

Xu Zhen®: Zoning Out

ShanghART | Press Release

Opening: Nov.8, 2022

Duration: Nov.8, 2022 – Feb.5, 2023 (11 am – 6pm, Mon. Closed)

Location: ShanghART Shanghai, West Bund, Bldg. 10, 2555 Longteng Avenue, Xuhui District, Shanghai, China

www.shanghgart.com

ShanghART Shanghai is honored to present Xu Zhen®'s solo exhibition "Zoning Out" on Nov.8, 2022, featuring Xu Zhen®'s latest painting series, "Passion". This series continues Xu's interests in various propositions including new technologies, excess knowledge and information, human intellectual evolution, as well as his constant exploration of the diversity of creative media. This exhibition is a highly sensitive and brand-new expansion of the artist's visual creation in the context of the post-global era.

"Zoning Out" is a brand new scene created for the "SIGNAL" project. Viewers will enter a hall full of paintings. All the paintings are firing messages excitedly, cutting the viewer's gaze. "In the age of the Internet, people are zoning out on the phone incessantly. Everything is considered impermanent. Therefore, there are countless crossroads of action that lead to everywhere, no idea what will come about next moment."¹ - "Zoning Out" is a celebration and a rehearsal of this reality. In the "Passion" paintings, each work is such a crossroads. The swiping fingers on the screen are of the same nature as the flurry of brushes on the canvas – they are both confident, greedy, and blind. The artist uses the brushes like a severe phone user to find new possibilities and directions in it.

The exhibition works as a physical presentation of the contemporary art project "SIGNAL" initiated by Xu Zhen. The artist gives as a gift one of his "Passion" paintings to the global audience, and each recipient is invited to display the painting they receive on their social media accounts. A long-term, unceasing "art exhibition" will thus take place on Internet media platforms. The project has landed in Indonesia, Singapore, and China since 2022. It aims to send the signal of art to people around the world and share with them the future of art.

About the artist

Xu Zhen, artist, curator, MadeIn Company founder. He was born in 1977, and lives and works in Shanghai. In 2004, Xu Zhen won the prize for "Best Artist" at the China Contemporary Art Award. As the youngest Chinese artist, Xu Zhen participated in the 49th Venice Biennale in 2001. XU ZHEN®, founded by artist Xu Zhen in 2013, is the flagship art brand of MadeIn Company. XU ZHEN® is committed to art creation and cutting-edge culture development. Through collecting and appreciating artworks and events produced by XU ZHEN®, users can enjoy spiritual aspirations and life experiences of the finest quality.

Xu Zhen has exhibited internationally, at museums and biennales, such as the Venice Biennale (2001, 2005), The Museum of Modern Art (New York, 2004), Mori Art Museum (Tokyo, 2005), MoMA PS1 (New York, 2006), Tate Liverpool (2007), Lyon Biennial (2013), Long Museum (Shanghai 2015), Sydney Biennial (2016), Guggenheim Museum (New York, 2017), Museum of Contemporary Art (Los Angeles, 2019), National Gallery of Australia (Canberra, 2020), among others. The works of XU ZHEN® are collected by Centre Pompidou, Daimler Art Collection, Foundation Louis Vuitton pour la Creation, White Rabbit Contemporary Chinese Art Collection, Astrup Fearnley Museum, The UBS Art Collection, and DSL Collection.