# *Ink*

MICHAEL GOEDHUIS

# *Ink*

Ink painting, as we presented in our exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery in 2012, is widely recognised as an integral part of the foundation-stone of Chinese civilisation and its contemporary manifestations, though very diverse, draw freely from the classical canon. The works illustrated in this collection demonstrate the continuation of China's ancient commitment to seeking cultural renewal through the reinterpretation of historical models.

Writing, or calligraphy, is China's most profound and ubiquitous form of artistic expression and has long been a fertile terrain for artistic experimentation, as seen here in the works by Qiu Zhijie and Wei Ligang. Abstraction is part of, and the outgrowth from, calligraphy and here there are powerful examples of this eternal bond in the works by Qin Feng and Lo Ch'ing. Landscape imagery has been used for more than a thousand years to promulgate Chinese moral standards and in this collection paintings by Yang Yanping, Wang Tiande and Yao Jui-chung illustrate how modern artists are examining the symbolic potential of landscape imagery to describe the vast transformation of modern society in China. More overt commentary on society is embodied in figurative works by Li Jin and Qiu Jie.

The theme of this collection then is to show how innovative and audacious the best of these exponents are. Just as Cézanne and Picasso assimilated the work of Raphael, Poussin, Velázquez and other old masters in order to develop their own revolutionary language, so the ink painters in China and elsewhere are grappling with the same challenge - how to express the transformation of their society into works that are meaningful, precisely because they take account of the past in order to make sense of the present.

MICHAEL GOEDHUIS
61 Cadogan Square, London SW1X 0HZ
Tel. +44 (0)20 7823 1395 - www.michaelgoedhuis.com - london@michaelgoedhuis.com

DESIGN *Paola Gribaudo* - PRINT *Litho Art New, Italy*

**Qin Feng**

Born in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in 1961, Qin Feng is an iconoclastic artist who is actively engaged in China's avant-garde art movement. From 1996 to 1999, Qin Feng taught at the Berlin University of Art while further exploring the possibilities of synthesizing modernism and the Ink Painting tradition. He moved to the United States in 1999 and now works between Boston and Beijing. He has demonstrated great versatility over the years but his most convincing work are paintings where he brushes ink on numerous layers of xuan paper which have been previously dyed with tea and coffee – a metaphorical gesture of two cultures blending together. His fluid style relates to Abstract Expressionism and is a persuasive manifestation of the vitality of the calligraphic tradition.

Qin Feng, *Desire Scenery Series 0009*, 2012
Ink, coffee and tea on paper
78 3/4 x 49 1/4 in (200 x 125 cm)

秦风, 欲望风景 0009, 2012
宣纸－水墨－茶
78 3/4 x 49 1/4 in (200 x 125 cm)

MICHAEL GOEDHUIS
61 Cadogan Square, London SW1X 0HZ
Tel. +44 (0)20 7823 1395 - www.michaelgoedhuis.com - london@michaelgoedhuis.com

**Yang Yanping**

Born in Nanjing in 1934, Yang Yanping is one of the most distinguished (and successful) ink painters from China. She studied at Tsinghua University and subsequently graduated from the Oil Painting Department of the Beijing Art Academy. Since 1986 she and her husband Zeng Shanqing, also an accomplished and famous ink painter, have lived in America having been awarded a fellowship from Stony Brook University. Yang is well versed in many traditional styles but excels in depicting the lotus flower – a symbol of purity, transience, the fragility of nature and the potential for regeneration. For Yang, what matters most are the ideals of high visual quality and an artistic autonomy that allows her to embrace modernism without jettisoning the classical Chinese world of high culture.

Yang Yanping, *Glorious Autumn*, 2012
Ink and colour on paper
48 x 96 1/2 in (123 x 245 cm)

杨燕屏, 秋华, 2012
纸本水墨设色
48 x 96 1/2 in (123 x 245 cm)

MICHAEL GOEDHUIS
61 Cadogan Square, London SW1X 0HZ
Tel. +44 (0)20 7823 1395 - www.michaelgoedhuis.com - london@michaelgoedhuis.com

**Liu Dan**

Born in Nanjing in 1953, Liu Dan has emerged as one of the most gifted and distinguished of a particularly talented generation. He deeply studied the Confucian classics, poetry, painting and calligraphy from an early age in China and then moved to America where he also studied western art and came to full maturity as an artist. Liu Dan's ink paintings, whether of landscape, scholar's rocks or old cypress trees, are all fastidiously conceived, complex works which highlight underlying compositional structure over virtuoso expressions of ostentatious brushwork. His early immersion in Chinese classical civilisation, his experience as a discriminating collector of antiquities and his long exposure to western aesthetics in the United States are all elements that have contributed to his very sophisticated and personal style.

Liu Dan, *Tinkling of Jade-Pendants*, 2008
Ink on paper
84 3/4 x 59 in (215 x 150 cm)

刘丹, 玉玲珑, 2008
纸本水墨
84 3/4 x 59 in (215 x 150 cm)

MICHAEL GOEDHUIS
61 Cadogan Square, London SW1X 0HZ
Tel. +44 (0)20 7823 1395 - www.michaelgoedhuis.com - london@michaelgoedhuis.com

**Qiu Deshu**

Born in Shanghai in 1948, Qiu Deshu is one of the very few artists on the mainland to have received international recognition since the 1980s. He studied ink painting and seal carving as a child, but his career was interrupted by the Cultural Revolution when he was sent to work in a plastics factory. In the late 1970s, he picked up painting again and co-founded the avant-garde Grass Painting Society (*Caocao huashe*), one of China's first experimental art groups of the post-Mao era. It was during this period that he developed his signature style – "fissuring". This concept is a pictorial metaphor for the artist's life and career both of which have experienced dramatic disruptions and set-backs. In these works, the pictorial field is criss-crossed with the 'cracks' which are symbolic of life's journey.

Qiu Deshu, *Fissuring - Plum Blossoms*, 2004
Acrylic on paper and canvas
Each panel: 70 3/4 x 35 1/2 in (180 x 90 cm)

仇德树, 裂变：梅花, 2004
画布－纸本－丙烯
Each panel: 70 3/4 x 35 1/2 in (180 x 90 cm)

MICHAEL GOEDHUIS
61 Cadogan Square, London SW1X 0HZ
Tel. +44 (0)20 7823 1395 - www.michaelgoedhuis.com - london@michaelgoedhuis.com

**Yao Jui-chung**

Yao Jui-chung, born in Taipei in 1969, is now recognised as one of the most innovative Chinese artists of his generation. His work runs against the current of most of the mainstream avant-garde in its unabashed delight in producing for the viewer a visual experience that is beautiful as well as intellectually provocative. He is also a curator, art critic and historian as well as having experimented with photography, installation, performance and video. He continues to teach at Taipei National University of the Arts and represented Taiwan at the Venice Biennale in 1997.

Yao Jui-chung, *Dreamy: Dreaming My Baby* 2011
Ink with gold leaf on hand made paper
79 x 32 3/4 in (201 x 83 cm)

姚瑞中, 梦幻：梦见我的婴儿 2011
手制纸－水墨－金箔
79 x 32 3/4 in (201 x 83 cm)

MICHAEL GOEDHUIS
61 Cadogan Square, London SW1X 0HZ
Tel. +44 (0)20 7823 1395 - www.michaelgoedhuis.com - london@michaelgoedhuis.com

**Qiu Jie**

Born in Shanghai in 1961, Qiu Jie learned painting by copying illustrations of the Red Guards in newspapers. He graduated from the School of Decorative Arts in Shanghai in 1981 and moved to study in Geneva in 1989. Drawing therefore from both western and eastern traditions, Qiu uses graphite pencil and paper to express his concern about the life experience of the generation in China which went through the Cultural Revolution. His precisely realistic style connects his accomplished draftsmanship with the style of propaganda posters from the Cultural Revolution era in works inspired by the art of the Northern Renaissance in Flanders.

Qiu Jie, *Lijiang*, 2011
Graphite on paper
47 1/4 x 55 in (120 x 140 cm)

邱节, 丽江, 2011
纸本石墨
47 1/4 x 55 in (120 x 140 cm)

MICHAEL GOEDHUIS
61 Cadogan Square, London SW1X 0HZ
Tel. +44 (0)20 7823 1395 - www.michaelgoedhuis.com - london@michaelgoedhuis.com