Yuan Jai
5 February – 27 April 2020
Focus Room, Museum, Level 5

Organized at the occasion of the donation of a major painting (Charge, 2012) to the collection of the Musée national d’art moderne / Centre Pompidou, this first presentation of Yuan Jai’s work in France gathers eleven important pieces produced during the last two decades by this significant Taiwanese artist.

Yuan Jai (1941, Chongqing, Sichuan) studied Chinese painting in Taiwan, where her family moved in 1947. She continued her education in Belgium (Catholic University of Leuven; Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique, Brussels) and among the biggest asian art collections in England and the United States.

Back in Taiwan, she worked in the Department of Antiquities of the National Palace Museum, where she organized – and later on, directed – the conservation department for thirty years before retiring and focusing on her art practice. Yuan Jai lives in Taiwan with her husband, the film director Richard Yao-chi Chen.

Borrowing style, patterns and materials (ink and mineral pigments on silk) from classical Chinese painting, she transfers and incorporates them in a complex and joyful cultural narrative associating the celebration of a rich cultural legacy and the fancy of a contemporary and personal expression, filled with humour and irony.
List of exhibited works

Flirting
2001
Ink and colour on silk
84 × 222 cm
Private collection
Image Courtesy of the artist

Cultural Hall of Calligraphy
2008
Ink and colour on silk
130 × 213 cm
Private collection
Image Courtesy of the artist
Reaching Seventy
2011
Ink and colour on silk
190 × 90 cm
Leo Shih collection
Image Courtesy of the artist
The *Five Oxen* by Han Huang of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) is one of the few authentic Tang paintings that have survived until today. In the painting, five oxen line up horizontally from left to right. With each rendered in different temperaments and postures, these animals serve as the primary imagery source for the five oxen in Yuan Jai’s *Charge*. Cut into halves, the split ox in the center of the painting draws upon the cattle and tiger bronze table dated to the Warring States period, above which lies a figure of a Reclining Buddha, while the bronze bull breaking out from the middle refers to Wall Street’s famous *Charging Bull*. 

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**Charge**  
2012  
Ink and color on silk  
133 × 204 cm  
Centre Pompidou, MNAM-CCI, donation Peng Pei-Cheng  
Image Courtesy of the artist
Nature Within, I & II
2016
Ink and colour on silk
203 × 89 cm × 2
Private collection
Auspicious Cranes
2017
Ink and colour on silk
171 × 118 cm
Private collection
Image Courtesy of the artist
The Goddess of Luo River
2018
Ink and colour on silk
1. Play:
    178.4 × 98 cm
2. A Glance of a Startled Swan Goose:
    179 × 107 cm
Private collection
Image Courtesy of the artist
Pavilion of Treasures
2018
Ink and colour on silk
178.1 x 107.8 cm
Private collection
Image Courtesy of the artist
A Faraway Place
2018
Ink and colour on silk
207.3 x 103.2 cm
Private collection
Image Courtesy of the artist
I love to Paint and to Read As We'll
2019
Ink and colour on silk
110 x 178 cm
Private collection
Image Courtesy of the artist
Biography

1941
Born in Geleshan, Chongqing, Sichuan Province, China.

1947
Arrival in Taiwan.

1958
Department of Art at Taiwan Provincial Normal University.

1962-1964
Department of Archeology and History of Art at Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium.
Field trips through Belgium, France and Italy.

1964
Department of Art at Pennsylvania State University, USA.

1965-1968
IRPA – Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique, Brussels.
Internship at the Oriental Department of the British Museum.

1969
Returns to Taiwan to work in the Department of Antiquities of the National Palace Museum, where she organizes the Office of Technology.

1970
Three-months grant from the Rockefeller Foundation enabling her to visit art museums in the USA and Canada, holding major collections of Chinese art.

1971
Transfers to the National Palace Museum’s Office of Technology where she serves as an associate researcher.
Marries Yaochi Chen.

1972-1982
Resigns from the National Palace Museum.
Shuttling between Taiwan and the USA.

1982
Returns to the National Palace Museum and works in the Department of Painting and Calligraphy.
Embarks on the intensive practice of calligraphy.

1983
Promoted to researcher and chief of the Office Technology.

1994
Resigns from former position at National Palace Museum in order to focus on her artistic practice.

Yuan Jai visiting Paris on vacation while studying at the Catholic University of Leuven in the 1960s.
Image Courtesy of the artist.
Practical Information

The Exhibition

Yuan Jai
5 February – 27 April 2020
Focus Room of the Museum, Level 5

Curator Catherine David
Deputy director, Musée national d’art moderne Centre Pompidou

Assistant curator Diane Toubert
Research officer, Musée national d’art moderne Centre Pompidou

Opening
Wednesday 5 February 2020 / 6 – 9 pm
TV filmings and radio interviews: upon request.

Encounters on Yuan Jai’s work
In Paris: 7 February / starting 2 pm
Centre Pompidou, Cinéma 1

In Taipei: 13 March
Kwandu Museum of Arts

Screening
Taiwanese New Wave
1st April / 7 pm
Centre Pompidou, Cinéma 2

Service du Cinéma expérimental, Musée national d’art moderne

Press contact
Press office of the Centre Pompidou
Dorothee Mireux – Timothée Niicot – Marine Prévot
presse@centrepompidou.fr

At the same time

Mutations / Creations #4
Jeremy Shaw, Phase Shifting Index
Neurons, Simulated Intelligences
26 February – 20 April 2020
Galleries 3 and 4

Chine<–>Afrique [China<–>Africa]
4 March – 25 May 2020
Museum, Gallery 0

Wols
4 March – 25 May 2020
Museum, Graphic Arts Gallery

Christo & Jeanne-Claude
Paris!
18 March – 15 June 2020
Gallery 2

Opening times and Admissions
Every day from 11am to 9pm (Thursdays until 11pm), except Tuesdays and May 1st.
€15, reduced fare €12 / Free for those under 18. Young people under 26, teachers and students at schools of art, drama, dance and music and members of the Musée des artistes may visit the Museum for free and buy tickets for exhibitions at the concessionary rate.
Free admission for Centre Pompidou members.

Online bookings and print-at-home tickets on: www.billetterie.centrepompidou.fr

The reservation of a time slot applies to all visitors, except for those benefiting of a free admission.

* Nationals of Member States of the EU or the European Economic Area aged 18–25. Valid the same day for the Musée National d’Art Moderne and all exhibitions.

The Centre Pompidou
75191 Paris cedex 04 / T. 00 33 (0)1 44 78 12 33
Metro: Hôtel de Ville, Rambuteau / RER: Châtelet-Les-Halles

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#ExpoYuanJai

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