

PRESS RELEASE

ZHAO MENGJUN

LI ZHI

Paintings on canvas and paper

March 23 - May 5, 2018

Preview: March 23, 2018, 7 – 9 pm

The artists will be present

Goethestraße 2-3, 10623 Berlin

Entrance B via the courtyard



Li Zhi, *Suche nach Rast und Ruhe*, 2017.
Courtesy: The artist and Galerie Bernet Bertram

Gallery Bernet Bertram is pleased to announce at the beginning of spring the upcoming exhibition of **Zhao Mengjun** and **Li Zhi** with paintings on canvas and paper. It shows a spectrum of recent works by the two Chinese artists. It introduces into their expressive and magic pictorial worlds, in which intuition, inspiration and concentration come together.

Both artists mostly paint in series in which philosophical attitudes are expressed. Thus, the great images of Li Zhi, who strive for peace and quiet, are like invitations to meditation (*Mondschaten in den Wasserwellen*, *Glücksgebet*, *Im Fluss der Zeit*). They show weathered rocks, misty fairies or elves, statues, monks, rising fog, meditation figures, gurgling water, ancient signs or deep, wide skies. These motifs move unobtrusively through the life of the beholder and at the same time announce a relaxed and tense expectation of the right, present moment, in order to break into new, unknown shores.

Li Zhi's landscapes are an expression of soul landscapes. In his acrylic painting he prefers the colors blue, brown, reds, a warm gray and in the Chinese tradition entirely the gold. The being and the time, the romantic and the introspective, find their way through these colorful form compositions to a harmonious-floating universe in a continuum of space and time.

Li Zhis Landschaften sind Ausdruck von Seelenlandschaften. In seiner Acrylmalerei bevorzugt er die Farben Blau, Braun, Rottöne, ein warmes Grau und ganz in der chinesischen Tradition das Gold. Sein und Zeit, Romantisches und Introspektives finden über diese Farb- und Formkompositionen zu einem harmonisch-schwebendem Ganzen in einem Kontinuum von Raum und Zeit (*Auf der Suche nach Ruhe*).

Feeling, thinking and spiritual sensations are also found in the works of **Zhao Mengjun**. In his colorful abstract-expressive compositions of medium and large format, we recognize both large, fresh gestures that blow the thought-dust out of the brain-box, as well as calligraphic and ornamental structures pick up these traditions of Chinese skillfulness (*Herbsttanz*, *Sommer in Berlin*, *Winterfantasie*). This shows a determination in the brushwork, which releases with great easiness the image space.

Zhao Mengjun:

"Yesterday along with your paintings yesterday is the past tense. Tomorrow you will never know what kind of mood you will have and what kind of work you will create. Today, only today, only now is the only state you can control.



Such principles, taken from the Far Eastern thought, attest to great sincerity and sincerity. Zhao Mengjun also listened to the ducks he has been studying for years.

Therefore, he is also considered the currently most important duck painter in China. The animals, alone or in community, he observes precisely in their drifting in wind and water, between heaven and earth. On large scroll paintings with ink on rice paper, he poetically attributes human-like qualities to them, a symbolic power that is enhanced in combination with the Chinese characters.

Zhao Mengjun, *Ich bin nicht schön, aber sanft*, 2016, 103 x 70 cm

Zhao Mengjun, born in 1961 in Shandong Province, China, studied at the Shandong College of Arts and the Institute of Art and Design of Tsinghua University in Beijing. For 28 years he worked as an art publisher with the Shandong Media Group and is now one of the most respected painters in China. Works by Zhao Mengjun were exhibited at the Chinese National Gallery in Beijing, Seoul (South Korea) and most recently at the Chinese Cultural Center Berlin.

Li Zhi was born in 1964 in Baotou, Inner Mongolia. He studied at Minzu University of Fine Arts in Beijing. In 2008 he curated the "Hundred Meter Long Art" exhibition at the Olympics. In 2011 he founded the "China Abstract Art Gallery". His works have been shown in China, France, Singapore and most recently in the exhibition "Sigh of Soul" in Berlin.

Both artists are represented in large art collections, live and work in China and Berlin.

Special event hosted by the gallery

**Conversation with Zhao Mengjun and Li Zhi. Moderation: Christian Bertram
Thursday, April 12, 2018, 8 pm (in German and Chinese Language)**

Visit us at the art fair

PAPER POSITIONS BERLIN 2018, Jägerstr. 42-44, 10117 Berlin

With Lindy Annis und Jürgen Holtz

April 26, 6 - 9 pm, April 27 and 28, 1 - 8 pm, April 29, 11 am - 6 pm

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Opening hours: Tu - Fr 12 - 6 pm, Sa 12 - 4 pm and by appointment.

Longer opening hours during Gallery Weekend Berlin April 27 - April 29, 2018