



武 晨

Wu Chen

Magician Space is delighted to announce artist Wu Chen's solo exhibition, 'Therefore, the Lonely God Can Only be the Orphan of God,' from October 31 to December 26, 2020.

Among the artworks presented for this exhibition, Wu Chen's paintings revolve around two subject matters: The worldly famous icons in animation films, for instance, Pinocchio in *Pinocchio* (1940), and Casper and his uncles in *Casper* (1996); The other would be the commonplace and everyday items in his art studio, such as painting tools or watermelon. The artist personifies or animates these familiar objects, attributes them with actions, expressions, and distinctive characteristics.

Most of the works on view have been completed in 2020, which implies that these cute and exaggerated figures are born in an extremely chaotic context in real-life, actively participating or passively involved in it. Their innocence, reflected through vivid and colourful hues, can also be interpreted as a stimulating gesture that, together with the artist's brushstrokes, portrays the impetus of their psychological activities, reminiscent of the scarred and slightly corrupted bodies of de Kooning's mature paintings. As such, the boundary between innocence and violence blurs.

Similar to Wu Chen's previous works of art, the ones presented in 'Therefore, the Lonely God Can Only be the Orphan of God' playfully appropriate the classics from art history. The watermelons in *Untitled (Travelers Among Watermelon Hills)* are an apparent extraction from Fan Kuan's *Travelers Among Mountains and Streams* from the Northern Song Dynasty. The red and green watermelon and its 'archetype' contrast in colour and subject matter conceal their structural similarity.

The works in 'Therefore, the Lonely God Can Only be the Orphan of God' appeal to the viewers. The cartoon characters are popular and familiar to the contemporary audience. Wu Chen paints his concerns about politics into a visual script, assigns roles to these 'actors,' and choreographs their body movements and dialogues. The titles he gave to his works on canvas are like the phrases in this narrative, palatable for their interpretation. On the other hand, through various dialogues with the 'archetypes' of the classics in art history, Wu Chen continually hones his paintings' formal language. With which, he threw viewers a conundrum, should one 'read' the narrative in painting, or 'look at' the language of painting? In this game of painting, Wu Chen remains inexhaustibly engaged.

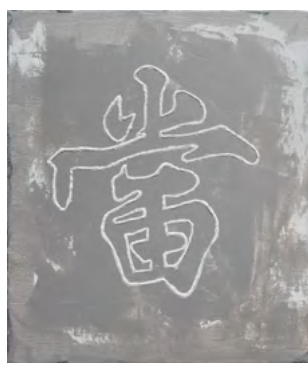
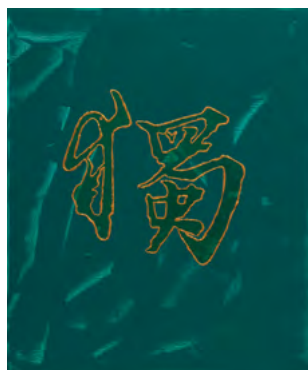
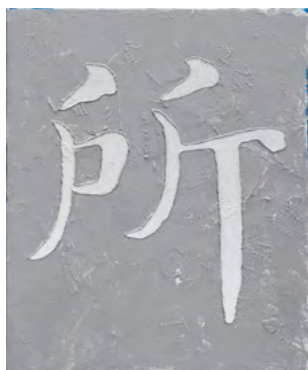
## About the Artist

Wu Chen (b.1983, Henan) currently lives and works in Beijing and Chengdu. His paintings evoke a miscellaneous array of 'artist portraits' and layered references culled from sources as varied as picture handbooks to exquisite illustrations from art history. Layer by layer they undergo a child-like process of distortion and reassembly, causing one to wonder at the morbidity of such a whimsical sense of imagination.

Major solo exhibitions include: *Therefore, the Lonely God Can Only Be the Orphan of God*, Magician Space, Beijing (2020); *Positions Sector*, Art Basel Miami, Miami, USA (2019); *Bad Man Can Also End Up in Heaven*, Magician Space, Beijing (2017); *Matisse's Skirt*, Magician Space, Beijing (2014).

Major group exhibitions include: 2020 – Song Art Invitation Exhibition, Song Art Museum, Beijing (2020); *Traverse Course - 2016 Huayu Youth Award*, Art Sanya, Sanya (2016); The First Dao Jiao New Art Festival, XI Contemporary Art Center, Guangdong (2016); *The 6th Chengdu Biennale*, Chengdu International Conference and Exhibition Centre, Chengdu (2013); *Carousel*, Times Art Museum, Beijing (2011); *The 3rd Terna Contemporary Art Award*, Rome (2010); *Creative M50 Exhibition*, M50 Creative District, Shanghai (2009); *'Jiong' – Expressions and Attitudes: The 3rd Shanghai Duolun Youth Art Exhibition*, Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai (2008); *Youth China: Contemporary Art Exhibition*, Art Museum of University Heidelberg, Heidelberg (2008).





*Untitled*  
2020  
Acrylic on canvas  
60 x 50 cm  
16pcs.





*Untitled (Travelers Among Watermelon Hills)*  
2020  
Acrylic on canvas  
240 x 200 cm









*Untitled (You You, Stop Eating!)*  
2020  
Acrylic on canvas  
220 x 200 cm









*Butt Lovers are Not Bad*  
2020  
Acrylic on canvas  
200 x 150 cm









*'Sorry', Mr Pinocchio Says*  
2020  
Acrylic on canvas  
200 x 150 cm









*Stop Sketching Autumn When Summer Comes*  
2020  
Acrylic on canvas  
200 x 150 cm









*Untitled (Bloodshed on Mandarin Duck Mansion)*  
2019  
Acrylic on canvas  
100 x 80 cm









*Therefore, the Lonely God Can Only be the Orphan of God*  
2020  
Acrylic on canvas  
500 x 240 cm

















*Health, No, Harmful, Smoking, ASAP, Company*  
2020  
Acrylic on canvas  
200 x 150 cm





FAF



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*Untitled (Every Year Begins in Winter)*  
2020  
Acrylic on canvas  
100 x 80 cm









*Triangle, circle, tetragonum, and Casper*  
2019  
Acrylic on canvas  
200 x 300cm









*Untitled (All Thing will Grow Old, Even a Cartoon Figure)*  
2020  
Acrylic on canvas  
200 x 150 cm







Wu Chen

1983 Born in Zhengzhou, Henan Province

2007 Graduated in Painting Major from Southwest Jiaotong University

Currently lives and works in Chengdu and Beijing

Solo Exhibitions

2020 *Therefore, the Lonely God Can Only Be the Orphan of God*, Magician Space, Beijing, CN

2019 Art Basel Miami, Miami, USA

2017 *Bad Man Can Also End Up in Heaven*, Magician Space, Beijing, CN

2014 *Matisse's Skirt*, Magician Space, Beijing, CN

Group Exhibitions

2020 *2020 – Song Art Invitation Exhibition*, Song Art Museum, Beijing, CN  
Art Basel Online Viewing Room, Basel, CH

2019 Beijing Contemporary Art Expo 2019, Beijing, CN  
Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong, CN

2018 West Bund Art & Design, Shanghai, CN  
Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong, CN

2017 Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong, CN

2016 *Traverse·Course - 2016 Huayu Youth Award*, Art Sanya, Sanya, CN  
*The First Dao Jiao New Art Festival*, XI Contemporary Art Center, Guang Dong, CN  
Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong, CN

2015 *Duang! Pa Ta* Gallery, Shanghai, CN  
*The Cabinet of Wonder*, The Cabinet of Wonder, Beijing, CN  
*The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even*, Pekin Gallery, Beijing, CN  
Hong Kong Art Basel, Hong Kong, CN  
Art 021, Shanghai, CN

2013 The 6th Chengdu Biennale, Chengdu International Conference and Exhibition Centre, Chengdu, CN  
*Paper Works*, Hi Art Store, Beijing, CN

2012 *4 min 22 sec*, Southwest Jiaotong University Art Museum, Chengdu, CN

2011 *Amble*, Line Gallery, Beijing, CN  
*Carousel*, Times Art Museum, Beijing, CN

2010 First New Star Art Festival, Chengdu International Conference and Exhibition Centre, Chengdu, CN  
The 3rd Terna Contemporary Art Award, Rome, IT  
*Idealism in Xipu Town*, Southwest Jiaotong University Art Museum, Chengdu, CN

2009 *Creative M50 Exhibition*, M50 Creative District, Shanghai, CN  
The 2nd Xiaozhou Art Festival – 25°Travel Literature in Xiaozhou Village, Guangzhou Independent Film Week, Guangzhou, CN  
“Youth China” Contemporary Art Exhibition, LOFT224 Gallery, FR

2008 *‘Jiong’ – Expressions and Attitudes*, the 3rd Shanghai Duolun Youth Art Exhibition, Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, CN  
“Youth China” Contemporary Art Exhibition, Art Museum of University Heidelberg, Heidelberg, GER

2007 The 3rd Chengdu Biennale – Emerging Artists Feature Exhibition, Chengdu Contemporary Art Gallery, Chengdu, CN

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