

GLADSTONE GALLERY

Guo Fengyi Joins Gladstone Gallery

Gladstone Gallery is pleased to announce the representation of Chinese artist Guo Fengyi (1942 – 2010). The Gallery will present its first exhibition with Guo Fengyi in the fall of 2019 in New York.

Born in 1942 in Xi'an, China, Guo was a self-trained artist who did not begin her artistic career until the latter portion of her life. Guo worked at a rubber factory until the age of 39, when she developed severe arthritis that forced her into early retirement. As a way of alleviating pain and hoping to continue working with her hands, Guo started to practice qigong, a Chinese system of physical exercise and breath control connected to tai chi. While engaging in qigong, Guo would enter into a hallucinatory state of being that prompted a series of transcendent visualizations. Guo would attempt to capture the figures she saw on various scrolls, both small and large scale. This practice of artmaking helped Guo connect her mind and body, an exercise much like the Surrealist practice of automatic drawing, which was developed in Europe during the early 20th century.

After years of showing her work throughout mainland China, Guo began to receive international recognition for her artistic practice through a series of important museum exhibitions and collaborations, at venues and festivals, including the Gwangju Biennial (2010); The Museum of Everything, London (2009); Mori Art Museum, Japan (2009); Kunsthaus Graz, Austria (2007); Shenzhen Biennial (2006); Taipei Biennale (2005); Yokohama Triennial, Japan (2005); Prague International Biennale of Contemporary Art (2005); and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Lyon, France (2004). In 2002, Guo worked with Judy Chicago on a multi-venue event for Long March Project.

Guo's works depict a series of elaborately drawn characters, such as dragons, mythological figures, ornately dressed humans that embodied both humanoid and otherworldly qualities. Designed with exacting details and vibrant colors, these whimsical subjects also connected to Guo's research of *I Ching* (*Book of Changes* in English), an ancient Chinese divination text and the oldest of the Chinese classics. The subjects she imagined relate to traditional Chinese systems of thought, namely cosmology, divination, acupuncture energy maps, sage kings, geomancy and dynastic grave sites, all of which have become dispensable in a modernizing China.

After her death in 2010, the Contemporary Art Gallery in Vancouver, Canada organized the first North American survey of Guo's work that opened in 2012. Other group exhibition venue highlights after her passing include The Museum of Old and New Art, Tasmania, Australia (2017); Kunsthal Rotterdam (2016); Carnegie International, Carnegie Museum of Art (2013); Hayward Gallery, London (2013); The 55th Venice Biennale (2013); and the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco (2012).

On Gladstone's representation of Guo, Barbara Gladstone notes, "We are thrilled to have this opportunity to work with Guo Fengyi. Guo is still a relatively unknown artist in both Western and Eastern art history, and we are excited to help tell her incredible story and continue exploring the important legacy she left behind." Gladstone Gallery will represent her work in collaboration with Long March Space in Beijing, China.

For further information, please contact Andrew Huff: ahuff@gladstonegallery.com