

## **Spectacle - Lv Shanchuan**

**May 26th - July 2nd, 2016**

**Opening Reception: Thursday, May 26th, 6-8pm  
G/F, 248 Hollywood Road, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong**



*Admiralty*, oil on canvas, 180 x 280 cm, 2015

(Hong Kong, May, 2016) Contemporary by Angela Li is proud to present “Spectacle”, Chinese artist Lv Shanchuan’s first solo exhibition in Hong Kong. The exhibition showcases seven new oil paintings from his latest *Agora* series. Lv graduated from the department of Oil Painting at Central Academy of Fine Art in 1997, and currently lives and works in Beijing. Following his studies in Germany in 2005, he started using images from the news to look into the connections between different social incidents and investigate the political and social ideologies that shape different relationships within today’s societies. Layer by layer, the artist reinterprets news of the past and present with thick paint on the canvases. When viewed up close, the paintings give a sense of chaos. Yet when the viewer steps back and looks at

them from afar, there is remarkable reasoning and order behind all this apparent disorder, and this reasoning and order are the core drivers of the paintings.

The word “spectacle” originates from the book *Society of the Spectacle* by French philosopher Guy Debord (1931-1994). In the book, the “spectacles” are not actual views of societies; rather, they are the reinterpreted, or even at times manipulated visual representations of such. A “spectacle”, according to Debord, is the obstruction of reality, with speculative performances which cause the majority to be controlled by some minorities. This “society of spectacle” is heavily reliant on visuals and images, and the modern society in which human interaction is replaced by the spread of such images, concealing the reality underneath.

Renowned Chinese art critic He Guiyan commented that Lv neither directly copies images from the news nor recreates them in a simple manner. On the contrary, he decodes and reorganises them, and in the process he shows his subjective views and, more importantly, isolates these visual images and recreates them into new social landscapes. In He’s views, “Lv in fact transformed the contents of the news images into certain kinds of spectacles, and scenes which deliver certain meanings in sociology terms.”

“Agora” (the Greek word for “Square”), an important theme in this exhibition, doubles as the title of Lv’s most distinctive works of “spectacles”. There is an undertone of grief in this series, a continuation in the artist’s previous explorations in the relationships within public spaces and social incidents. The thick paint solidifying on the canvases, with each work weighing up to a hundred pounds, unfold dramatically his interpretations of the spectacular views of societies right in front of our eyes.

### **About the Artist**

Lv Shanchuan (b.1969, Fujian, China) graduated from the department of Fine Art at the Fujian Normal University in 1992 and completed his postgraduate studies at the Central Academy of Fine Art in 1997. He taught at the Fujian Normal University from 1992 to 2009, and went to Germany on the Sino-German Cultural Exchange Scholarship for further studies in 2005. He currently lives and works in Beijing.

Lv has held solo exhibitions and participated in group shows throughout China, Asia, Europe and the USA. Previous important exhibitions include: "*China 8 – Chinese Contemporary Art Exhibition*" (Germany, 2015), "*Epoch Writing: Chinese Contemporary Art Invitation Exhibition / The First Round*" (Epoch Art Museum, Wenzhou, 2015), "*The Unknown State*" (Beijing, 2015), "*Events 2008 – with China*" (Today Art Museum, Beijing, 2014), "*The 9<sup>th</sup> Florence Biannual Exhibition – Ethics as the DNA of Art*" (Italy, 2013), "*In Contemporary – China Fine Arts Biannual Exhibition*" (Beijing, 2012), and "*The 8<sup>th</sup> Shanghai Biannual Exhibition*" (Shanghai, 2010). His works have been collected by the National Art Museum of China, Shanghai Museum of Art, Chengdu Museum of Contemporary Art, King Kuei Art Foundation and other international public institutions.

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**Works in the Exhibition**



*Night View*, Oil on canvas, 140 x 180 cm, 2015



*Great Hall*, Oil on canvas, 110 x 150 cm, 2015



*Rome*, Oil on canvas, 110 x 150 cm, 2015



*India – Gujarat*, Oil on canvas, 110 x 150 cm, 2015



*Paris*, Oil on canvas, 110 x 150 cm, 2015



*Shwedagon Pagoda*, Oil on canvas, 90 x 120 cm, 2015

Image credit: Courtesy of the Artist and Contemporary by Angela Li

# CONTEMPORARY BY ANGELA LI

## About Contemporary by Angela Li

Contemporary by Angela Li is dedicated to the promotion of contemporary and avant-garde artists from China, Hong Kong and worldwide. Since its establishment in 2008, the gallery has gained considerable attention and has become one of Hong Kong's top galleries for contemporary art. The gallery has held successful exhibitions for Chen Jiagang, Chen Wenling, Li Hongbo, Mo Yi, Tony Oursler, Georgia Russell, Shi Jindian, Peter Steinhauer, Martin Wehmer, Wong Hau Kwei, Nancy Chu Woo and Ye Funa, to name a few. In January 2013, the gallery moved to a bigger space at the trendiest part of Hollywood Road, with over 2,000 square feet of newly renovated exhibition space. The gallery's carefully curated exhibition programme consistently challenges and brings surprises to the local and international art scene.



Gallery Exterior, Contemporary by Angela Li  
Image: Courtesy of Contemporary by Angela Li

## Contemporary by Angela Li

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Opening Hours : Mon – Sat 10.00 am – 6.30 pm  
Sun & Public Holidays Closed

