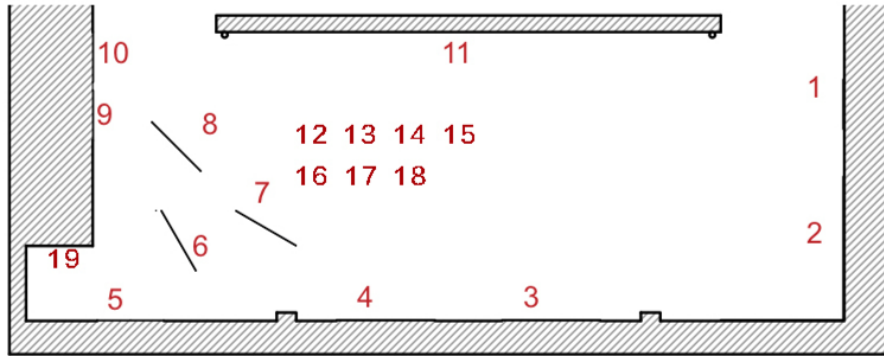


Chen Dongfan: Sanctuary

Gallery Guide



1. A Baroque Portrait 巴洛克风格的肖像, 2019. acrylic enamel on paper, 36" X 40.5"
2. The Sanctuary Club 庇护所俱乐部, 2020. Interactive blackboard; chalk; acrylic enamel on mirror, various dimensions
3. Qi 不可名状的一团气, 2019. Acrylic enamel on canvas, 71" X 84"
4. Art of the Fugue 2 赋格的艺术 2, 2019. Acrylic enamel on canvas, 71" X 84"
5. The House that Woke from Death 可以死而复生的房子, 2019. Acrylic enamel on paper, 48" X 63"
6. The Bleeding Boxer 流血的拳击手, 2019. Acrylic enamel on paper, 50" X 100"
7. Chinese Myth Practice 1 中国神话练习 1, 2019. Acrylic enamel on paper, 50" X 98"
8. The Stone-Picking God 捡石头的神, 2019. Acrylic enamel on paper, 50" X 80"
9. The Dark Forest 3 黑暗森系列林 3, 2019. Acrylic enamel on paper, 36" X 63"
10. The Dark Forest 2 黑暗森林系列 2, 2019. Acrylic enamel on paper, 36" X 63"
11. Art of the Fugue 1 赋格的艺术 1, 2020. Acrylic enamel on canvas, 372" X 84" (31' X 7")
- 12.- 18. Chinese Myth Practice 2-8 中国神话练习 2-8, 2020. Enamel on transparencies, 25" X 25"
19. Chinese Myth Practice 9 中国神话练习 9, 2020. Enamel on transparencies, 25" X 25"

Outside the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall:

Sun Yat-sen Road in Color 彩色的中山路, 2020. Site-specific mural, roughly commensurate with Art of the Fugue 1 赋格的艺术 1

The Yeh Art Gallery is located on the Queens campus of St. John's University in the historic Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall at 8000 Utopia Parkway, Queens, NY, 11439.

Chen Dongfan: Sanctuary

January 30–May 1, 2020 (Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 10AM-5PM and Saturday, 11AM-5PM)

For his first institutional solo exhibition in New York, artist Chen Dongfan set himself two primary challenges: to paint in exuberant monochrome—a radical departure from his prior opulent colors, and to respond to the uncanny confluence of geopolitical circumstances that shaped the history of the Yeh Art Gallery. Housed in a distinctly traditional Chinese architectural compound on the idyllic campus of a Catholic university, the venue was constructed through funds provided by Taiwan’s Chiang Kai-Shek administration in the 1970s and features such anachronistic juxtapositions as a larger-than-life statue of Confucius and wood panels from the Republic of China's 1964/65 World's Fair pavilion.

For Chen, the “sanctuary” evokes the sacred preciousness as well as the emotional and communal resonance of both a personal creative space and a memorial hall. This multi-faceted project will encompass a site-specific commission on the walkway outside Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall, a performance developed in collaboration with the electronic music duo Shanghai Restoration Project on February 22, and an ensemble of large-scale black and white paintings in the gallery. The newly created paintings draw on parameters intimately linked to Chen creative life: science fiction (LIU Cixin’s acclaimed *The Three Body* trilogy; Carl Abbot's treatise *Imagining Urban Futures*), Bach's fugues, figures of classical and urban legends, among others. The artist hopes to reconcile “a calligraphic energy with the destructive potency of graffiti.” Alongside this ensemble, the main Yeh Art Gallery space will also feature an interactive component, *The Sanctuary Club*: a blackboard on which Chen intends to sketch sporadic images and notes. Visitors are invited to respond to these markings and leave their own. During the collaborative performance with the Shanghai Restoration Project, Chen will blend all prior images on the board with new, spontaneous ones.

Art of the Fugue, the longest scroll in the gallery space, mirrors the scale of Chen’s site-specific mural on the walkway leading towards the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall, in which the Gallery is nested. Chen's site-specific mural builds on the success of his New York Times lauded project *The Song of Dragon and Flowers*, a 4800 square foot mural that snaked through Doyers Street in New York's Chinatown. Executed in vibrant hues, the *Sun Yat Sen Road in Color* mural echoes one of Sun’s most famous couplets, in which colors perform metaphors for cosmic energy and revolutionary force: “the white-hot rainbow thrusts through the sun; purple clouds fill the sky.” The sanctuary hence folds the artist’s private creative space, catholic spirituality, and revolutionary ghost into one singular imaginary.

This exhibition is curated by Xin WANG.

Curatorial support: from Inna Xu and Owen Duffy. Exhibition design: Jiali XUAN.

CHEN Dongfan (b. 1982 in Shandong province, China) earned his B.F.A. in 2008 from the China Academy of Art, Hangzhou. Known for his expressive, color-popping compositions, the artist has also created large-scale public art projects worldwide, including: *Uncertain* (Hangzhou, 2010); *Where Is The Happiness?* (Hangzhou, 2011); *Dream* (Turin, 2011); and *Live Before You Die* (Athens, 2016); all of which are permanent installations. In Summer 2018, Chen was selected to realize a site-specific public art project, co-presented by NYCDOT and Chinatown Partnership, on Doyers Street in New York. The street mural, titled *The Song of Dragon and Flowers*, covered the asphalt pavement of the entire 200-foot-long street to much public acclaim and wide media coverage. Chen moved to New York in 2014, where he continues to live and work.

Thursday, January 30 from 4-7PM: Opening Reception

Saturday, February 22 at 4PM: Performance with Shanghai Restoration Project

Press contact: Dan Schwartz (danschwar@gmail.com) **#ChenDongfanSanctuary**