

# HAUSER & WIRTH

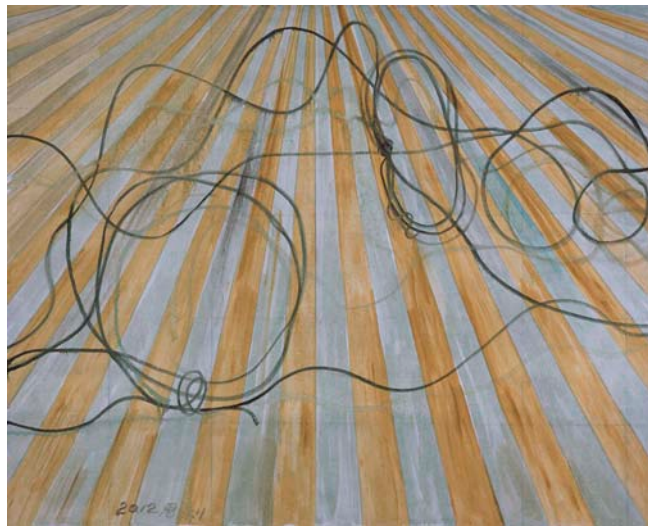
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Press Release

## Zhang Enli Topology

Hauser & Wirth Zürich  
27 October – 22 December 2012  
Opening: Friday 26 October 6 – 8 pm

Zhang Enli is known for his subdued paintings of ordinary objects: pipes and hoses, empty shelves, tiled walls and tangled wires. Yet through his skillful treatment of the medium, these seemingly objective depictions of everyday items transform into captivating portraits that redefine the meaning and interpretation of their subject. For his first exhibition in Switzerland since his critically acclaimed solo presentation at Kunsthalle Bern in 2009, Zhang Enli will present 'Topology' at Hauser & Wirth Zürich, featuring 20 new large-scale paintings.



Set against a neutral background or, in the case of 'The Wire (2)', the sloping perspective of a yellow and blue striped floor, simple, black wires come alive on Zhang Enli's new canvases as they unravel and dance across the picture plane. These works combine Zhang Enli's characteristic handling of paint – a series of thin applications that are left to bleed across the surface of the canvas – with a new-found confidence evidenced in the fluidity and lyricism of his lines.



The undulating curves and twisting shapes of the wire are sharply contrasted by the superimposed rigid grid, which divides the canvas up into calculated segments as a painting aid. The conspicuousness of the grid removes these works from the European still-life tradition of mimesis and instead embraces the act of painting.

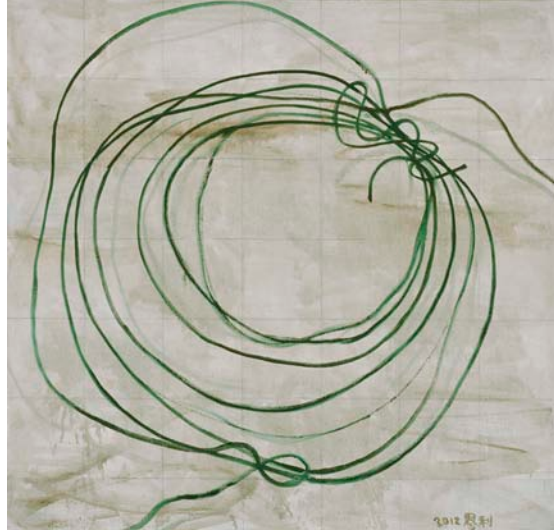
Zhang Enli's 'Cargo' series presents a significant departure from his previous works. Each painting depicts a heaving bulk of cargo in a white cover, held down by a tangle of netting. The cargo fills the space of the canvas with its imposing mass, pushing through the ropes that contain it. Unlike his previous works that feature commonplace objects easily recognisable to any viewer, Zhang Enli gives no intimation as to what is concealed beneath the cover. However, similar to his earlier paintings, these works are completely removed of any context. The viewer is left to guess if the cargo they are seeing has

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just arrived, or is preparing to depart. It is this state of uncertainty and this world of perpetual flux that has captivated Zhang Enli for many years, and continues to do so today.

Zhang Enli was born in 1965 in the province of Jilin in China. In 1989, he graduated from the Arts & Design Institute of Wuxi Technical University and relocated to Shanghai to teach at the Arts and Design Institute of Donghua University, a transition that greatly affected his artistic practice and the evolution of his painting.

Zhang Enli's paintings have been featured in numerous important exhibitions, including solo exhibitions at Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2011); Hauser & Wirth New York NY (2011); Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2010); and Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, England (2009), a presentation which travelled to Kunsthalle Bern, Berne, Switzerland (2009). Zhang Enli's work was also featured in 'On Contemporary Era – The First Chinese Oil Painting Biennial', The National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China (2012); 'The 6th Curitiba Biennial: Beyond the Crisis', Instituto Paranaense de Arte, Curitiba, Brazil (2011) and '10,000 Lives. The Eighth Gwangju Biennale', Gwangju, Korea (2010).



### Forthcoming exhibitions:

**Phyllida Barlow**  
5 November – 22 December 2012  
Hauser & Wirth New York

**Isa Genzken**  
15 November – 12 January 2013  
Hauser & Wirth London, Savile Row

**Jakub Julian Ziolkowski**  
January – March 2013  
Hauser & Wirth Zürich

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The Wire (2)  
2012  
Oil on canvas  
200 x 250 cm / 78 3/4 x 98 3/8 in

The Cargo (2)  
2012  
Oil on canvas  
230 x 280 cm / 90 1/2 x 110 1/4 in

A Roll of Wires  
2012  
Oil on canvas  
200 x 210 cm / 78 3/4 x 82 5/8 in