

MADEIN GALLERY

没顶画廊

XU ZHEN®

***Three Taels of Cuteness,
One Catty of Greatness***

2021.11.10-12.31

上海市静安区曲阜路9弄下沉庭院负一层1号
No.1, -1F Sunken Garden, Lane 9, Qufu Road, Jing'an District, Shanghai, China



3两可爱，一斤伟大

Three Taels of Cuteness, One Catty of Greatness

展期 Exhibition Period: 2021.11.11-12.31

开幕 Opening: 2021.11.10 15:00-19:00

徐震[®] XU ZHEN[®]

策展人: 鲁明军

Curator: Lu Mingjun

没顶画廊, 上海市静安区曲阜路9弄下沉庭院负一层1号

MadeIn Gallery, No.1, -1F Sunken Garden, Lane 9 Qufu Road,
Jing'an District, Shanghai

由没顶画廊和香格纳画廊共同呈现

Jointly presented by MadeIn Gallery and ShanghART

MADEIN GALLERY
没顶画廊

ShanghART
香格纳画廊

MadeIn Gallery is pleased to present XU ZHEN®'s solo exhibition "Three Taels of Cuteness, One Catty of Greatness" on November 10th, 2021. This is the third solo exhibition of XU ZHEN® at MadeIn Gallery after "Hello" in 2019, which will present a large-scale contemporary artwork *Base*, and a new painting series "Passion". The exhibition continues XU ZHEN®'s focus on new technologies, the excess of knowledge and information, the evolution of human intellect, as well as his ceaseless exploration of the diversity of creative media, with a high degree of sensitivity and new expansion of visual creation in the context of the post-globalization era.

Base is the latest work created for this exhibition. The audience will enter a scene similar to a mobile phone store, where each mobile phone is playing a variety of contents generated in the course of use. While we use mobile phones to capture and process information every day, algorithms and big data continue to generate marketing content and manipulate our behavioral expectations. Increasingly dense and fast information improves our intelligence, but at the same time it does not leave time for individuals to contemplate. On the screen of mobile phone, on the fingers that are hitting keyboard, information economy and technological capitalism occupy more and more the time of life. Perception, sensibility and desire are installed on devices as apps on our mobile phones, which we are constantly tapping on and upgrading.

The entire work takes the life in each device as a fact, an event and new information, and continues to use and announce it. Today, our love, curiosity and beliefs, our bodies, actions and emotions have all become data. How we could be better processed as data, will be the reality of daily life.

"Passion", a series of paintings with abstract expressionist style on the surface, is not only a derivative of smart social media, but also a representation of daily life on the Internet. They are based on a great invention - screen capture on mobile phone. All pictures are translated from screenshots of WeChat conversation - that is, all kinds of cropped and smeared conversation screenshots that we constantly forward across different WeChat groups every day. Artists retain the "cropping" structure when painting, some can see the "avatar", while others don't. The free writing with abstract expressionistic style, not only highlights the traces of "smearing" when forwarding, but also pours all kinds of emotions which are often seen in chatroom into the picture vividly, such as roasting, prattling, arguing, raging, abreaction and the sense of powerlessness. At this time, painting is not so much a fierce reaction to a mental state, but as a release and solution to self-depression, anxiety and excitement. The artist confronts and dispels this unavoidable absurd situation in a more direct way. The exhibition site endows these extra-large scale "mobile phone screenshots" with a unique sense of sacredness - in recent years, screenshots have indeed played an important evidential role in some noted incidents, they are like an invisible spiritual cage, locking everyone's mind in it with all kinds of information that is hard to distinguish between genuine and false. This series retains the order of painting, but at the same time, it also completely destroys - or completely ignores - the order of painting.

The exhibition is jointly presented by MadeIn Gallery and ShanghART.

XU ZHEN®

XU ZHEN®, founded by artist Xu Zhen in 2013, is the flagship art brand of MadelIn Company. Born in 1977, Xu Zhen is a leading Chinese artist and curator, and the founder of MadelIn 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

Artist, Curator, MadelIn Company Founder

Xu Zhen was born in 1977, and lives and works in Shanghai.

Xu Zhen has been considered as an iconic figure in Chinese contemporary art. In 2004, Xu won the prize for 'Best Artist' at the China Contemporary Art Award. His practice covers various media such as installations, video, painting and performance, etc.

Xu Zhen has exhibited internationally, at museums and biennales, such as, 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), Hayward Gallery (London, 2012), Lyon Biennial (2013), Armory Show (New York, 2014), Long Museum (Shanghai 2015), Al Riwaq Art Center (Qatar, 2016), Sydney Biennial (2016), Guggenheim Museum (New York, 2017), Sharjah Biennial (2019), Museum of Contemporary Art (Los Angeles, 2019), National Gallery of Australia (Canberra, 2020), among others.

Aside from being an artist, Xu Zhen is also a curator. He co-curated together with other artists major exhibitions in Shanghai and was one of the initiators of Art-Ba-Ba (www.art-ba-ba.com), a leading online forum for discussion and critique of contemporary art in Shanghai, in 2006. In 2009, Xu Zhen established 'MadelIn Company', a contemporary art creation corporate, focused on the production of creativity, and devoted to the research of contemporary culture's infinite possibilities. In 2013, MadelIn Company launched XU ZHEN® which is committed to art creation and cutting-edge culture development. In 2014, MadelIn Company established MadelIn Gallery and in November 2016 launched the first "Xu Zhen Store" in Shanghai.

Base

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XU ZHEN®

Base, 2021

Installation

iPhone、iPad、MacBook、custom environment



Base, Detail

“Passion” series

“Passion”, a series of paintings with abstract expressionist style on the surface, is not only a derivative of smart social media, but also a representation of daily life on the Internet. They are based on a great invention - screen capture on mobile phone. All pictures are translated from screenshots of WeChat conversation - that is, all kinds of cropped and smeared conversation screenshots that we constantly forward across different WeChat groups every day. Artists retain the "cropping" structure when painting, some can see the "avatar", while others don't. The free writing with abstract expressionistic style, not only highlights the traces of "smearing" when forwarding, but also pours all kinds of emotions which are often seen in chatroom into the picture vividly, such as roasting, prattling, arguing, raging, abreaction and the sense of powerlessness. At this time, painting is not so much a fierce reaction to a mental state, but as a release and solution to self-depression, anxiety and excitement. The artist confronts and dispels this unavoidable absurd situation in a more direct way. The exhibition site endows these extra-large scale "mobile phone screenshots" with a unique sense of sacredness - in recent years, screenshots have indeed played an important evidential role in some noted incidents, they are like an invisible spiritual cage, locking everyone's mind in it with all kinds of information that is hard to distinguish between genuine and false. This series retains the order of painting, but at the same time, it also completely destroys - or completely ignores - the order of painting.



XU ZHEN®

Passion (9.60kg), 2021

Oil on canvas, 200 x 97.5 cm



XU ZHEN®

Passion (9.45kg), 2021

Oil on canvas, 200 x 97.5 cm



XU ZHEN®

Passion (36.00kg), 2021

Oil on canvas, 360 x 250 cm



Passion (36.00kg), Detail



XU ZHEN®

Passion (35.40kg), 2021

Oil on canvas, 360 x 250 cm



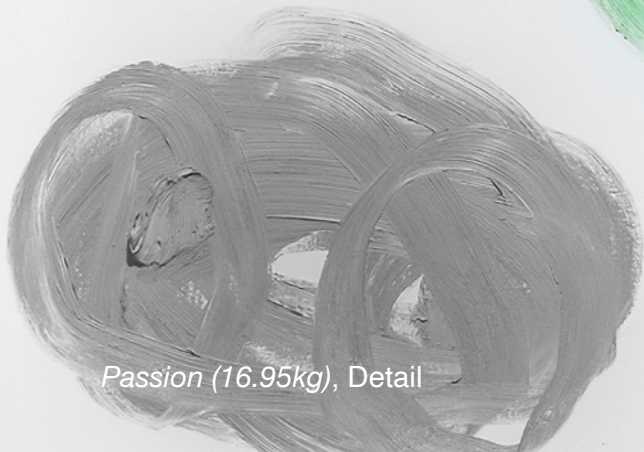
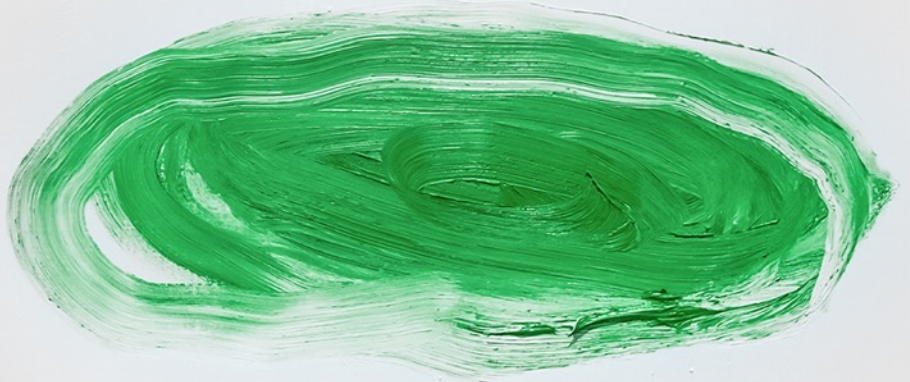
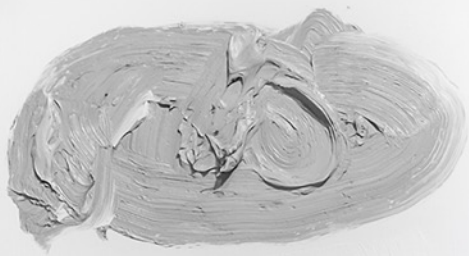
Passion (35.40kg), Detail



XU ZHEN®

Passion (16.95kg), 2021

Oil on canvas, 250 x 160 cm

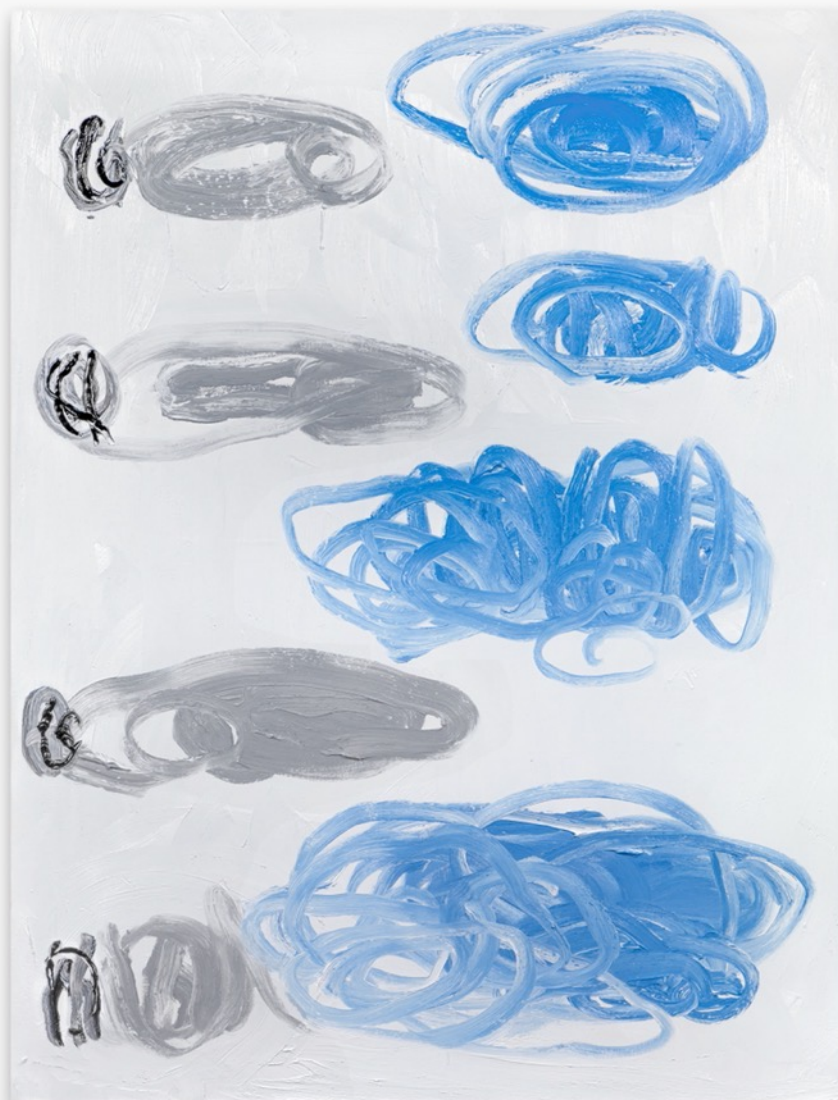




XU ZHEN®

Passion (20.40kg), 2021

Oil on canvas, 250 x 190 cm



XU ZHEN®
Passion (19.10kg), 2021
Oil on canvas, 250 x 190 cm



XU ZHEN®

Passion (16.40kg), 2021

Oil on canvas, 250 x 160 cm



XU ZHEN®

Passion (15.75kg), 2021

Oil on canvas, 250 x 160 cm



XU ZHEN®

Passion (18.45kg), 2021

Oil on canvas, 250 x 160 cm



Passion (18.45kg), Detail

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