



Timeless — YANG Chung-Ming Solo Exhibition

Dates | 2019.06.01-2019.06.16

Time | Mon.-Sun.10:00-20:00

Venue | Artland Bookstore

Taiwan

Sponsors | National Culture and Arts Foundation / Department of Cultural Affairs Taipei City Government

Reduplication and repeated rhyme, lingering, haunting; incessantly the sound of chanting cascades through the ripples of time.....

CHEN Chuan-Xing, “Beyond Solitude,” *The One Who Lights the Lamp — In Memory of CHOU Meng-Tieh*

In an essay titled “Beyond Solitude” in the special booklet *The One Who Lights the Lamp — In Memory of CHOU Meng-Tieh*, renowned Taiwanese scholar CHEN Chuan-Xing once described the ending scene from the documentary *The Coming of Tulku* (2011), where the late Taiwanese poet CHOU Meng-Tieh is seen gently reading his poem “Merits in Ten Verses”: Reduplication and repeated rhyme, lingering, haunting; incessantly the sound of chanting cascades through the ripples of time.” A contemplation on the meaning of *the ripples of time*, *Timeless — YANG Chung-Ming Solo Exhibition* etches a literary sense of poetry upon the artist’s latest body of work, a physical manifestation of aesthetics and an attempt to capture the incessant flow of time.

Deeply inspired by literature, *Timeless* is the final chapter of the artist’s trilogy, following *Silent Fireworks* in 2014 and *Byroad / Time Odyssey* in 2016. Adopting the mezzotint engraving technique that he is adept at, the artist has completed a series of works that began with such questions as: What is time? What are the ripples of time? How does one manifest the structure and passage of time? In an attempt to explore possibilities of reversing the essential roles of printing paper and of an original work in the printmaking process, the artist turns the original plates into installations, presenting simultaneously the concrete image and abstract construct of temporality.

This exhibition also sees the artist’s first endeavor come to fruition at producing prints with only the mezzotint technique. Originating in the 17th-century Germany, this technique is employed to subtly accentuate light and shade by creating soft gradation of tone. The name

came from the Italian mezzo (“half”) and tinta (“tone”), which together means halftones¹. Extremely time-consuming but ideal for portraying exquisite details, the technique was prevalent in England in the 18th century, used prominently in reproductions of oil paintings and watercolors. The mezzotint technique became antiquated in the 19th century due to a rivalry between technicians and workshops, and a dwindling of remarkable printmakers.

Timeless meditates the passage of time and the transmutation of emotions. How do emotions wax and wane as time flows and seasons turn? How do we navigate the permanent impermanence through the ebb and flow of life? On June 1 you are cordially invited to delve into the ripples of time with YANG Chung-Ming at the Artland Bookstore. *Timeless* will also be on view at L’Association pour l’Estampe et l’Art Populaire in Paris, France on November 21.

About YANG Chung-Ming

With a master of fine arts degree from the Graduate Institute of Plastic Arts at the National Tainan University of the Arts in Taiwan, YANG Chung-Ming founded the 324 Print Studio in Taipei in 2003, dedicated to printmaking education and art promotion. With the belief that “Art is an everyday occurrence. It belongs not merely on a pedestal, and should never be defined by its scarcity or rareness,” the artist is devoted to bridging the gap between the public and art, between art lovers and art makers, with a mission to apply artistic elements he treasures in every possible way. With a speciality in mixed media work and printmaking, he is especially adept at the mezzotint technique. Committed to printmaking as an artistic discipline, YANG Chung-Ming embarks on a journey to explore the parallels between the individual and different cultures. By marrying tradition and modernity, East and West, his work embodies the dynamic of contemporary society in a globalized context, proposing innovative ideas rooted in tradition, aimed at conveying art in all forms.

<http://yangchungming.com/>

¹ https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/mztn/hd_mztn.htm