

Cloud 云 2007
ink on paper 纸上水墨 200X200cm

acknowledgements

CAP Director - Tony Scott
Catalogue producer - Reg Newitt
Catalogue designer - Ren Yanyan
Translator - Tian Lijuan
www.chinaartprojects.com

C.A.P.

China Art Projects
中国艺术项目

cover: **Landscape** (detail)

Time Lines

I use Chinese ink, which links me with a tradition thousands of years old. This medium helps me align ancient thought and ancestral artistic practice with the present, something very important to me. Every day I work with both calligraphy and drawing, and the Time Lines series is a hybrid of these two. A recent visit to Stonehenge left a profound impact on me, and since then I have been fascinated with finding a way to express the eternal knowledge of those who came before us. I put faith in the importance of science, intellectual endeavour and research, and my work reflects an ongoing fascination with the colour spectrum, natural phenomena, ancient mystical sites and supernatural activity. Modern art today is just fashion, I am reconciling the divide between art and thought – I am thinking and creating.

When I paint, the motion is not unlike that of traditional Chinese calligraphy. Even the brushstrokes are in keeping with calligraphic practice – broad, narrow, delicate, sweeping, wet, dry. However, what is rendered is not recognisable as Chinese script at all. The coming together of lines at times gives the illusion of recognisable forms – a face, a bird – but your eyes are swept along before they can linger too long. Compare me work to that of early Chinese Neolithic rock painting. In the same way that these early predecessors were compelled to record their beliefs and world view through line, pattern and symbol, I too draw on these tenets – the expression of essential ideas through fervently organic mark making.

My choice of medium and colour has been a long and patient journey. While the Western idea of colour is 'straight' like a line, the Eastern colour system is more like a circle, round and comprehensive with no end points. Black, the colour of Chinese ink, has five distinct tones to what we may perceive as simply 'black'. My palette may seem limited, but is actually a study of the unlimited scope of just a few tones. Maybe one day when I am very old, my works will be full of colour.

Although working in a modern manner, I am not a 'contemporary artist' and I will not leave tradition behind. I embrace the wealth of knowledge past and artistic philosophy left in clues for us to read, and these pieces are a bridge of communication between past and present.

Lao Dan

时光之流

老丹的创作年龄甚久，两岁时第一次执起画笔藉着让人慑服的墨的演绎手法便也就与中国千年以来古老的文化密不可分。从更深一层说来，老丹认为他的作品与古老的思维和祖先代代相传的美学实践息息相关。他描述有一次他前往史前巨石群参观后心情被这古代的谜题牵引并久久无法平复，尔后他便透过这样的一些经历及知识渗入到他许多的作品当中以达到他想要的沟通效果。老丹在一个专业的平面设计公司工作十年之后便深刻的领悟到他的人生应该另闢一块天地，工作上的种种限制让他对于所学的热情乾枯失衡，于是他离开了商业广告的世界一脚跨进了北京东南角的工作室。老丹每天严格的规定自己定时的书法作画，他说2001年是他生命中的转折点，他不仅重新找回了热情也大大的改变了工作的模式。在老丹的作品中特别强调科学，追求知性与研究方法，他描述他对于色谱，自然现象，古代神秘遗址以及超自然力量的着迷，他说”当代艺术于今日看来只是一种流行，我立志于消除艺术与思维的分歧—我时时思考时时创作。”

老丹的运笔乾淨俐落，一气呵成，非常不同于传统的中国书法创作。其运笔使心，神与笔杆合一造成了宽广的，狭窄的，柔和的，连绵的，湿笔及乾笔的印象。这使得他的作品完全跳脱了中国艺术品的框架。老丹在作品表面留下的激动的痕迹赋予了作品生命力，他激动的运笔手法就好像是他与作品一场生动活泼的对话。运笔线条来回交错之下给人留下了抽象及其象的幻想空间—可能是一张脸或是一隻自在的飞鸟—在眼睛掠过的表面之下其背后的意象则远远的超乎想像。也许以中国石器时代的岩壁画来比喻老丹的创作会更为恰当，就像古老的祖先利用线条，图腾及符号去划记他们的信仰及世界观，老丹在谨守这样的信念之下透过富有热情及生命力的符号创作演绎他的主要意念。

老丹俐落精准却也不及不徐的手法使得他的创作效率极高。他利用不同的手法演绎他创作原理，颜色则是他长久以来极为耐心坚持的核心价值。他小心翼翼且慎重的应用色系，运笔之中则处处表现出西方对于颜色的直接思维就好比线条一般，红色即是红色，丝毫不拐弯抹角。而东方的色系则比较婉转，如无限般的圆润且广泛。他说好比中国的墨色黑色以我们的理解看来就有五种不同的基调。在他色系不多的调色盘裡其实蕴含的是无限，他坚持在有限的颜色裡找出无限的可能，他笑着说”也许等我老了，我的作品会是令人惊讶的缤纷。”

如此一来我们能否就把他定位成一位当代艺术家？他否决了。虽然他利用不置可否的现代手法颠覆了我们对墨的观感，”甚至是当今的我们对于压克力油画的喜爱也无法动摇他”决不会抛弃传统”的坚持。他决心拥抱在过去历史线索裡的浩瀚的知识与美术哲学并让我们一一去解读，老丹视自己为连接过去与现代的桥樑，亦是承先启后的艺术家。他如是说其作品为智慧的思维地图，在抽象的言语裡寻找表面的视觉隐喻。汲了一口白开水，他举起玻璃杯说：“玻璃杯蕴含的空间也是一种隐喻，撇开其空间的蕴含不说，我们何不专注在玻璃杯本身？”

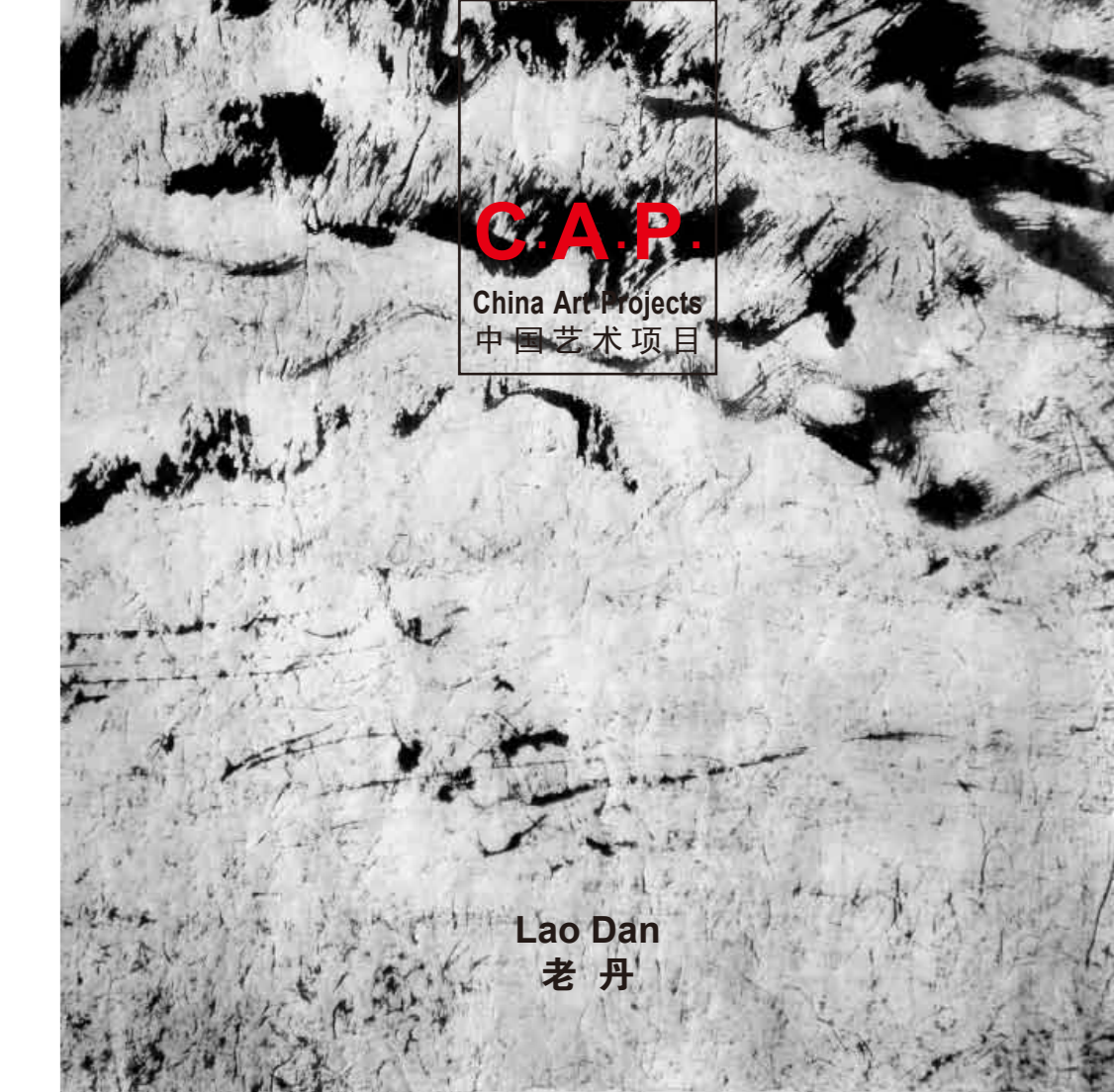
Sophie Mckinnon访谈老丹于2009年5月11日北京。

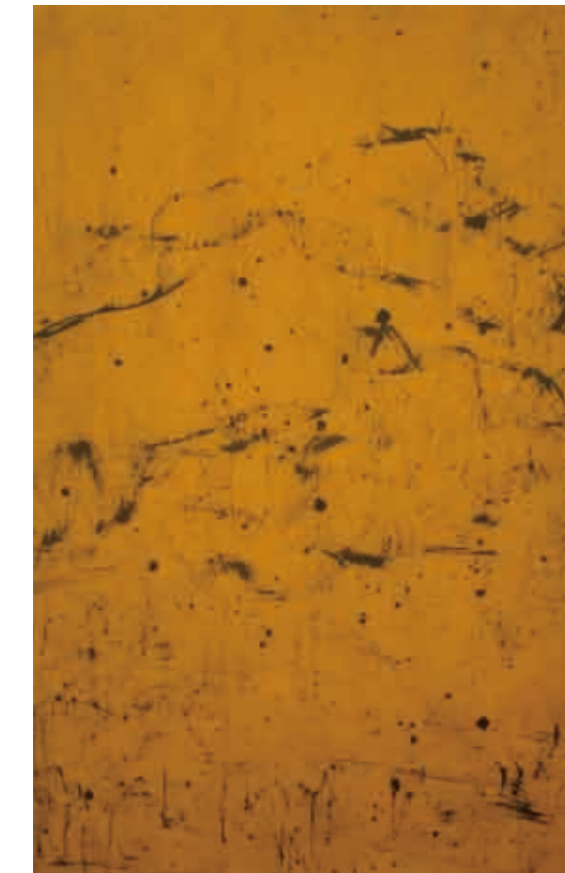
Lao Dan was born in Beijing in 1968. He graduated from graphic design department of China Social University in 1990; currently lives and works in Beijing. **solo exhibitions 2005 *New Humanity***, HART Center of Arts, Beijing. **2003 *Lao Dan Experimental Process Exhibition***, HART Center of Arts, Beijing. **2001 *Move Canvas***, Stanley Gallery, Shanghai. **group exhibitions 2009 *Beautiful Lines***, Stella Downer Fine Art, Sydney. **2007 *Asian Art Fair***, Marlborough Gallery, New York; ***ShContemporary***, Marlborough Gallery, Shanghai. **2006 *Not Only Black***, Hart Center of Arts, Beijing; ***Asian Art Fair***, Marlborough Gallery, New York; ***CIGE-China International Gallery Exposition***, Marlborough Gallery, Beijing. **2005 *Water Amongst Mountains***, Hart Center of Arts, Beijing. **2004 *Urban Hieroglyphics***, Hart Center of Arts, Beijing. **2001 *Ink & Paper***, Gallery Le Quai de la Batterie, Arras, France. **collections** Private collections in Australia, England, China including: Jeremy Segay, Director of Festival de Cannes, France; Rose Nan-ping Chen, Rose Foundation, U.S; Darrell A. Jenks, Director of the American Center for Educational Exchange, USA; Edgardo Bermejo, Second Secretary, Mexico Embassy to China; Cristina Perez Gutierrez, Counsellor of Spain, Embassy to China; Charles J. Hecht New York, USA; Lehman Brothers, New York; Rossi & Rossi, London; T.A.G Fine Art, England; Joost vanDenBerg, London/Netherland; Crown Casino/Hotel, Macau. **residencies** 2000 Residence, Gallery Le Quai de la Batterie, Arras France.

老丹1968年出生于北京，1990年毕业于北京社会大学平面设计系，现居北京。个展2005年新人类，北京哈特艺术中心。2003年老丹试验进程展，北京哈特艺术中心。2001年移动的画布，上海史丹利画廊。联展2009年美丽的线，悉尼Stella Downer美术馆。2007年亚洲艺术博览会，纽约墨尔本画廊；SH同时代，上海墨尔本画廊。2006年黑之外延，北京哈特艺术中心；亚洲艺术博览会，纽约墨尔本画廊；CIGE-中国国际画廊展，北京墨尔本画廊。2005年山涧之泉，北京哈特艺术中心。2004年城市象形文字，北京哈特艺术中心。2001年墨与纸，法国阿拉斯Le Quai de la Batterie画廊。收藏 老丹的作品由澳大利亚，英国及中国等私人收藏家广泛收藏：法国嘎纳电影节导演Jeremy Segay，美国罗斯基金会Rose Nan-ping Chen，美国教育交流中心理事Darrell A. Jenks，墨西哥驻中国大使馆第二秘书长Edgardo Bermejo，西班牙驻中国大使馆参事Cristina Perez Gutierrez，纽约Charles J. Hecht，纽约雷曼兄弟，伦敦Rossi & Rossi画廊，英国T.A.G美术馆，伦敦/荷兰Joost vanDenBerg，澳门皇冠赌场及饭店。访问2000年法国阿拉斯Le Quai de la Batterie画廊访问艺术家。



You & Me 我和你 2009
photograph 照片 150X150cm

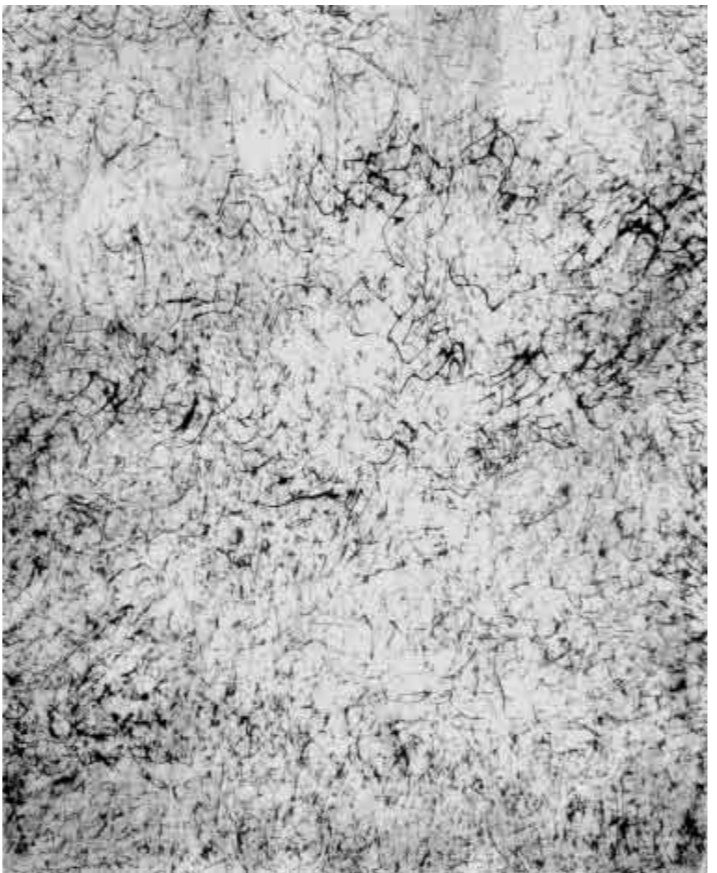




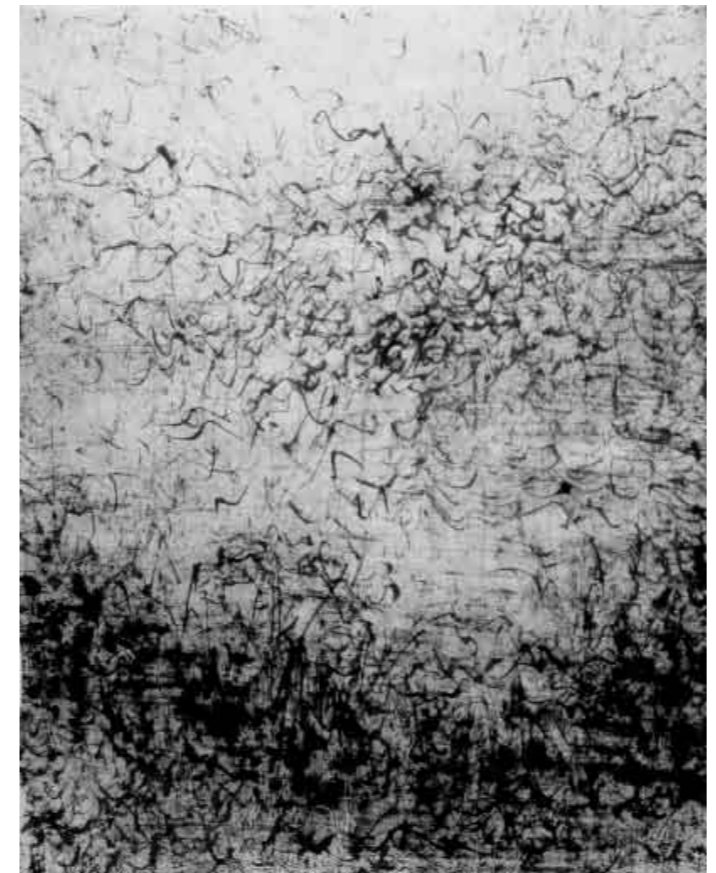
Landscape 风景 2009
ink on paper 纸上水墨 68X54cm



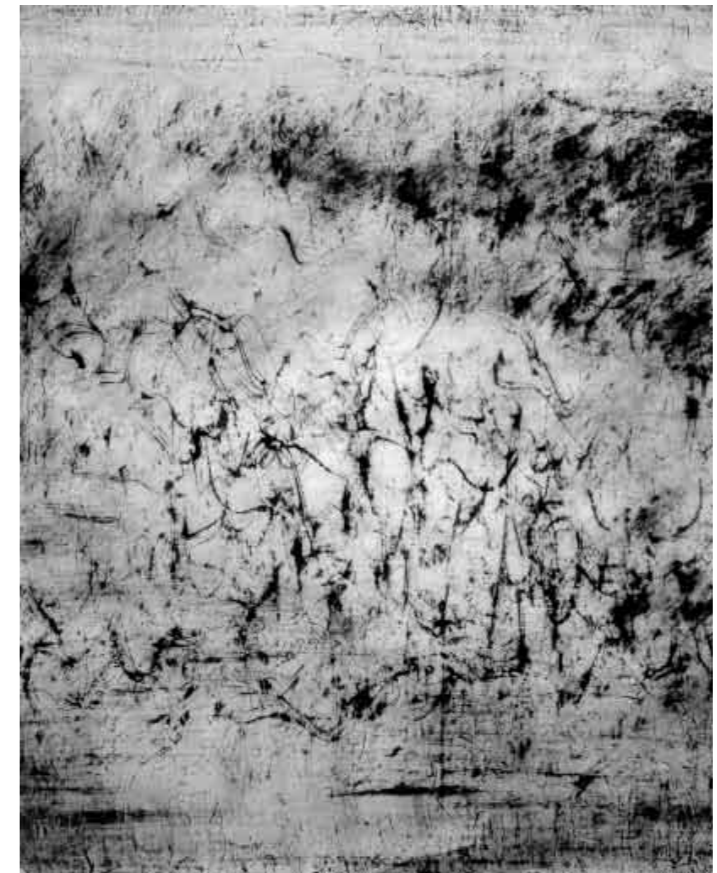
Landscape 风景 2009
ink on paper 纸上水墨 68X54cm



Landscape 风景 2009
ink on paper 纸上水墨 63X52cm



Landscape 风景 2009
ink on paper 纸上水墨 63X52cm



Landscape 风景 2009
ink on paper 纸上水墨 63X52cm



Landscape 风景 2009
ink on paper 纸上水墨 63X52cm