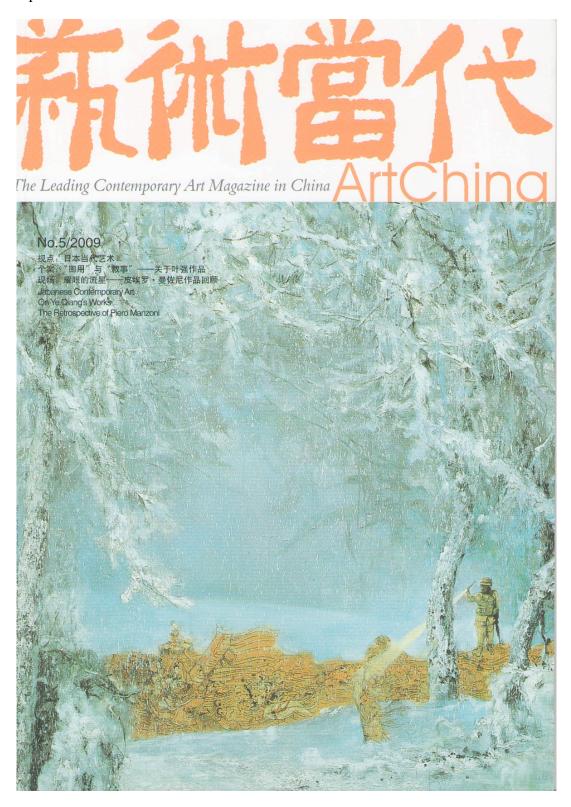
The gymnastic girls, contorting their bodies into the various shapes and arrangements demanded of them, recall the ways individuals adjust to social structures. It would be easy to analyze these works in terms of gender identity, but Yu Hong goes beyond sexualizing art by addressing a general human condition in urban society, particularly in China, where life changes at breathtaking speed and in arbitrary ways. This uncertainty is echoed by the volatility of silk and the meditative yet eerie white space in which her subjects exist beyond space and time.

In a recent joint exhibition of new works by Yu Hong and Jiang Jie at Beijing's Long March Space—entitled "Another Look"—Yu Hong juxtaposed acrylic works from the "She" series with their counterparts on silk. The paintings covered the walls while the silk drawings hung in the center of the room. The rigid wall display evoked the structure and permanence that individuals strive to construct for themselves. The works on silk, by contrast, alluded to the fragility and unpredictability of life, lyrically reflected in the display as the air currents created by each passerby made them quiver and twist. This duality is also evident in the fact that the acrylics allow a one-sided view while the suspended silk permits the visitor to approach the subjects from various perspectives.

Compared to her works in oil or acrylic, Yu Hong's new paintings on silk are more immediate and unforgiving—every stroke is visible and requires rapid execution to keep the color from bleeding. In these technical *tours de force*, Yu Hong's mastery of figure painting and her ability to transmit the intangible finds its greatest expression yet.

LISSON GALLERY

Art China April 2009



近距离看喻红新作

On Yu Hong's New Works

林旭东 Lin Xudong

展览/时间内外:喻红作品展时间/2009年4月10日—5月7日

地点/广东美术馆

自1990年代初,喻红以单色人物画在"新生代"画家中登场伊始,就被一些评论者以"近距离"所归纳——相对于前辈的"宏大叙事"——这代画家落笔更偏重其视野的"私人性",通常喜欢从自己直接的日常经验或身边周围人群中去寻找创作灵感。

我最初听说喻红是因为那张著名的大卫素描,但有关喻红生活更具体的信息却是来自她新世纪初的个展《目击成长》:数百平米的展厅里挂满了油画和照片,私密的个人日记和时代的编年史交相辉映,见证了两代母女的人生历程。喻红一反"新生代"时期画风的矜持疏离,这套作品表现得明媚绚烂,目光中处处流露出一个年轻母亲的欣喜,并流露些许岁月流逝的沧桑。

不知不觉,曾经翘首以待的新世纪已经过去了十个年头。新年伊始后一个寒风凛冽的黄昏,我应约到了喻红的画室去看她的新作,这些作品画幅的尺寸都很大。

《春恋》,一眼看去是幅中产人士的假日休闲图。设色典雅的背景上,几个身姿摇曳的摩登女士正展开一卷中国古画——唐代张萱的《捣练图》,图中的几个唐代仕女以同样的姿态围着一卷刚刚完工的白练。这是对美国波士顿博物馆收藏的那件中国古代名画的戏仿。虽然采用了正宗的学院式油画笔法,喻

红却无意于三度空间的营造。在一派慵懒的春日气息中,一种紧张的互文关系被仔细周密地经营着:在卷轴式的散点构图中,喻红以相似的布局将古代仕女的常生活和当代中产女性的图像嫁接,在看来同样悠然闲适的场景中,一种极其物质化的当下现实通过细节

的塑造被有意无意地强调着,象征性地凸现于几乎 是平涂的背景上。

中国传统的卷轴式构图铺展方式,有助叙事在从容的节奏下娓娓地道来。它对内容的铺陈也顺从卷轴的打开方式由左而右。虽然采用了类似的人物布局,但喻红的叙事发展逻辑和张萱的原作刚好相逆的——它发端于原画的终结处。

当我们的视线按喻红的叙事逻辑从围着古画人群右移,首先遭遇的是一双神色不安的大眼睛——个如花似玉的摩登少女盘腿坐在一把安乐椅上;在她的右下侧,一个深色衣着的中年妇女蜷缩在一席卧垫上,绯红的面颊上几缕纷乱的长发似乎暗示着纠缠的噩梦。

喻红的构图重心在作品的右端:画家在这里留



下了其本人的行踪,她正在为被抑郁症所困多次自杀未遂的女作家赵波受过伤的腿拓制石膏模型。大功马上就要告成,画家正着手打开已经成型的模具。赵波头带羽冠,一位着装暴露的骨感美女开始雀跃,一位长发披肩的全裸孕妇吹着长笛,正在为这个场面伴奏——像一个庆典,似乎是在庆贺肢体断残的涅槃重生。

我问喻红,"《天梯》是否与宗教信仰有关?"喻 红说,她的兴趣主要在中世纪宗教壁画的形式。我仅 有的那一点点宗教知识多半来自读画经验(《受胎告 知》、《最后的晚餐》、《最后的审判》等)、对这幅埃 及西奈山圣凯瑟琳修道院给喻红带来灵感的壁画, 我一无所知。去找一个皈依基督教的学生打听,经他 在相关网站上查证,总算明白这壁画并非是再现一 段具体的宗教故事, 而是以象征性的绘画情节, 告诫 苦修者必须抗拒诱惑、心无旁骛地修行以最后抵达 信仰的天堂, 在那里, 上帝正张开了欢迎的双臂。但 在喻红的画上,已全然不见中古修士的宗教激情,代 之以更具时效性的调侃和戏仿——我们见不到在天 国里向我们伸手的上帝, 也看不到时刻在诱惑人们 坠入无底深渊的撒旦;喻红的梯子看不到尽头,人们 争先恐后地挤了上来,他们看上去都是凡夫俗子,有 着最实际的人生目的,从高处失足落下完全服从引 力对自身的吸引——这就是喻红的寓言,背景上的 金色已经成为当代中国梦的基本底色, 那架看不到 头的梯子立在摇摇欲坠的阶梯式构图上, 在梯子的 高端有一个女孩在向大家回望, 让人想起安徒生童 话里那个说破皇帝新装的无邪童子, 而她的容貌酷



似喻红的爱女刘娃。

几年前在长征空间的联展上,我第一次看到喻红的丝绸作品。当时挥之不去的印象是她在表达介质上女性特有的细腻和感性,虽然当时画家和这种媒介材质的关系还处于不稳定的青涩阶段。经过一定时日的实践磨合,喻红对丝绸的光华质地和水墨颜料洇晕效果恰如其分的控制上,和她对表达对象的感性认知越来越贴切从容,形象在她笔下无所拘泥地随机流淌滋长,渐渐溢出了叙事——审慎周到的鸿篇巨制化成了一腔似水柔情,形象的表现力不再倚仗叙事的架构,而是回归到绘画行为本身。

树脂材料的介入,使得喻红对生命经验的表达超越了具体描绘的层面——千变万化充满流动感的形象,被晶莹剔透的物质材料牢牢地凝固锁定在时间的某个瞬间,在一种充满悖论的现实存在中,向我们诉说着生命的偶然、艰辛、美丽和脆弱,以及我们处境的尴尬,并在与尴尬的抗拒中,让人体会到了艺术表达的尊严。











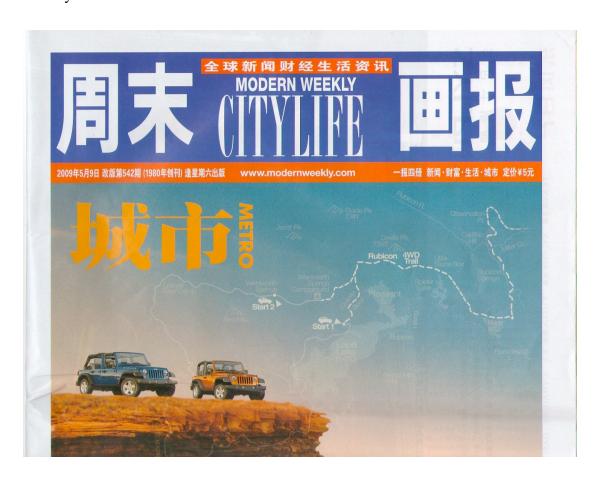


02 喻红工作现场

03 喻红 春恋图 布面丙烯 250X300cmX4 2008

04 喻红 目击成长系列 2008

Morden Weekly 09 May 2009



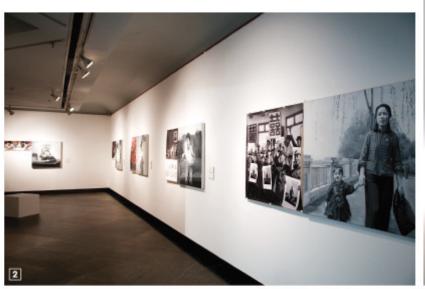
阳光灿烂的日子,在被晒得暖暖的草坪上,听她说起自己成长的那个年代,与童年伴侣在充斥着各种新鲜思潮的美院附中大院里贪婪地吸收与探索着。

能在 1980 年代度过青春无疑是充满亢奋的。"这种兴奋的状态似乎一直在延续着",喻红说。物质匮乏没有关系,人们要的是精神。学艺术因为真心热爱,不问功利才能保持纯粹。看着镜头前站在自己画作前的她,竟也为她心生骄傲:一生只做一件事,该是什么样的纯粹。

作为一个画家,喻红似乎有些美艳得过了头。这么说很有些狭隘,但对于大众来说, 她在电影《冬春的日子》里的那张脸显然更容易被记住。 王小帅曾经说,喻红若不做画家,可以是一个很好的演员。她边笑边摇头:除了画画,我想不到自己还能干什么。从能记事开始就已拿起画笔,对她来说,画画就是说话,"画画是和语言平行的表达手段。" 对过去的记忆、对现在的目击,统统可以"画"的形式被记录,于是便有了"目击成长"一这次在美术馆展出的主要创作系列之一,该是能够伴随她一生的创作。

从 1999 年到 2008 年, 59 幅关于她和女儿的绘画作品, 45 幅时代新闻照片, 以-年为单位, 对照着出现在展馆里。很显然,这并非纯粹的自传性绘画,甚至,也并非她或她女儿一或者只是为了表达微小的个体于社会变迁中的一种状态,而这种状态,是共通的。

正如喻红自己说的, "我对人性里共通不变的东西感兴趣。"不管是参照中国古代









- 油画《我们俩》,喻红(右)正在画中制作一个头顶羽冠湖打石膏的"赵波",而"赵波"的形象则多次在她的作品中出现
- "目击成长"创作系列现场。通过 时代的新闻图像和个人经历绘画的对 比,展示了处于剧烈现代化过程中的 社会和个人的生存状态
- 丝绸画《她们改变了自己》。是出于对中国水墨画的喜爱,在材质上的新尝试。
- 最新油画作品《天梯》局部。灵感 虽来自祭坛画,但表达的却是当代人 盲从和迷惘的状态
- 最新油画作品《春恋图》局部,灵 感来自中国古代《捣练图》,表达人类 共通的动人之处

《捣练图》而画的《春恋图》,抑或是参照埃及宗教祭坛画《天梯》所画的当代版本,她都能从中发现那些基于人恒久不变的动人。时代在变,但关于生命的脆弱、瞬间的辉煌却是无时无刻不在上演。《捣练图》虽然表达的是古代的农业文明,但传达的是人性。至于《天梯》,"尽管我没有任何宗教信仰,依然觉得很动人,我觉得那与我们的现实生活没什么不同,所传达的关于人的普遍价值观是一样的。在我的画里,人都是中国当下现实当中的人物,这些人都沿着一条很窄的梯子在往上爬。其实这是当下的普遍现象,我觉得人在经历一个很盲目的状态,好像只有一条道,没有其他选择只能往上走。有的人掉下来了,可掉下来的人可能比上去的人还幸福。"

我问喻红人生很纯粹只干一件事的感觉是怎样的,是否有厌倦过,她说: "我巴不得生活再简单些。"有过不想画的时候,但不是因为厌倦,而是不知道该画什么。"因为每个阶段的人生都会很不同,当你在变化,然而却未在创作上准备好的时候,迷茫和焦虑就是必然的。"当生活转变时创作就会转变,What's next?有什么新的可能性?或者这才是她始终热爱的原因。





这次展出的树脂画、丝绸画新系列似乎从材质上更明晰了这一创作主旨。未来是否会有更多材质上的新尝试?

对。用树脂来创作开始于3年前,目前展出的是最新最成熟的一些,毕竟技术上需要很多磨合。丝绸创作开始得更早,我一直很喜欢中国传统的绘画方法,比如中国水墨画是用水来调颜色的,感觉是"往后走",十分宁静的状态,而油画却是"往前走"。但由于我一直接受西方绘画教育,所以很长一段时间里我总在尝试是否能把中国传统绘画和我自己擅长的方式结合起来。我试过棉布、麻布等各种材料,最后发现丝绸是一个相对适合的方式。我一直对材料很有兴趣,因为画大幅的布面油画实在太累了(笑)。但谁知道呢?我一直是随着生活,走到哪就是哪。

《春恋图》听说就画了有两年时间。这么 庞大的创作,灵感从何而来?

它最基本的结构是中国古代油画《捣练图》,我上学时就特别喜欢这幅画,但由于1980年代初西方各种美术思潮的影响,对小孩来说特别新奇,更想寻找所谓个性的价值。后来才逐渐想去寻找自己真正喜欢的东

王小帅为本次展览重新剪辑了一部《冬春之后》,还有一部 20 分钟的短片《我的名字叫红》,可以谈谈过程吗?你本人的观感是怎样?

小帅一直想拍《冬春的日子》后面的事情,毕竟是他的处女作嘛,所以这次借展览之机重拍他也很高兴。大概拍了7个多月吧,我搞不清他拍什么,反正我有什么事就通知他,他就跟着拍。片子我看后挺感动的,他把16年前的旧的一部分和现在剪在一起,在交叠中重新找寻回忆与青春岁月。《我的名字叫红》就是记录我的简单成长和创作状态吧。

关于你的很多报道中都有"女性艺术家"的身份,你如何看待这个词?女性的身份在艺术中是否被过分强调了?

"女性艺术家"在西方是经历了一个脉络的,概指一些存在强烈女性视觉的创作群体。中国过去也一直有许多女性艺术家在进行创作,这个词传到中国后就被搞成一种"门类"那样的东西。其中一些艺术家很不喜欢在艺术家旁非得加一个括号"女"的这种性别定位,但另一类则很喜欢强调女性的这种特殊性,好像特水火不容似的。依据我的个人经验来看,由于我是女性,所以在看世界或者对任何事情的处理方式上一定带有女性的角度,但我不喜欢"主义"这类说法,一旦成为某某"主义"就变得枯燥,好像就不存在其它的可能性。况且,"女性的问题"也不仅仅是女性的问题。

但你的作品中以女性为主角的也很多。

是的,但在我作品中的女性形象大多不是"被看"的形象。很多男性也画女性,但那是"被看",我画基本上是一种"自处",不会因为旁边有眼睛才摆出这个样子。你创作的灵感来自普通人曰常生活,但在种种"曰常"中究竟哪些东西能够触动你?表象都是生活中琐碎的日常现象,但核心是人生中许多动人的东西,比如生命的可爱、短暂与脆弱、瞬间的辉煌。

这些年的创作生涯中,哪一段最具转折性?

说到转折,可能是"目击成长"。耗时最长,而且在开始创作前的好几年都一直在思考。从 1999 年画到现在,而且还会继续画,应该是贯穿一生的创作。重新去回顾并且继续伴随自己的生命成长,这对我来说很重要。

在那个年代坚持做纯艺术应该蛮难的吧?

对,那时候没什么市场,也没有那么多画廊类的机构场所。好在那时对物质的需求没有那么高,吃食堂,弄个电炉自己能下个面条就挺高兴的,大家相对都单纯些,没那么多目的。现在的青年学生标杆太多了,好像总要多大的房子,多好的车才意味着某种程度的成功。能坚持下来也真是因为兴趣。画画这个东西吧,看上去挺好的,过程实际上很枯燥,如果不是特别喜欢就很难坚持下去。你欣赏怎样的艺术?想过尝试除写实外的表现手法吗?应该是挖掘人性动人的作品吧。写实和手工画是我一直比较擅长的手段,也很符合我的表达方式。我的脉络基本上比较清晰,都是沿着这个脉络一点点地发展。

谈谈《冬春的日子》吧,有些人没看过你的画却看过你演的这部电影。王小帅的这部处女 作拍的就是你和刘小东的故事,你们三人之间是如何合作和相互影响的?

我们都是美院附中的同学,一起住在很小的一个院子里。在 1980 年代初那个兴奋的 年代,我们可以整天在一起,吸收各种各样的东西,而且这种兴奋的状态似乎一直在延续 着。后来小帅去了电影学院,我和小东进了中央美院,但一直是很好的朋友。他想拍电影那会儿没有现在那么多渠道,很难拉赞助,也请不起什么明星,小帅就说:那就你们俩来吧。我当然完全不懂什么叫表演,完全就是本色演出吧,就是自己的状态。

你和刘小东在创作风格上好像有些相近?

我们有类似的成长经历,所以审美和价值观非常接近,很多事不用聊彼此都知道对方想法。后来我才发现很多艺术家不停地在讨论艺术,我特惭愧,是不是讨论得太少了?

现在是你理想中的生活状态吗?不做画家会做什么?

现在很不错,能做自己喜欢的事。我一直觉得生活最好的状态是慢一点,总希望社会 别发展得那么快。不做画家······真想不出来,我除了画画也不会干别的。

作为画家又同时身兼老师的身份,你的教学态度是?

学美术的越来越多并不意味着好的艺术家越来越多。比如在贝多芬时代,大部分人只能在宫廷或是民间乡村聚会上听到音乐,不像现在,音乐街头巷尾都能听到。每个人都能在卡拉 0K 当歌星,但不意味着这个时代的音乐家比那个时候多或更出色。

教学上,除了技能外,更重要是帮助他们寻找到自己——发现自己也是需要才能的。早 找着方向的马上会有很多画廊来找,个展一个接一个,但只需要画一样的东西。短期三五 年内可以受到关注,但以后需要深化或转型,就需要勇气和机缘了。很多人是没有机会去 转变了。

给有心从事艺术的年轻人一些建言?

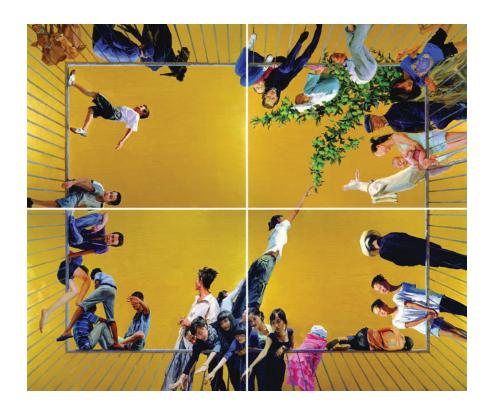
首先得发自内心地喜欢。学艺术的人越来越多,但真正喜欢艺术的很可能不多。得问自己:在它没给你带来利益的时候是否还愿意继续画?另外,眼界特别重要。当代艺术很大程度上拼的是资讯。你要创新,得知道以前有没人用过。中国虽然现在资讯发达,但能看到原作的机会毕竟还是少。所以我经常鼓励我的学生多出国走走。

Leap
17 November 2011



凝视天空 The Sky Above

文/Text: 皮力/Pi Li



喻红最近展出了她金色背景的天顶画,长期关注喻 红创作轨迹的皮力撰文细述世代、理想和风格。



《初学者》, 1990年 布面油画, 167.5x167.3厘米

从 1990 年代开始,喻红画面的主题就处于一种超稳定的状态。她始终将绘画的触角伸向那些身边的密友、家人和自身; 她恪守着自己谨慎的本分,用自身和周遭的关系来定义自身。显然她不属于那种看世间沧海桑田得出自己结论,然后轻而易举修正自己结论的艺术家。喻红笔下的各种人物其实都是她经过和自己比对后的结论,是对自己和自己描绘对象与环境双重思量。在那些夸张、传神的造型背后有着一种穿透了女性忧伤的理性力量。但在艺术生产与传播频率越来越快的今天,这种适合凝视的理性力

量很容易被喧嚣淹没。人在这种潮流中,往往会被裹挟着前进。和超稳定的图式与理性力量相比,喻红倒是不断在尝试从丝绸到硅橡胶,从绘画到实物的各种媒介,试图用某种克制而客气方式提示人们对其理性力量的凝视。

从这个角度来看,由四件油画作品构成的"金色天景"则可以被看作是过往温文尔雅尝试的一次暂停和休止。喻红使用了"程式化"的语言,她将那些日常生活中的人和新闻事件按照宗教天顶画的方式组合在一起,并且匹配上古老的宗教含义,程式化并不是简化,而是理性力量的一种提炼,或者对现实生活的片刻怀疑;而或许是已经明了在现实生活中艺术的领地已经不多,如同在美术馆的墙面和地面上已经不可能发生什么新奇的事物,喻红将自己的作品,如同借用的宗教母题一样,高悬在了一个我们无法企及的空中。这种"在空中"的姿态是一直存在于她体内的一种气质,只是这次它坚决而明确地成为了作品的空间表述。

对于一个钟爱绘画,并且有着特殊绘画气质的艺术家而言,"在空中"也赋予了喻红无限的绘画乐趣,在狭小的工作室地面上,她研究向天空仰望的技术,研究如何用画笔划过画布,让现实中沉重的肉身飞翔。而在这个过程中她似乎也可以在片刻之间飞翔。和这些天顶画产生的原始情境不同,它的精妙之处不是在想象一个天国,而是试图将繁荣而残缺的世间提升成一个"天国",从而发出自己的疑问。它们完成在地面上,然后悬挂在空中,这无疑是一个富有意味的隐喻。

当这些对现实的描绘出现在金色天空中时,我们身处的现实便被狠狠地砸

在了地面。通过单纯的绘画方式和明了的空间语言,喻红用最简洁的方式使自己超逾了现实和艺术语言的喧嚣,并将自己隐身在金色之中。而现实在天井中被现实"围观"。如果我们了解她 20 年的创作历程,我们必将感觉到这种凌空飞跃的空间语言并非一次伟大的"表演",而是一次伟大的"拒绝"。她拒绝了现实以及和现实的期待握手言和,而是选择了超越。然而所有的飞翔都并非永恒,我们也期待着飞翔过后的喻红。



(左)金色天景 2010 年,展览现场 摄影:唐萱图片提供:尤伦斯当代艺术中心(右)《生存技巧》 2010 年,丝绸、纺织颜料 600 x 114 厘米



Harper's Bazaar February 2014

时尚BAZAAR



喻红《素手》2013 布画丙烯 190cm×110cm×3

是在成都,而是在北京。翟永明穿着大衣走进喻红的画室。这里是冬天的798,居于两地的她们极少在这里碰面。喻红最新的一组作品已经搬到画廊展览厅里了.空空的画架和调色板上的颜料散发着奇异的灵气,就像人们将要相遇前的灵感。喻红和翟永明回想起过去相识的岁月,那些充满人性魅力的老日子,把生活上的灰尘轻轻擦去,露出画布上细腻的笔触、诗歌里发光的句子。

1

型永明和喻红在 20 世纪 90 年代就相互 认识。"因为我一直和艺术圈很近,有朋友向我推 荐过喻红的画,而且我经常看一些杂志.有文章 在介绍喻红和刘小东,看过一些照片,导演王小 帅也在纪录片里拍过他们俩。" 翟永明环视了一 下刘小东和喻红用了近十年的这个画室。"后来 我和喻红真正认识是 2000 年之后,那时我也 经常到北京来。当时,她在长征空间有一个展览, 邀请我做策展人,并且给她写了文章。那一次, 我们走得比较近,好像就是在这个地方聊了很 长时间。翟永明又看了看四周,隔壁传来摄影师 电脑里播放的音乐。"没想到还是这个画室,一点 儿都没变。当时我就在这儿给她做了一个采访, 我还很清楚地记得,对! 就在沙发那儿。"

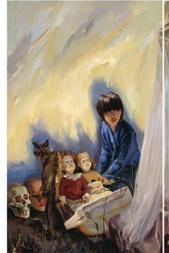
1966年出生,1980年进入中央美院附中,1988年毕业于中央美术学院油画系,1995年毕业于中央美术学院油画系,1995年毕业于中央美术学院油画系研究生班,至今从教于中央美院油画系——按照年代数过来,喻红的一切都和美术有关。二十年前,王小帅执导的处女作《冬春的日子》,影片中男女主角由王小帅在中央美院附中时的同学喻红和她的丈夫刘小东出演。20世纪90年代初,中国经历着前所未有的变革,这对美院的青年教师夫妇经历着贫穷、枯燥、乏味的生活,而新的改革又让他们看到希望,或者说是欲望、金钱。和电影中虚构的部分不同,这对夫妻后来分别取得了瞩目的成就,成为艺术圈里的佳话,也成为中国当代艺术重要的标杆。当然,时代也变了。

"喻红最新的展览'忧云'在长征空间开幕,一系列作品关注了社会群体的精神及现实困境,她再次以敏锐的女性视角,将情绪、生活加以幻想及梦境的元素,准确、细腻地传达于作品之上。可惜开幕那天我没能过来。"那天,霍永明在中央美术学院出席她策划的"诗歌之夜"2013年诗歌影音会,为美院的学生们朗诵。

喻红的作品,每经过两三年就会有一个 ➤

翠永明

1955年生于四川成都。 1974 年高中毕业作为"知 青"下乡插队,1976年回 城。1980年毕业于成都电 讯工程学院(今电子科技大 学)。曾就职于某物理研究 所。1981年开始发表诗歌 作品。1984年、量括20首 抒情诗的大型组诗《女人》。 以独特奇诡的语言与惊世骇 俗的女性立场震撼了文坛。 现已出版诗集《女人》《在 **一切玫瑰之上》(纽约,纽** 约以西》等诗歌、散文集 10 多部。1998年于成都开设 "白夜"酒吧文化沙龙,策划 举办了一系列文学、艺术及 民间影像活动。2005年入 选"中国魅力50人",2010 年入选"中国十佳女诗人"。 2007年获"中坤国际诗歌 奖·A奖", 2011 年获意大 利 Ceppo Pistoia 国际文学 奖,该奖评委会主席称翟永 明为"当今国际最伟大的诗 人之一"。







喻红《蚊帐》2013 布画丙烯 190cm×110cm×3

₽€T

1966 年出生。20 世纪 80 年 代在中央美院学习油画,毕 业后置校任教至今。喻红早 期接触的是写实技巧的训练。 而后又发展出了她自己独有 的视觉语言,尤其体现在描 绘人体、肖像上。喻红以一 个女性的视角进行创作。贵 感来源于自己以及周围人的 生活,通过艺术建立起一个 将对时间的感受和记忆巧妙 融合的世界、她对于现实中 个人经历和情绪的把握十分 敏感。她常使用现成图像作 为创作起点,以画布、丝绸、 树脂、油画、蜡笔、丝织物、 丙烯为媒介,强调了记忆力的 主观性,探讨了现成图像是 如何被淡化或强调的。她的 作品由于其独特的创造性和。 丰富性,在中国当代艺术的 实践中有着不同导常的意义。

新的关注点,她会将最有感受和体会的生活细 节进行象征性的概括,其中包括国家与社会变 化、个人的经历等。"在她那组'目击成长'的作 品中, 她开始用油画将个人历史中, 一些起初用 相机镜头捕捉的瞬间呈现于画布。从她 6 个月 开始直到现在的一系列生活图片构成她个人 的成长史,也构成一个艺术家眼中的时间和变 化。"对于灌永明为喻红和姜杰策划的联展"别 样"中的《她》系列,翟永明说喻红并置了两种目 光。"这是把作为艺术家的经验和作为普通人自 身的经验分割开来的一种并置。把来自历史的 记忆和来自个人生活的现实重叠,让我们去注 意和思索包含在这不同目光中的'真实'。" 翟永 明很惊喜喻红作品的变化和深入探索。"材质、 形式等方面, 都变得更当代了, 手法上变化得比 较多。我倒是觉得绘画的对象没有什么变化、她 一直都比较关注当代人,以及当代人的精神和 内心。" 超永明说,"别的艺术家首先是从自我出 发来认识世界, 但是喻红却不太一样, 从一开始 她的绘画题材和关注点就比较倾向社会、很广 泛。她整个人的状态也比较放松,各种各样的形 式、材质不断探索。我 2011 年看到她的〈黄金界〉, 非常震撼, 这是类似文艺复兴时期的天顶画,她借鉴了很多宗教画里的东西,包括在玻璃、丝绸上的作品。早期西方的宗教画就是画在玻璃上,她借鉴了这些。"

的确,喻红一直从女性的精神处境、身份出发,对现实生活进行新的解读,她的作品由于其独特的创造性和丰富性,在中国当代艺术的实践中有着不同寻常的意义。可以说,喻红一直都在从她自己及周围人的生活中汲取灵感,融合对时间的感受和记忆,以女性视角进行创作,精准地把握现实中人的经历和情绪。



女诗人与女艺术家,似乎性别和她们的职业属性天然地将她们联系在一起。翟永明很喜欢喻红的作品。"她的画总是和现实发生关系,接近生活。" 翟永明认为绘画和诗歌有着某种天

性上的联系。"诗画同源。早在古代,很多诗人都会画画,画家也必须会写诗。"翟永明笑起来,因为在说这话的时候她想起来,身边有不少人怂恿她拿起画笔画画,但她觉得自己还是文字思维,视觉思维不如画家们强烈。同样作为女性,在创作上,性别也在某种程度上给她们带来了相同的特质。"性别在我们的创作中会有作用。我不知道喻红怎么看,但从我的写作来说,作为女诗人肯定跟男性有不一样的视角,看待事物的角度不同,写出来的东西也就不同。但是现在我知道,在中国很多女作家、女艺术家都特别怕提别,特别怕被说女作家、女艺术家都特别怕提别,特别怕被说女作家、女艺术家,这样就被归类了。"其实,"性别+职业"的定位形式,翟永明和喻红都已经不在乎了。

作为一个群体来说,创作者已经被生活派 遭到了城市边缘。我们可以认出他们,从他们的 作品, 以及他们谈及美感时闪烁的眼神。喻红这 一次展览的作品差不多准备了两年。一组是云 端上的众生相,一组是关于忧郁的年轻人。她开 始关注到被抑郁症困扰的人。"我觉得忧郁每个 人都会有,可能有的人意识到了,有的人没有,或 者有的人感受比较明显,有的人又不那么强烈。 所以或多或少都有忧郁的情绪。"喻红这次画作 中的人物都是她身边的朋友。"这个社会发展得 很快, 个体的空间都受到挤压, 每个人都感受到 很大的压力, 所以我觉得这种情况、这种情绪大 家都有. 我能理解他们很多东西. 但有忧郁症的 人可能更强烈,或者更难以自拔。"这些人和喻红 自己也会有些相近的特质。"对世界和内心的很 多情感会特别敏感。"

翟永明一直生活在文化艺术的圈子里。毋庸置疑,她是出现在画作上最多的女诗人。著名艺术家何多苓《小翟》、《第三代人》等画作中就有她的身影。人们从翟永明的诗歌里能读出忧郁。诗人的敏感,从语句之间晕染到了艺术家的画作上。喻红的新作里虽然没有画翟永明,但她笑言:"这是因为画她的人太多了。不过喻红的画中也有受抑郁症困扰的作家朋友:"我能够理解他们的这种情感。可能我画的这些人大多数是和艺术、文艺有关的,他们大都是很聪明、有才华的人。这个行业的、这一类人群比较敏感,可能正是因为这样,他们才能特别强烈地吸收某

些无论正面和负面的东西, 然后无限放大, 再用 艺术的手法表达。"

"喻红有诗人的情怀",关于这点, 墨永明和 美国著名美术评论家林似竹有着相同的观点,静 坐沉思、与好友谈笑欢聚、堕人爱河、组建家庭, 这些平凡普通的事, 在喻红的画笔下都有了诗意。"特别是忧郁, 忧郁是一种灰色地带, 诗人和 艺术家都有。这一次喻红把这种特殊的状态提了 出来。"翟永明说,"抑郁症这个词近几年才有, 在 过去是因为没有机会去揣摩感受这种东西。即使 有, 大家也因为温饱和生存的问题而无法顾及。 现在物质生活越来越精致,所以一个小的情感细 节就会让人想到很多,甚至被无限放大。"

"绘画在表述情绪忧郁的时候更为困难,它不像戏剧、文学那么准确、直观。"喻红说。《素手》、《深潭》、《迷夜》、《蚊帐》、《记忆盒》及《抽屉》这6幅新作分别以6个人物为主角.≯





喻红《迷夜》2013 布画丙烯 190cm×110cm×3

从人物对物件及某些习惯的依赖. 勾勒出人物的个性与细节, 体现出最深切脆弱的情感画中人物的精神状态, 呈现喻红更为深刻的人文关怀, 并将自己的思考投射在这 6 幅画作上。在另外的一组长为 18 米的作品《云端》里, 模糊了时间与空间, 云层上的人们展现出人生百态和错综复杂的关系.像是一部启示录。



翟永明说她很喜欢喻红工作室里的两排画像——这是喻红和刘小东的女儿历年来给爸爸妈妈的生日礼物。"喻红让我们偏服的不只是艺术上的成就,还有她将家庭与事业平衡得很好。很多女艺术家的成功是以牺牲家庭为代价,但是喻红没有。孩子出生以后,男人还可以出去写生画画,但女人要把重心移到家庭上。"喻红笑说:"时间过得很快,现在孩子大了,也有了自己的世界。她以后不一定就要从事画画,但应该学一点,起码作为一种修养。这种审美能力、观察能力,对她将来都会有好处。"

现在的年轻人,如何接受绘画和诗歌?用什么方式让他们燃起热情? 翟永明说,喻红正在做的事就是最好的回答:创作和教育。"我觉得艺术的普及教育是最重要的。在国外、对于绘画和文学的教育是从孩子很小的时候就开始的,在上幼儿园、小学时. 老师就带他们到博物馆去看。" 翟永明记得,一次在西班牙的一个美术

馆偶遇一群小朋友,老师用小绳子让孩子们一个牵一个地看展览,翟永明还拍下了照片。在他们看来很自然的成长方式,却让翟永明很感慨:"他们在那种氛围里长大,不管看懂还是没有看懂,艺术就已经天然地通过视觉进入他们的思维和生活里,成为不可或缺的一部分。"

在翟永明看来,相比起写作者,艺术家更能适应时代。"艺术的功能性越来越重要,现在所有视觉门类都比以前更受到重视,大家也越来越更倾向于了解艺术和视觉。我们生活在一个图片时代、视觉时代,而文字在慢慢地退到边缘地带。"但同时带来的好处是,艺术家有更多的机会参与到社会中去,努力让美学教育得到普及,让新的一代人能够更充分地进入到审美的精神状态里。"其实像喻红他们在学校里面,一代一代地教那些学生,学生出来以后还会影响别的对艺术感兴趣的人。这很重要。"

而作为教师的同时,喻红也策划过她自己学生的展览。"我看到了她们的学习过程,如何一点点地去积累、转换,加人自己的思考完成创作。可能更像是看着她们一点点成长的过程。"喻红说。

是的,总有过程。从过去到现在,喻红和翟 永明都属于作品慢而少的创作者,或许是她们 都把作品视为生命的载体,所以一直很谨慎。

拍照时,面对镜头的喻红和翟永明反而有点不好意思。虽然相识很久,默契也有,但两个人一起拍照似乎还是头一次。翟永明笑起来:"主要是她和我都不是外向的人。"整个画室融人在一种愉快的情境里,让人想到诗是有声的画,画是有形的诗,可观可感、意象相通。她们又聊到了过去,喻红看到画里的翟永明,翟永明看到喻红的画,这是她们关于对方最开始的印象,那是20世纪90年代。

《静安庄》(组诗选一) ——署永明

第一月

仿佛早已存在,仿佛早已就序 我走来,声音概不由己 它把我安顿在朝南的厢房

第一次来我就赶上漆黑的日子 到处都有脸型相像的小径 凉风吹得我苍白寂寞 玉米地在这种时刻精神抖擞 我来到这里,听到双鱼星的哞叫 又听见敏感的夜抖动不已

极小的草垛散布肃穆 脆弱唯一的云像孤独的野兽 蹑足走来,含有坏天气的味道

如同与我相逢成为值得理解的内心 鱼竿在水面滑动,忽明忽灭的油灯 热烈沙哑的狗吠使人默想 昨天巨大的风声似乎了解一切 不要容纳黑树 每个角落布置一次杀机 忍受布满人体的时刻 现在我可以无拘无束地成为月光

已婚夫妇梦中听见卯时雨水的声音 黑驴们靠着石磨商量明天 那里,阴阳混合的土地 对所有年月了如指掌

我听见公鸡打鸣 又听见轱辘打水的声音



喻红《记忆盒》2013 布画丙烯 190cm×110cm×3

南方人物周刊

August 2015



喻红 云上的日子

云在喻红的画里不是一种轻柔缥缈的东西, 它结实,宏大,有力量感和冲击性,有重量和体积

北京人来人往的 798 已经成为了观光景点,在尤伦斯的艺术商店门口挂着几幅彩色人像版画衍生品,其中一幅是年轻时的刘小东画像,落拓而瘦小,另一幅则是喻红的画像。当代艺术里的一切都有被商品化的可能,除了艺术作品,还有艺术家本人。

顺着热闹走到底,在园区僻静的一侧,铁皮门后是喻红和 刘小东一墙而隔的画室。喻红高大沉静,轮廓俨然,从某个角 度看甚至有点像她年轻时赖以成名、直到现在还被称颂的那幅 零描大卫。

去年《南方周末》把年度艺术作品的致敬颁给了喻红的《云端》,颁奖词里写道:"《云端》直接楔入更凝重广阔的社会现实。 其灵感来自坐飞机时看到的云层。现实生活的具体形象被嫁接 于云端之上,让轻与重、虚幻与现实、天上与人间交织,赋予 这幅创作横贯半年、长达 18 米、一共六联的巨幅画作,比其 体量更深厚的意蕴。这幅作品以其一贯饱满明丽的画面,极具 概括性地铺陈出人间世的种种情态:疲惫、不安、骚动、无助、 无力等等,既是画中人的状态,也映射出人类普遍承受的压力、 不安全和不确定性。"在颁奖典礼上,陈丹青说得更直接,"最 早的时候我就发现她内心非常骚动,年轻时骚动很容易,我没 有想到过了十几年到现在,她还会画出这样的东西。"

今年喻红在苏州博物馆的大展《平行世界》,本质上是延续了之前包括《云端》在内的若干重要系列,但在深度和力量感上有了更加野蛮的生长,生于1966的喻红,其创作已经进入了全面成熟的阶段。

"成熟"是艺术家又爱又怕的一个词,因为它往往携带着不那么叫人惊喜的潜台词,正如年轻时的喻红和刘小东所说的,生怕自己会渐渐成为平庸和无趣的中年人。

时间和财富的考验接踵而来, 无论多么不愿意, 中年已至。

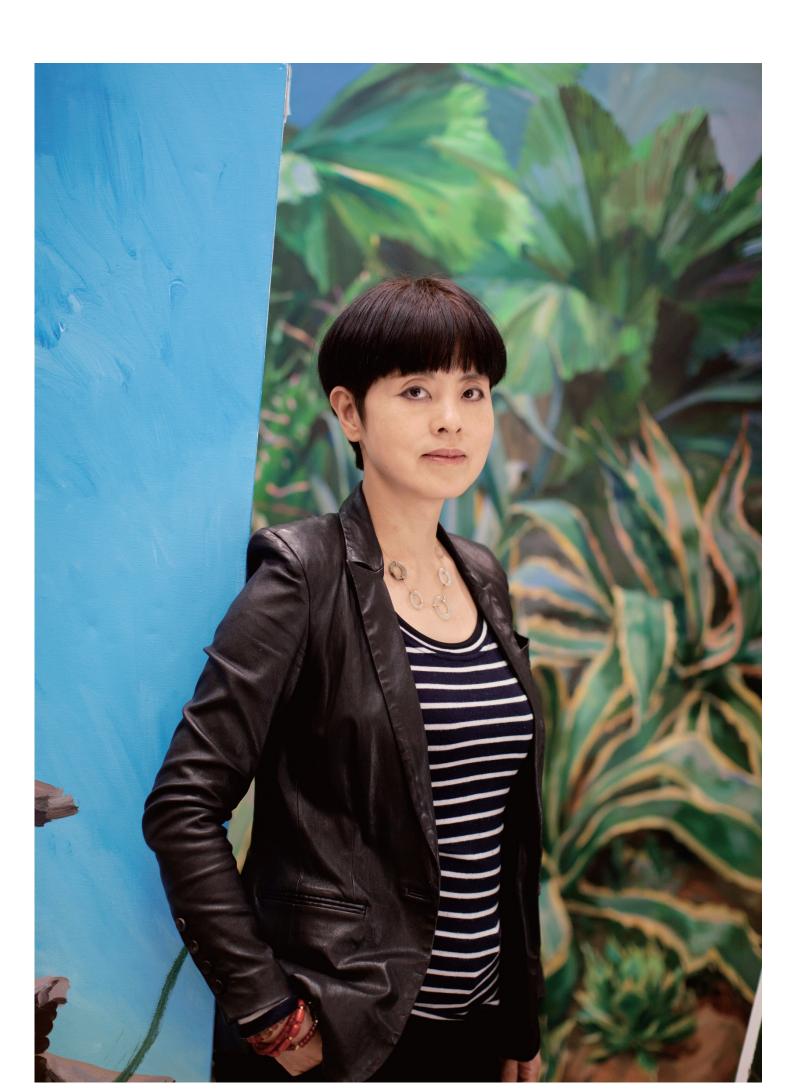
在平行世界里乾坤倒置

在贝聿铭设计的粉墙黛瓦的苏州博物馆展出当代艺术是一种考验,喻红穿着自己设计的画满了灰色假山石的黑裙端站,跟各路来宾合影,仿佛本身已经成了园林中的一座湖石。她并不爱笑,也不擅长说话,她作品里的凶狠野戾的洪荒之气,在她沉静的面容上找不到太多端倪。

这次展览的扛鼎之作是一幅高达6米的《百尺竿头》,为了这幅作品,博物馆甚至封掉了展馆惟一的一面窗户。"那是展厅的采光,而且窗外是竹子呼应着蓝天,很漂亮,是贝聿铭对环境内外呼应的一个妙用,如果展览书画,就很合适。"但是这种士大夫式的江南风雅和喻红的油画有一种深刻的不调和。画面上,象征着权力的高大杆头上有舆论发声的话筒、有密密麻麻的监控探头、有鸟窝一般的草垛,还有像嫌疑犯一样蹲着的、走投无路的人们。

"平行世界"是一种宇宙观,"我相信多维度的世界,有物理的角度,也有时间的角度,甚至心的角度。"在平行的世界里,天空中的飞鸟抓着鱼,但细看那只是水中的倒影,这幅不大的作品得到了许多艺评人的关注。

钟阿城曾经对喻红说,乾坤是中国人认识世界的方式,人们普遍认为乾为天,坤为地;乾为阳,坤为阴;乾在上,坤在下,但这是一种错误理解。阴阳实际上是一种交互,坤应该在上面,因为坤是阴,阴是往下行的,而阳气是向上升的,这样阴阳才能交融。"但是传统的乾上坤下,男上女下,乾就向上去了,坤就下去了,永远接不上,永远是割裂的,我觉得这个说法挺有意思,我就画了这样的世界,一个在交融中冲突的世界。"《乾坤》的画面上男女分流对峙,仿佛创世纪混沌之初,又仿佛洪水滔天的末日。





直到黑暗里也开出花朵

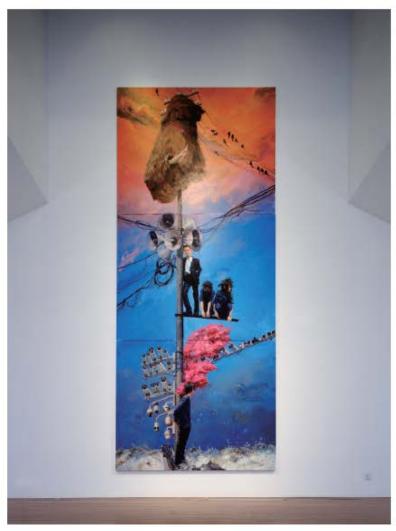
喻红出生在画家家庭,从小画笔和颜料便是她的玩具,从 美院附中到央美,18岁时,她那幅被靳尚谊封为"中央美院有 史以来最好的大卫画像"就上了美术教科书的封面。毕业留校, 出国,结婚,生子,教学,画画。除了当年不太受家庭认可的 婚姻之外,她的人生也如模范教科书,"每一步都踩在了点上。"

早年的作品,无论是关于个体成长,还是时代进程,苏联写实主义的基因都十分顽强。"目击成长"系列是把自己和孩子的个体生命轨迹和当年的社会大事件并列。"优云"是"忧郁"和"云端"的合体,"忧郁"画了许多忧郁症中对自己感到无能为力的个人;"黄金界"则把日常生活创造性地幻化出了宗教感,在尤伦斯的展厅,观者必须仰头才能看见穹顶上的金色天景。"用金箔作画特别难,因为金会发出一种很贼的光,会让周围的色彩发黑,我们如今看到的用金作画的教堂壁画,都经历过时间的打磨。"

中世纪的宗教画和木雕十分打动喻红,人们常常以为整个中世纪是黑暗一片,但黑暗照样生出花朵。"中世纪的艺术是很有限定性的,题材就那么几个,只有圣母啊、使徒啊这些,我记得那些木雕上有彩绘,都斑驳了,有的被虫蛀了。但我是觉得依然有大量的风格,在克制中表达人性。"

在克制中表达,暗合了喻红的性格,她有一种隐而不发的 力量感,在她那如恒星轨道般的可靠感背后。

喻红基本不操心画作的销售,她信任专业画廊,把一切委托给长征空间,自己只负责潜心创作。《平行世界》工作量巨大,因为几乎一切作品都是为了这次展览和这个空间专门创作的。"3幅大的,六七个中的,然后小的。光是3个大画就画得很累了。"创作一幅六联的大画她起码需要半年的时间,"经常画完以后要花好长时间去调整。因为画的时候,那种特别大的画没法同时看到,没有那么大的空间,都要一张一张地画,然后再去调整,有时候调整是通过想象。所以大结构上不能犯错,一旦出错,



可能无法修改。"

我们并肩而立却不必彼此理解

《南方周末》把年度艺术作品颁给喻红是有道理的,直到《云端》这件作品,喻红用现实主义真正完美实现了超现实。一次坐飞机,喻红坐在机舱前端,看见大地在黄昏时分慢慢变黑,而云彩两端灿烂灼目。"这种空间感特别有意思,只有在飞机上才能看到,但如果画成风景画,它也就只是一个风景而已,我就想怎么把它跟现实结合在一起。"

云在喻红的画里不是一种轻柔缥缈的东西,它结实,宏大, 有力量感和冲击性,有重量和体积,"就像一座山撞过来,像那 种核爆炸的云雾,就像世界末日。"

喻红喜欢在网络上寻找视觉的素材,常用关键词包括:排





图/贾立叟

队、舞女、杂技演员、犯罪嫌疑人……看见有意思的就保存下来, 渐渐地建立了一个风格鲜明的素材库。早年她还曾经专门去杂 技团画杂技演员,并拍下了大量的照片,那些扭曲着的、正在 执行高难度任务的躯体给她留下了很深的印象,那些躯体是稚 嫩的,但在承受痛苦这件事儿上却已经十分熟练。"这些小孩儿 真的都很小,我去看学得很专业的大概也就十一二岁的样子, 但已经学了好多年。这个世界把他们规定成某种样子,不管是 自愿的还是非自愿的,他们的动作里都有很无助的样子。"她曾 经送女儿刘娃去学体操,目睹那些孩子只是学个压腿的时候就 抱着老师的腿哭了。

跳舞的女孩、被当场截获的吧女、低头蹲在地上的犯罪嫌 疑人,打动喻红的往往是这些人在肢体语言上的某种特殊性, 那是一个大的力量下的人,一个集体意志里的个体,一个被贴 上某种标签的脆弱的存在,这些个体互相挨着,一字排开,但 他们之间又是彼此疏离、隔膜,互不理解的。

一则关于冬去春来的寓言

人们总是津津乐道于喻红和刘小东的婚姻,婚姻比艺术容易理解,但婚姻也并不总是艺术的见证人和养成者。曾经有杂志煽情地描写过喻红的产后忧郁症,抱着啼哭的孩子在沙发上一坐就是一天,女画家的自我被新生儿剥夺了,有整整四五年忙于照顾家庭无法专心画画……但这只是一个女性创作者可能遇到的挫折之万一而已。

肖全在 1993 年为这对夫妻拍过一张照片:丈夫刘小东持 着一把油画刀冲着画面,野犊子一般的脸上有被喻红形容的那种"湿漉漉的眼神",而喻红在后面挂着温和的笑容。张元曾经 拍过一个 10 分钟的短片作为毕业作品,他一直记得里面有喻 红和刘小东在夕阳里跳舞的镜头,那个作品很美,但现在也已 经找不到当年的拷贝了。

1990 年代初期,王小帅邀他们出演过一部电影《冬春的 日子》,剧本是以刘小东和喻红为原型写的,当时用的是黑白胶 片:冬和春是两个年轻的画家,毕业后留校任教,卖画无门, 生活很拮据,也看不到未来。后来,女孩春选择了出国,而冬 彻底疯了,被送进了精神病院。这部影片在1999 年被 BBC 评 为自电影诞生以来的一百部佳片之一,也是惟一入选的中国影 片。

16 年后,王小帅拍了"冬春之后"的喻红篇,还很浑成地 借用了诺贝尔文学奖得主帕慕克的小说名字《我的名字叫红》。 片中刘小东满怀醋意地迫问喻红是给谁发短信,偶尔戏言"我 们现在没有爱情了"。在旺盛而从容的创作之外,他们也会自省, 生怕自己沦为年轻时他们所厌恶那种平庸而无趣的中年人。

小帅没有说出来的话,已经有人说过了,"这个世界上有两种悲剧,一种叫理想没有实现,另一种叫作理想实现了。"

这也几乎是从 85 新潮开始的中国当代艺术的暗中脉络: 从反叛,到反叛成功之后的四顾茫然;从贫穷,到财富快速积 累之后的价值解体。那些被拍卖出天价的中国画家,那些生前 就被奉进殿堂的艺术大师,那些被偶像化了的 F4 和天王,几 乎都要经历价值重构的考验,这其中,当然包括刘小东们。曾 梵志说:财富是个劫。只有那些佼佼者们,可以在此基础之上, 完成修炼。

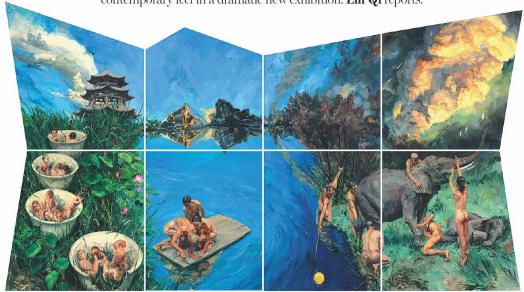
对喻红和刘小东来说,他们已经摆脱了《冬春的故事》 里那个悲伤的寓言,但冬春的故事并没有结束。他想娶人人艳 羡可望不可即的女神,他娶到了;她想做姥姥说的跟名字一样 "越来越红"的画家,她做到了。然后呢?我们在等待故事的 续集。

China Daily 26 October 2016



EXHIBITION

Artist Yu Hong, a professor at the Central Academy of Fine Arts, alludes to current-day problems in her pieces, giving them a contemporary feel in a dramatic new exhibition. **Lin Qi** reports.



RARE BLEND OF REALITY AND FANTASY

everal years ago, artist Yu Hong came across an abandoned garden in a Beijing suburb. She walked through it and saw many nearly complete concrete pavilions built in traditional Chinese style and lotus blooming in a pool.

"It was a sunny day, and the blue sky and white clouds were reflected in the water. The flourishing lotus formed a sharp contrast with the pavilions that were in bad shape. The scene looked so beautiful," recalls the 50-year-old painter, who is also a professor at the Central Academy of Fine Arts.

The beauty of the garden inspired Yu to paint A Garden of Dreams last year, an oil work on canvas in which she reproduced the scene in the garden: blue sky, a pavilion, the pool and the lotus bloom. And she juxtaposed with the scene incidents and stories from the past and present, East and West, including

plane crashes, explosions, child refugees and ancient Chinese fables, through

which viewers can feel a mixture of reality and fantasy.









Artist Yu Hong's (above) ongoing exhibition at the Art Museum of the Central Academy of Fine Arts includes the show's centerpiece, *A Garden of Dreams* (top), paintings that portray girls who strike gymnastic poses against backgrounds of sheer cliffs, and a glass sculpture. Photos Provided to China Daily

The huge painting, almost 10 meters in width, is now the centerpiece of her exhibition of the same title.

The display at CAFA's Art Museum includes 19 oil paintings and three glass sculptures.

The title, A Garden of Dreams, or Youyuan Jingmeng in Chinese, is borrowed from the Chinese Kunqu Opera classic The Peony Pavilion, or Mudan Ting, which is based on the work of Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) playwright Tang Xianzu.

The original play is based on a romantic encounter between an official's daughter, Du Liniang, and a young scholar, Liu Mengmei.

But what Yu communicates through her painting is unrelated to the plot.

She says the phrase "youyuan jingmeng (walking in the garden and having an interrupted dream)" is to show that when one takes a stroll, one is bound to encounter unexpected, surprising things.

In the painting, she portrays the well-known Chinese fable "mangren moxiang", or blind people touching an elephant.

The story is about how a group of blind people try to visualize what an elephant looks like by touching it and how they have arguments about their conclusions as their perceptions differ.

Her portrayal satirizes those who believe that they can see the whole issue in a given situation when they are aware only about a part of the issue.

Yu reinterprets the fable in a modern context, saying: "Everybody believes they are smart enough to get the whole idea. However, we really know very little about what is going on, and it is likely that we often misjudge the situation."

In her work, she also alludes to the global refugee crisis by painting babies placed in basins in grass, and among them is a refugee child lying on his back on a beach. This is a reference to the death of Turkish refugee child Alan Kurdi, who was found on a Turkish beach last September, which brought the Syrian refugee crisis to the attention of the world.

Speaking about her work, Yu, who graduated from CAFA, says: "Living in today's world means we usually know what is happening far away through the media. The events may not seem directly relevant to us but they affect everyone. I hope to be able to portray this."

Since the 1990s Yu has been focusing on the mental wellbeing of young artists. "I've discovered a lot of heartbreak among this group. Being sensitive, fragile, helpless and honest, they want respect and love but they are often misunderstood. These feelings become the subjects of my creations," she says.

In the painting Shouzhu Daitu (Waiting for gain without pain), a young woman squats on the top of a cluster of traffic lights that are facing in different directions, showing how people get lost in the pursuit of gain.

But Yu softens the scene with a poetic touch: She adds several willow twigs that stroke the woman's body.

In her other paintings, she portrays girls who strike gymnastic poses against backgrounds like sheer cliffs. Through this, she tries to show the tension and feelings of crisis that these characters face.

Zhan Jianjun, an oil painter and Yu's mentor when she was a student at CAFA, says her work reveals her keen, delicate observations and deep concerns for society, even as her skilled, expressive brushwork delights fans. Yu says that both the optimistic and pessimistic sides of society are reflected in her work. "The core of creation can't be taught. It is something one is born with or learns from life.

"The world has changed fast. But if one is detached from the changes your work lacks depth," she says.

CNN 09 October 2017



Capturing China's sweeping changes, one brush stroke at a time

The sound of jackhammers reverberates through Yu Hong's Beijing studio. Outside, men in blue uniform -- shouting over the noise -- wheel piles of red bricks, while others help clear debris.

The studio is located in the city's 798 Art District, a sprawling Mao-era factory that once produced military equipment used as far away as North Korea. Today it's a mix of galleries, art spaces, museums, cafes and trinket stores. "China has changed a lot in recent decades, including our surroundings. The constant change has had an enormous impact," said the 51-year-old artist, from her studio in Beijing, China. "People need to accept lots of new things every day and it's stressful. It causes a lot of anxiety, confusion, indecisiveness and depression."



"Cloud Layer" (2014) Credit: Yu Hong

As an artist, Yu has spent much of her career focused on the subtle interactions between individuals and their surroundings.

"Everyone I paint is very detailed, like real characters. But when grouped together, there's a sense of absurdity," Yu explained.

"(This reflects) the absurdity of our world. We observe real people and real events each day. Some are connected and some are not. Some are strange. But they do exist in our lives. The world is both realistic and fantastical." There is also a degree of anonymity. Many of her characters are drawn from photographs found online. She prefers candid, unaware shots that offer "genuine" moments.



"Lost in the Night" (2013) Credit: Yu Hong

Then, there are the characters she knows intimately. In her ongoing series "Witness to Growth," she produces a self-portrait each year and pairs it with a blown-up image of a news article that illustrates an important political event from the same year.

One of the works from the series, depicting the year 1992, will show in the Guggenheim's extensive survey of Chinese contemporary art, opening this month. The portrait is from a still of Yu cutting her hair, taken from "The Days," the directorial debut of filmmaker Wang Xiaoshuai. (The film starred Yu Hong and her real-life husband, the artist Liu Xiaodong, as young married artists.) Accompanying the painting, is a newspaper image of Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping's Southern Tour of Guangdong Province, part of his reform and opening-up policy.



Yu Hong's 1992 work from her "Witness to Growth" series. Credit: Yu Hong

"By juxtaposing herself in this quotidian, everyday, lackadaisical moment of cutting her hair in her dormitory room, within this momentous event of the elder statesman of China unleashing a new era of economic reform that would transform China and the world, seemed like a very important threshold for what becomes the third section of our show (Capitalism, Urbanism and Realism)," explained Alexandra Munroe, the lead curator of the Guggenheim show.



"Ophelia" (2016) Credit: Yu Hong

Since 1994, Yu has added a portrait of her daughter to the series each year. Yu said it was only after giving birth that she understood the full impact of being a mother and the different expectations and pressures placed on women and men.

"Since my daughter's birth, I've been observing her growth. It suddenly occurred to me that a baby is like a white piece of paper. Her growth is influenced by family and society. Everything leaves a mark on her," Yu said.

"She was born in the 1990s and I was born in the 1960s. We grew up in starkly different social backgrounds. Through looking at her, I look back at myself wondering how I grew up. We grow day by day without much careful self-examination."

Watch the video above to hear more of Yu Hong's thoughts in her Beijingbased studio.

Momo Moussa and Jonas Schönstein, CNN contributed to this report.

The New York Times 20 September 2017

The New York Times

Where the Wild Things Are: China's Art Dreamers at the Guggenheim

By JANE PERLEZ

BEIJING — The signature work at "Art and China After 1989," a highly anticipated show that takes over the Guggenheim on Oct. 6, is a simple table with a see-through dome shaped like the back of a tortoise. On the tabletop hundreds of insects and reptiles — gekkos, locusts, crickets, centipedes and cockroaches — mill about under the glow of an overhead lamp.

During the three-month exhibition some creatures will be devoured; others may die of fatigue. The big ones will survive. From time to time, a New York City pet shop will replenish the menagerie with new bugs.

In its strange way, the piece, called "Theater of the World," created in 1993 by the conceptual artist Huang Yong Ping, perfectly captures the theme of the exhibition: China as a universe unto itself, forever evolving and changing into a new order. It also sums up a sense of oppression the artists felt from 1989 to 2008, as they were making these works.

Many of the more than 70 creators were born in China, yet like Mr. Huang — who fled the country in dismay after the 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protesters on Tiananmen Square — they reject the label "Chinese." One paradox: The artists appreciate the big splash on Fifth Avenue but express mixed feelings about a nation-themed show. Most consider themselves international artists who have contributed mightily to the global avant-garde art movement.

"Whether artists are Chinese or French is not important," said Mr. Huang, who lives and works outside Paris. "I think the duty of the artist is to deconstruct the concept of nationality. There is going to be a day when there is no concept of nationality."

The curators have selected nearly 150 pieces of sometimes shocking, often scruffy experimental art — video, installation, photography, performance — that questions authority, and uses animals (on screen) to highlight the violence of humankind. ("Theater of the World" caused a stir in Vancouver in 2007 when Mr. Huang included scorpions and tarantulas; he withdrew the piece from the show there rather than comply with requests to remove those particular creatures.)



Huang Yong Ping's "Theater of the World," which features live insects and reptiles. Credit:Huang
Yong Ping/Guggenheim Abu Dhabi

The emphasis at the Guggenheim is on conceptual art. There are few oil paintings, and none of the flashy visages of big faces of the political pop school of the 1990s and early 2000s that fetched skyhigh prices at auction.

"We felt the whole concept of contemporary Chinese art needed to be exploded," said Alexandra Munroe, the lead curator.

The chronology covers two distinct periods: the political repression after Tiananmen and the economic boom in the 2000s. In the aftermath of the protests, the government banned installation art. That provoked conceptual artists to stage furtive shows in anonymous apartments. Artists struggled. Many escaped abroad, came back, went out again. There were almost no galleries and little money to be made.

By 2001, when China joined the World Trade Organization, opening its doors to the global economy, the government understood that art could be China's calling card. Money poured into places like the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou. Commercial galleries popped up in Beijing and Shanghai.

The 2008 Beijing Olympic Games were staged as China's coming out party. Many artists dismissed the celebration, preferring to concentrate on government corruption and the demolition of charming old Beijing. But the Games did help to open the eyes of outsiders to China and its art scene.

Soon after the opening at the Guggenheim, the Communist Party will hold its national congress in Beijing, a conclave set to anoint the current president, Xi Jinping, for a second term. The uninhibited avant-garde art at the Guggenheim will offer a jagged contrast to Mr. Xi's stiff internet censorship, and repression of human rights that keeps some of China's artists — including perhaps the best known, Ai Weiwei — from living and working in their homeland.



Sun Yuan and Peng Yu's "Dogs That Cannot Touch Each Other," a seven-minute video with eight American pit bulls on eight treadmills.Credit...Galleria Continua, San Gimignano, Beijing, Les Moulins, Habana

Only nine female artists appear in the show, a poor representation that the curators say they are acutely aware of. One of the nine, though, is Xiao Lu, who achieved notoriety when she fired a pellet gun at a sculpture at a Beijing exhibition in 1989.

The few works by women is a reflection of the male-dominated government-run art academies of the period, Ms. Munroe said. The teachers were mostly men who wielded disproportionate influence with their power to dole out studio spaces, video equipment and paints. Most of the students were men. Now some classes are evenly split between men and women.

"That source of livelihood was closed to a privileged few, and the few were men exclusively," Ms. Munroe said. "The good news is that it has changed."

Some of the artists in Beijing and Hangzhou looked back at their work in the show, the atmosphere during those two decades and how they and the country have changed.

Yu Hong

When Yu Hong joined the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing in 1984, she was 18 and the only woman among the dozen students in the entering class. It was after the upheaval of the Cultural Revolution, and the art schools were coming to life after years in the wilderness.

Ms. Yu, now one of China's most esteemed realist painters, was an instant star. One of the first assignments for her class was to draw Michelangelo's David. Ms. Yu's rendition won first prize. It is still shown to students more than 20 years later.

Her oil painting in the Guggenheim show is entirely different. A self-portrait, the canvas shows Ms. Yu, a few years out of art school in the early 1990s, scissors in hand, snipping her own hair.

The back story is intriguing. Ms. Yu, and her husband, Liu Xiaodong, also an artist, were acting in a low budget movie, called "The Days," about the couple's true-life story as impoverished art teachers in a backwater province in northeast China. One of the scenes included Ms. Yu cutting her own hair. The movie was too bleak for the government censors and has never been officially released in China.

The self-portrait is part of a historical series she began in 1999 called "Witness to Growth," in which she paints herself at the various stages of China's economic growth, juxtaposed against a photograph of the period.



Zhang Peili's video "Water: Standard Version from the 'Cihai' Dictionary," 1991, depicts the absurdity of the state broadcaster never reporting Tiananmen Square protests.Credit...Zhang

Peili/Guggenheim Abu Dhabi

The curators could have chosen a more dramatic work from Ms. Yu. A black and white self-portrait on the wall of her studio in Beijing shows Ms. Yu among the protesters near Tiananmen Square before the tanks rolled in. Adjacent to the canvas is a photograph of the crackdown's aftermath. Dark smoke hangs over the square. The demonstrators' tent city is demolished. Soldiers are on watch.

But such photographs are banned in China. A display of the photo overseas would almost certainly draw protests from the Chinese government.

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CHINADAILY

中国日報



A work by Chinese artist Yu Hong, New Age, features in her solo exhibition running through May 5 at the Long Museum (West Bund) in Shanghai. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Picturing the human condition

A new exhibition at the Long Museum offers an opportunity to view the world through the eyes of Yu Hong, one of China's most celebrated female artists, **Lin Shujuan** reports from Shanghai.

Imagine this: you wake up and find yourself standing in front of a huge rock. There are others around you who have been trying to push the rock. Others are attempting to scale it. There are also those who, despite being atop the rock, are weary of the view they once desired so badly.

These struggles are what Yu Hong, one of the most celebrated female artists in China, tries to depict in her solo exhibition which opened on March 9 and runs through May 5 at the Long Museum (West Bund) in Shanghai.

Featuring 74 of Yu's works, the exhibition is the artist's largest single showcase, according to Wang Wei, general director of the museum.

"I thought I was already very familiar with Yu's art, but I was still stunned by the enormous energy she presents through the pieces in this show," says Wang, an ardent collector of the artist's works.



One of Yu Hong's works on show, Half-Hundred Mirrors No 16. [Photo provided to China Daily]

The exhibition's title The World of Saha means "the world to be endured". Yu said that it is a Buddhist expression, and of great importance on her journey of personal reflection, as it suggests that all those who suffer are prisoners of their own desires.

For Yu, The World of Saha also reflects human resilience and the urge to live despite adversity. In the exhibition, Yu reconstructs personal, societal and historical memories through the media of photography and painting, tracing the history of China's last 30 years.



Another exhibited work, Half-Hundred Mirrors No 9. [Photo provided to China Daily]

"As a painter, my job is to observe the world from a certain distance, even though I'm also part of the World of Saha," Yu says. "All the puzzles, distress and anxiety experienced in this world that I've observed permeates my work, through which you see a reflection of the world from my perspective."

For example, in the aforementioned painting of a rock and the people around it - derived from an ancient Chinese fable of an old man determined to move the mountains that blocked the path in front of his house - Yu tries to depict the daily struggles in life which "can be a chaos full of anxiety".

Painted on a canvas that measures about 9 meters wide by 5 meters high, the wall-mounted art piece immediately captures the attention of visitors due to its sheer size.

"It's like the reality you wake up to every morning," says Jerome Sans, curator of the exhibition. "You can't escape. You have a choice to make and then comes panic."



Old Man Yu Gong Is Still Moving Away Mountains. [Photo provided to China Daily]

It is to this effect that Sans, an art critic who has also served as artistic director for several influential art institutions around the world, has curated the exhibition. He said that his aim was to unfold Yu's 30-year artistic career like "a visual opera".

Born in 1966 in Xi'an, Yu received training in realism painting at the China Central Academy of Art when she was 14. The core subject of her paintings has always been human nature and how we have progressed and coexisted in the world. Over the past three decades, she has created several renowned series of works which have been highlighted in the exhibition.

Besides the rock-pushing painting, which is part of the Time of Rebirth series that was conceived especially for the exhibition, the showcase also features the Witness to Growth series in which Yu uses her own life and the birth of her daughter in 1994 as the foundation for the narrative. Launched in 1999, the series acts as a record of her life by pairing a photo from a news event in a particular year with an autobiographical painting of herself and her daughter, Liu Wa, that is based on photographs taken that year.

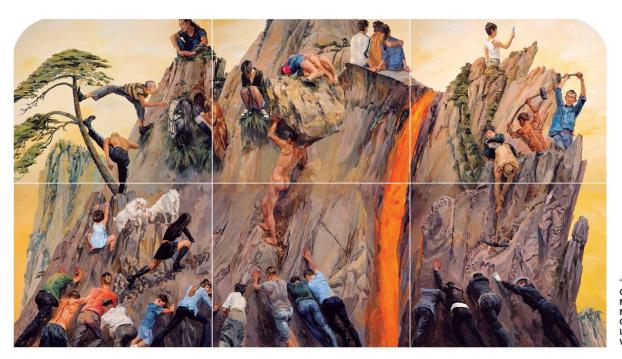
Another series included in the show is Half-Hundred Mirrors, which in Chinese means "50 years old". It relies on virtual reality technology to showcase the birth and the growth of a girl, as well as the development of a group of kids from childhood to adulthood, representing the development and changes of the Chinese society.

The exhibition also devotes a section to highlighting Yu's portraits. A total of 17 portraits, 10 of which were specially created for the exhibition, show the change of the various subjects through the decades.

Shanghai Daily 23 March 2019

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■上海日报 ■



"Old Man Yu Gong is still Moving Away Mountains" — Courtesy of Long Museum

Power of memory in a world to be endured

Wang Jie

When a woman gets to 50, beauty and allure are often thought to drift away. Unable to accept this possibility, some are tortured. Some, more accepting, find a source of emotional release. Artist Yu Hong pours all her understanding of human nature into her art.

As one of China's most celebrated female artists, her solo exhibition "The World of Saha," curated by Jerome Sans, is currently on display at the Long Museum West Bund.

More than a retrospective, this exhibition is described as an "introspective" into her unique and wide-ranging vocabulary.

"The World of Saha" is a Buddhist expression meaning the world to be endured. Those who suffer are to be considered prisoners of their own personal desires.



Yu Hong, one of China's most celebrated female artists. — Yao Yao

According to Indian cosmology, the challenges of all living beings in current lives are determined by the acts in previous lives, which brought about their rebirth.

Slim and elegant in a well-tailored suit, with her signature bobbed hair style, Yu believes that, in the eyes of many, she will always belong to the group of people "specially kissed by God."

Born in Xi'an in 1966, she began studying oil painting at the high school affiliated to the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing at the age of 14 and went on to obtain

a postgraduate degree from the academy in 1996. She married Liu Xiaodong, a classmate and acknowledged as one of China's most talented artists.

In one sense, on the outside, Yu truly did lead a comfortable life. But everyone's inner-side is akin to a personal universe. The struggle and pain deep in her soul could only be reflected through her art.

Stepping into the exhibition hall, visitors are immediately drawn to three gigantic canvases on the wall. The triptych "Heaven on Earth" (2018) depicts the ascent from the abyss of a glacier to a cloudy sky by a group of naked men and women frozen in enigmatic poses as if in search of something. The power and energy radiating from the canvas could be difficult to link to somewhat frail artist standing beside them.

"I have prepared nearly two years for this exhibition," Yu said. "Perhaps I will never hold a large-scale exhibition again."

The exhibition maps her world as a kind of visual opera in four acts: "Time of Rebirth," her lifelong commitment to a series of "Portraits," "Half-Hundred Mirrors" and "Witness to Growth."

Yu reconstructs personal and socio-historical memories through photography and painting, tracing the history of China's last 30 years.

'Time is the direct evidence, and changes everything,' she said.

Her creative inspiration is grounded in her personal life and everyday surroundings, building a world that fuses different perceptions of time, memories and the evolution of emotional states related to her inner world. She tries to explore women's everyday lives in China's changing social, political and cultural debates.

'I prefer not to be labelled as a feminist artist. Family life is not the only focus for female artists. What I am interested in is the individual, or to be exact, the relationship between an ordinary person and the outside world,' she said.

Yu often uses existing images as her starting point, taking photographs and her own point of view to create compositions, rearranging them into new combinations.

'Witness to Growth' is her way to highlight the significance of life.

For example, using her own life and the birth of her daughter, Liu Wa, in 1994 as a narrative foundation, Yu has made the ongoing series a record of her life by drawing upon photos from news events in her world.

She illustrates the inherent contingencies of official records and personal experiences by pairing a journalistic photograph culled from official Chinese media outlets, such as the People's Daily and China Pictorial, with a painting of herself and of her daughter in the same year as the photograph was taken.

'From 1994 when I gave birth to my daughter to 1999, I seldom painted,'she recalled.

'Then I started to look back. I wanted to go beyond the autobiography as the comparison between the two generations. What I was trying to infuse was the ups and downs of society.'

Originally trained in the Social Realist style, indebted to traditions of European Realism, Yu borrows widely from Western painting traditions, from Medieval Gothic Christian painting to Renaissance frescoes.

Apart from pursuing the limits of canvas, the artist also actively involves the contemporary digital world.

For example, Chapter 3 "Half-Hundred Mirrors" uses virtual reality to show the birth and growth of a group of kids from childhood to maturity.

'It is like a moving visual record of a collective memory of our generation,' said Xu Ying, a 50-year-old visitor.

'When wearing the VR glasses, I felt that suddenly I was back in a bygone era. Sometimes the background scene or sounds are familiar yet have already faded in my memory.'

'I was especially touched when the girl turns 50 and she is holding a mirror in her hands. Guess what, I found my face in that mirror, as if I were directly gazing into myself.'

Suspended between reality and fiction, Yu's work stirs something deep in the hearts of the viewers.

'Maybe I am already aware that many things in life are inevitable. As a result, I no longer feel pessimistic,' Yu said.



"Youth may get confused"



"Half-Hundred Mirrors, No.9"

'The World of Saha' is also a world of human resilience as an act of resistance, an urge to live in spite of adversity, by surpassing the major wounds of life.