



Wu Chen:
The Serious "Wu" and the Mischievous "Chen"

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Curator: Yang Zi

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——Wu Chen

Magician Space is pleased to present Wu Chen's solo exhibition 'The Serious Wu and the Mischievous Chen'. This exhibition is the artist's fourth solo exhibition at Magician Space.

The exhibition is curated by Yang Zi. It showcases the artist's thinking and advancement of painting work since 2023.

The works in this solo exhibition are based on the artist's thoughts on "power". The "power" here mainly refers to the psychological impression that the painting creates on the viewer, rather than mere considerations of physical gravity.

In "A Spell, Dream Hair Salon" (2023), a lying rabbit squashes a watermelon; its buttocks easily lift three pieces of the fruit. The top watermelon says " Dream Hair Salon " in Uyghur. The flowy fonts leisurely pass over the top of the painting, as if to mock the tension between the objects below the painting. In "Three Conflicting Emotions" (2023), the metal block engraved with a fly cracks. It is squeezed tightly within the boundaries of the picture; the gaps are filled with colorful rocks. In "Dangerous Liaison" (2023), the load-bearing structure of the picture is further exposed. The black square in the lower left corner extends all the way to the blue sphere in the upper right corner, diagonally across the white

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area filled with cracked texture. In these paintings, Wu Chen's psychological provocation of the audience has reached its limit: the thrill of approaching and the exhilaration of imaginary objects collapsing extend the sense of duration of the viewing experience. Wu Chen said: "I materialized the spatial relationships in the painting into color blocks and imagined them as toy building blocks. The purpose of stacking the blocks is not to create a stable structure similar to a monument. The most attractive part to me is the moment before the blocks collapse— pulled between stability and instability, doubting stability itself in a stable manner.'

While stimulating and depicting the spiritual power, the artist also gives order to the damage, making the picture logically credible. As mentioned above, he tries to limit the process of creative transformation within the framework of self-growth, allowing his present self to fight against his past self. He slyly avoids the homogeneous issue of Chinese paintings on canvas today: how to deal with the grafting of various cultural heritage contexts. Occasionally, he would take one or two points from these connections, tell a story, and vigilantly maintain his independence and initiative.

As the title of his early work "Portrait of Wu and Chen" foreshadows, Wu Chen is divided and lonely, sometimes lively, sometimes serious, with connections and references, but without connections to rely on.

Wu Chen

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: The Serious "Wu" and the Mischievous "Chen", Magician Space, Beijing (2024); March 32nd, Qiao Space, Shanghai(2023); 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: Zoo | Amusement Park, Cloud Art Museum, Shenzhen (2023); Nián Nián: The Power and Agency of Animal Forms, Deji Art Museum, Nanjing, CN (2023) ; BOOMERANG–OCAT Biennale 2021, OCAT Shenzhen, Shenzhen (2021); 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).

Museum and Public Collections: White Rabbit Contemporary Chinese Art Collection, AUS; Museum of Contemporary Art Chengdu, CN; K11 Art Foundation, CN; SSSSTART, CN; Beijing 798 Art Foundation, CN.

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Exhibition view

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Exhibition view



Three Conflicting Emotions
2023
Acrylic on canvas, crackle paste, oil pastels
200 x 220 cm

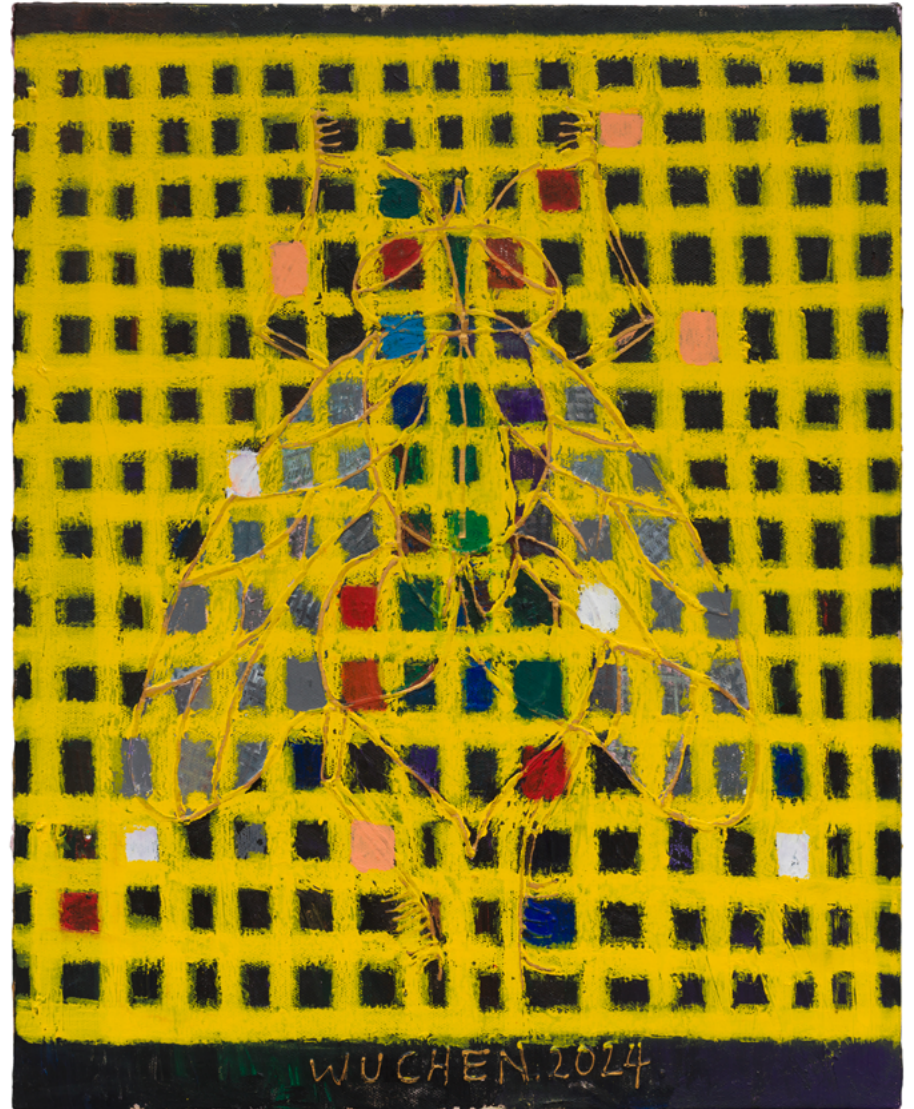
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The Game Is Not Over
2023
Acrylic on canvas, oil pastels
200 x 150 cm



Untitled (The Expensive Fly)
2024
Acrylic on canvas, oil pastels
60 x 50 cm



Untitled (Abstract Training)
2024
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 50 cm



Untitled (Artist Head Portrait Practice)
2024
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 50 cm

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Exhibition view



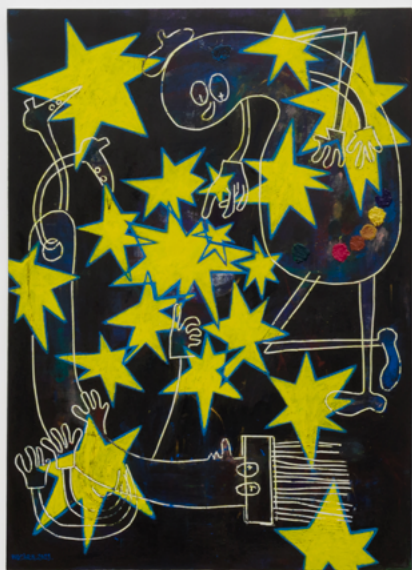
Sunrise or Sunset
2023
Acrylic on canvas, markers, oil pastels
200 x 150 cm

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Dangerous Liaison
2023
Acrylic on canvas, oil pastels, crackle paste
200 x 150 cm

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Exhibition view

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Golden Time
2023
Acrylic on canvas, oil pastels
200 x 150 cm





Self Portrait (Blessing)
2023
Acrylic on canvas
150 x 135 cm

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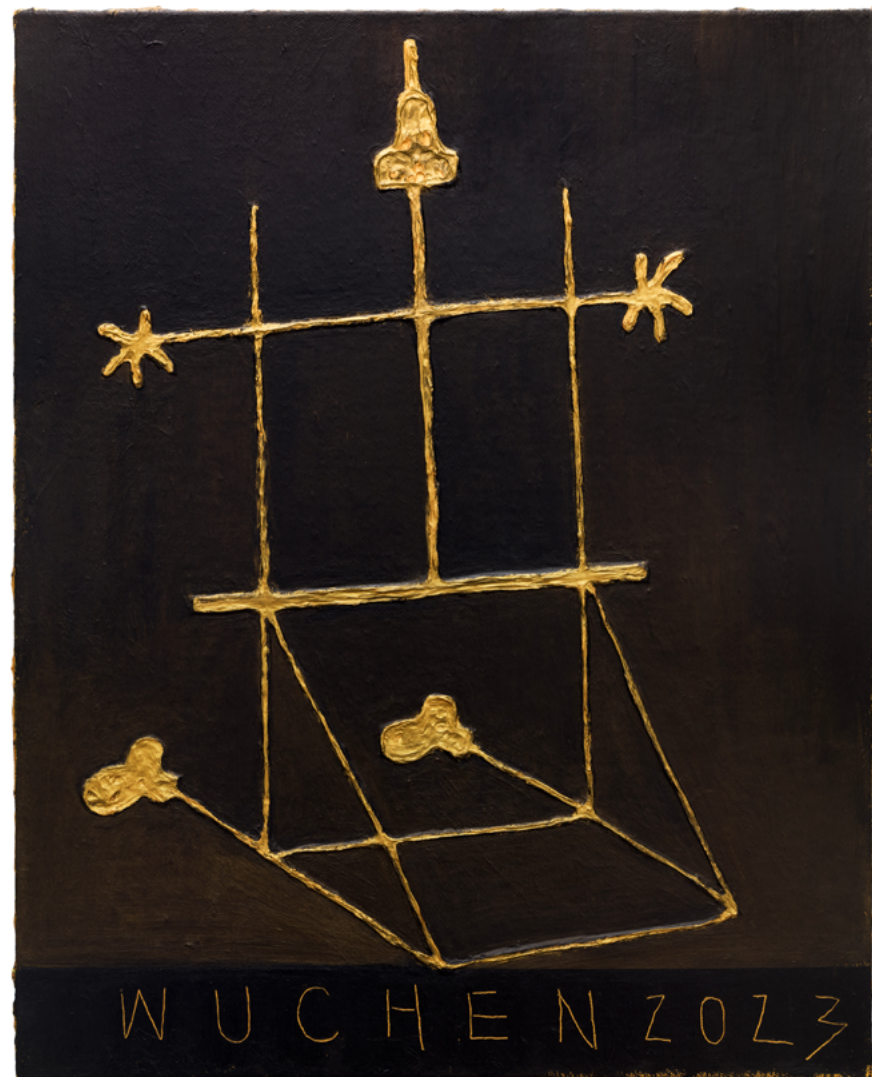


Exhibition view

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Nebula#0812
2024
Acrylic on canvas
200 x 150 cm





Untitled (1808.5.3)
2024
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 50 cm

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Exhibition view



Untitled (Mani Stones)
2023
Acrylic on canvas, ink, oil pastels
200 x 150 cm





Exhibition view

A Spell, Dream Hair Salon
2023
Acrylic on canvas, crackle paste, oil pastels
300 x 200 cm





Self Portrait (Clubs 3)
2023
Acrylic on canvas, crackle paste, oil pastels
220 x 180 cm

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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

2024 *The Serious Wu and the Mischievous Chen*, Magician Space, Beijing, CN
2023 *March Thirty Second*, Qiao Space, Shanghai, CN
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

2023 *Zoo | Amusement Park*, Cloud Art Museum, Shenzhen, CN
2021 *BOOMERANG- OCAT Biennale 2021*, OCAT Shenzhen, Shenzhen, CN
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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