

2020,



Contemporary Art



Zhang

Kexin

A Solo Exhibition

by

張可欣



www.srisasantisyndicate.com

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Kami dengan bangga mempersembahkan 2020, CONTEMPORARY ART BY ZHANG KEXIN, pameran tunggal Zhang Kexin bersama Srisasanti Syndicate. Kami bergembira telah dapat bekerja sama dalam program ini dengan seseorang yang memiliki perjalanan yang menarik di kancah seni Tiongkok, Asia Tenggara, dan global.

Zhang Kexin sering dikenal sebagai seniman nomaden, seseorang yang mendalami karir seninya sambil berkeliling dunia, mengembara dan membaur dengan tempat, orang, dan lingkungan baru. Gaya hidup nomaden ini telah membentuknya menjadi seniman yang selalu berkomitmen dan setia pada gaya artistik tersebut. Karyanya selalu berubah, mirip dengan gaya hidup nomadennya yang menuntut perubahan konstan dan kemampuan beradaptasi; terkadang karya seninya bisa menunjukkan kepatuhan, di lain waktu bisa menunjukkan niat memberontak. Melalui pengalaman terbarunya dalam menghadapi ketidakpastian di tahun 2020, ia kemudian dapat mengamati, menyelidiki, dan mempresentasikan perspektifnya tentang dinamika di lingkungannya saat ini dan dunia kita secara jujur.

Dalam 2020, CONTEMPORARY ART, Zhang Kexin merenungkan bagaimana manusia, masyarakat dan negara telah dipengaruhi dengan kebutuhan untuk beradaptasi dengan cara hidup baru yang belum pernah terjadi sebelumnya. Refleksinya secara alami berawal dari pengalaman pribadinya selama berkarya untuk pameran ini di lingkungan soliter studionya, yang membawanya ke realisasi hubungan manusia dengan alam dan sesamanya. Imajinasinya kemudian berkembang, karena pemikirannya menjadi multidimensi. Selanjutnya adalah gagasannya yang menarik dan positif tentang topik yang lebih luas seperti fenomena global terkini, hubungan sosial, kemampuan manusia untuk beradaptasi dan cara berpikir yang baru; semuanya sangat terpengaruh oleh pandemi saat ini.

Sebagai galeri dengan reputasinya tersendiri, Srisasanti Gallery merasa bahwa bekerja sama dengan Zhang Kexin merupakan hal yang sudah sepantasnya, yang akan bermanfaat bagi seniman dan galeri sekaligus mengembangkan ambisi galeri dalam menampilkan seniman dan karya seni kontemporer dengan kualitas tinggi secara konsisten.

We are pleased to present 2020, CONTEMPORARY ART BY ZHANG KEXIN, Zhang Kexin's solo exhibition with Srisasanti Syndicate. We are really glad to work together on this project with someone who has such an exciting journey in the Chinese, Southeast Asian and global art scene.

Zhang Kexin is often identified as a nomadic artist, someone that pursues his art career while travelling the world, wandering and blending in new places, people, and environments. This nomadic lifestyle has shaped him into an artist that always commits and stays true to such artistic style. His work is ever-changing, similar to his nomadic lifestyle that demands constant changes and adaptability; sometimes his artwork can show docility, at other times it can show rebellious intentions. Through his most recent experiences in dealing with the unpredictability of the year 2020, he is then able to distinctively observe, investigate and present his perspective on the dynamics in his current environment and our world in a sincere way.

In 2020, CONTEMPORARY ART, Zhang Kexin ponders on how human beings, societies and countries have been affected by the requirement to adapt with an unprecedented new way of life. His reflection naturally began from his personal experience while working for this show in the solitary environment of his studio, which brought about a realization of human beings' relationship with nature and their fellowman. His imagination then expanded, as his thinking became multidimensional. What followed are his interesting and positive notions on broader subjects such as recent global phenomena, social relationship, human's ability to adapt and the new way of thinking; all of which are deeply affected by the current pandemic.

As a gallery with its own reputation, Srisasanti Gallery felt that working together with Zhang Kexin is only fitting, that will benefit both the artist and the gallery while further extending the gallery's ambition in consistently showcasing contemporary artists and artworks with high quality.





PILGRIMAGE Zhang Kexin: Peziarah Kehidupan

Apa yang paling menggerakkan seseorang melakukan perjalanan, melintas batas, menantang penghalang, meleburkan diri pada komunitas setempat, menyusuri lorong-lorong tersembunyi, menyinggahi dan tak jarang larut di dalamnya? Dorongan energi macam apakah hingga seseorang menjadi sedemikian obsesif? Merenungkannya, kemudian merekamnya menjadi gambar-gambar, atau lukisan-lukisan yang penuh hasrat dan

Pengantar oleh
Suwarno Wisetrotomo



PILGRIMAGE

Zhang Kexin: Pilgrim of Life

What drives a person the most to travel, cross borders, challenge barriers, immerse oneself in the local community, walk down hidden alleys, stop over and often get lost in them? What kind of energy impulse makes a person so obsessive? Contemplating on it, then recording it into pictures, or paintings full of passion and message? Of course each person will have different reasons. However, one thing that becomes

Words by
Suwarno Wisetrotomo

dreamed of owning a large art studio in the land of the White Elephant. As revered, in 1995, Srifuengfung Foundation in Thailand invited Kexin to create a mural for "Romance of the Three Kingdoms" in the "Three Kingdoms Amusement Park".

It was on this occasion that he made his dream come true, building the "Kexin Art Studio" in Bangkok, which is located in the city center, with an area of nearly three hundred (300) square meters. It was here that he created a large-scale epic mural entitled "Romance of the Three Kingdoms", which includes Chinese history as the backdrop. Not stopping there, in the next opportunity, he built an art studio on Sukhumvit Road, a famous business district in the city. This studio has an exhibition space, work space and living area. *"The atmosphere in this studio fits perfectly with the way I work. I did a lot of installations, sculptures and paintings in this place. In Thailand, I am inspired by many things. Starting from the scenery, to the society and culture. In particular, I often pay attention to the monks dressed in saffron colors who move in and out of the temple every morning. I found contest, and found rest, when I was at the temple"*.

Kexin's works during this period processed many representations of Thailand, both traditional and contemporary cultural representations, among others (works that were considered 'important') the series **"Chinese Feature"** (paintings on paper); the series **"China's Construction Rule"** (oil on canvas); the **"New Oriental Language"** series (painting on paper); **"The Monsters"** and **"Implication of Plasticine Figures"** (performance arts); and **"Swaying at the Heaven and Hell"** and **"My South East Asia"** (the last two are installation works). During this period he also completed several large-scale wood carvings. Apart from being displayed in studios in Bangkok, his works are also collected by the National Gallery of Thailand, China

Guangdong Museum of Art (CGMA), and China Shanghai Zendai Museum of Modern Art.

India Note

Kexin's story on the next pilgrimage to India. In 2002, he was invited to India to conduct research on religious arts, as well as exchange contemporary arts. *"I also had the opportunity to work on a long-term art project entitled "Worshiping Red", write a thesis, work on several new media works, and create contemporary ink paintings"*.

While in India, he received the support of his best friend, Vijay, who is also a famous collector, among other things, turning his luxury home into an art studio where he worked. Kexin said, *"I have the privilege of enjoying a large collection of works of art in his luxury home, including works by Juan Miro, Georges Seurat, Rabindranath Tagore, M.F. Husain, F.N. Souza, Qi Baishi, and many other international artist paintings"*.

Vijay's family, according to Kexin, has been collecting art for a long time. His grandfather collected many Japanese drawings from the early Ukiyoe period. Kexin's work has also had the honor of being part of their collection. He made the most of his time in India as effectively as possible. *"In India I did a lot of artistic activities, was interviewed by Indian TV stations, carried out many exchange activities at universities and so on. At the same time, I also need to make sure there is time for my own artistic work. One that I think deserves to be mentioned is how the dialogue with Prof. Rajif Lachoen, Director of the National Gallery of Modern Art India, visiting and studying various museums helped me to comprehend comprehensively the very fast development of modern and contemporary Indian art"*. From this experience, he had the opportunity to write a number of articles about art in India which were published in several journals in China.





Artworks



Butterfly Garden

2019 - 2020 | Acrylic on canvas
130 x 150 cm

Butterfly Garden represented Zhang Kexin's life after the COVID-19 outbreak. He lived in a self-isolated life in his studio. His thinking becomes multidimensional and his imagination keeps on expanding. In self-isolation, his scope of activities is limited to the garden of his studio. He started to notice the beautiful butterflies and moths in the garden. Zhang Kexin feels that the pandemic gives people the chance to stay home and appreciate nature more than ever.



Dream Prince Cruise

2019 - 2020 | Acrylic on canvas
130 x 150 cm

Dream Prince Cruise was based on an art project Zhang Kexin did in Singapore in 2012 titled "Pulau Ubin 100 Days". The project highlighted the relationship between mankind and nature. In the painting, he arranged the original ecology of Pulau Ubin as a banquet scene on a cruise ship. The wild boar was his friend on Ubin. The house and car represented his woodcarving works for the project. In this painting, Zhang Kexin wants to remind people to pay attention to the protection of environment.



Aquarium

2019 - 2020 | Acrylic on canvas
200 x 230 cm

Aquarium depicted the globalized world as an aquarium, full of prosperity. High-welfare countries enjoy the profit from low production costs in developing countries. Human's plundering of the earth's resources and commercial development at the expense of the environment have led to transboundary pollution of the earth. The outbreak of COVID-19 has intensified the game between superpowers, whether in trade, military or even ideology. COVID-19 is like a modern plague, regarded as nature's counterattack against the globalization of human civilization. All these are like shards of glass on the canvas, scattered in every corner. It makes people think and reflect.



Floating Paradise

2019 - 2020 | Acrylic on canvas
150 x 200 cm

In *Floating Paradise*, Zhang Kexin portrays how people still yearns for entertainment while the pandemic continues to spread. While the need for entertainment is undoubtedly human nature, in the middle of the pandemic it leads people to break the health and safety precautions set to protect themselves.



Goodbye Komodo Dragon

2019 - 2020 | Acrylic on canvas
150 x 130 cm

Goodbye Komodo Dragon shows how after the outbreak of COVID-19, people start to pay more attention towards nature around them. Zhang Kexin used one of the most endangered animal in the world, Komodo Dragon as a medium to portray this sudden rise of attention towards environment protection. The upper part of the painting shows the material life that people pursue. The bottom part shows how Zhang Kexin is looking for a spiritual home for the nature.



2020 Absolute Design

2020 | Acrylic on canvas
100 x 120 cm

In 2020, Absolute Design, Zhang Kexin illustrates how disaster will eventually pass, as it is something that humankind must face any either way. The figure is shown using the toilet, representing how our daily needs might be something that seems unimportant, but nonetheless we still need to do it anyway. Same like the current pandemic, it is one hardship that we have to face in order to continue on with our life.



Isolation

2020 | Acrylic on canvas
150 x 130 cm

Isolation represents how with the spread of COVID-19, people must adapt with current mundane lifestyle to pass the time due to the strict isolation and lockdown measures. While daily activities are restricted, the deserted city streets have become a playground for wild animals. Zhang Kexin views this scene as something that is very comforting. It also urges us to reflect on the impact human have to the world.



Social Distancing Theme Park

2020 | Acrylic on canvas
150 x 200 cm

In this painting, Zhang Kexin illustrates a theme park filled with chaos. The beak doctor who treated the Black Death in medieval Europe, the baptism of Catholicism, the almsgiving of monks, and the statues of British colonists who were overthrown during the anti-racism movement during the pandemic were reproduced in the park. Government seems to use fear to maintain social distancing measures which alienate oneself from others. In Social Distancing Theme Park, human beings will continue to sing and dance amid the chaos of 2020.



Artists Profile

Zhang Kexin

Born in China, 1957

Over the past two decades, Zhang has established himself as an outstanding artist with a distinctive style, pursuing various forms of art including installation, performance, digital imagery, painting, sculpture and new media. He also performs as a contemporary art critic and curator. Zhang has written a great number of academic articles for several well-known international art media, and has been the curator of many seriously themed exhibitions in major galleries.

Zhang has consistently been an active and influential figure on the Chinese, Southeast Asian and international art stage. He is the founder of ASEAN & CHINA and the 10+1 Art Tactic art projects. Zhang has lives and work in Beijing, Bangkok and Magelang, Indonesia.

Education : 1982 : Art Department of Harbin's Pedagogical University with a Bachelor of Arts degree

Solo Exhibition : 2019 : Image, Foreign Land, Kexin ZHANG's Nomadic Art, Sangkring Art Space, Yogyakarta, Indonesia | The Holy Land, Contemporary Art by Kexin ZHANG, Amanjowo, Borobudur, Indonesia | 2018 : Emoji, La Lanta Fine Art, Bangkok, Thailand | 2017 : The Kite, Langgeng Art Foundation, Yogyakarta, Indonesia | My Three Kingdoms, Warren Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | 2016 : Dialogue with OHD, OHD Museum, Magelang, Indonesia | Asia Mirror, Duo Art Exhibition by Chinese & Thai Artists, Hof Art Space, Bangkok, Thailand.

Group Exhibitions (selected) : 2018 : "Abstract Party", Limanjawi Art House, Borobudur, Indonesia | "ArtJOG 11", Jogja National Museum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia | "YAA #3-2018 + Special Project: POSITIONING", Sangkring Art Space, Yogyakarta, Indonesia | 2017 : Set up Kexin Art Studio, Magelang, Indonesia | "Art Way ASEAN Way, Contemporary Exhibition", Songkla Art Center, Songkla, Thailand | Set up Kexin Art Studio, Magelang, Indonesia | 2015 : Inward Gazes: Documentaries of Chinese Performance Art 2015, Macao Museum of Art, Macao | "Innovatively Transformed Folk Arts", Jinshuku, Originality Square, 798 Art Zone, Beijing, China | "Convergence", The National Gallery of Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand.









Gallery Profile

Srisasanti Syndicate

Srisasanti Syndicate is a Yogyakarta based art gallery group that was established by ST. Eddy Prakoso with main aim to “Initiate Global Appreciation”, by consistently presenting artworks of exciting visual artists through annual in-house programs in Tirtodipuran Link and participation in various international art fairs. It also initiates routine collaborative show programs with partner galleries from Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia, Australia and the United States of America.

One of the gallery from Srisasanti Syndicate group, Srisasanti Gallery, focuses its attention on the presentation of established artists through housing of various exhibition and non-exhibition programs, which ranges from book publishing to artist residency project. Several senior contemporary artists are represented by the gallery, such as Alfredo Esquillo Jr. (b. 1972), Bob Sick Yudhita Agung (b. 1971), Heri Dono (b. 1960), Roby Dwi Antono (b. 1990), Ronald Manullang (b. 1954) and Taher Jaoui (b. 1978).

The presentation of young contemporary artists is being undertaken by the junior gallery of Srisasanti Syndicate group, Kohesi Initiatives. This gallery works side by side with artists in a long-term perspective to enhance the artists' portfolio by providing continuous opportunities to have their works and ideas presented in both exhibition and/or non-exhibition format. Several talented young artists that have participated in the past or still in cooperation with Srisasanti Syndicate group are Atreyu Moniaga (b. 1988), Galih Reza Suseno (b. 1990), Gatot Indrajati (b. 1980), Roby Dwi Antono (b. 1990), Suroso Isur (b. 1983) and Valdo Manullang (b. 1990).

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Zhang Kexin

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