

CHINESE ABSTRACTION

SHEN CHEN · PAUL CHING-BOR · LIANGHONG FENG



March 24 - May 5, 2018
1315 MASS MoCA Way, North Adams, MA

CYNTHIA-REEVES

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CYNTHIA-REEVES presents Chinese Abstraction, an exhibition that brings together artwork in diverse media by four contemporary Chinese artists. The show features minimalist paintings by Shen Chen; monumental watercolors of the urban landscape by Paul Ching-Bor; and rich abstract oil paintings by Lianghong Feng.





SHEN CHEN

Shen Chen's meticulous layering of color belies a rigorous discipline grounded in a meditation on breath. To create his subtle ombré surfaces, Chen works with the canvas on the studio floor. He layers the paint in precisely calibrated vertical brushstrokes; the discrete horizontal lines visible on the surface are a record of where each brushstroke – and attendant breath – ends. Of the latest body of work and his studio practice in general, American art critic Robert Morgan, who has studied Chen's work for a decade, writes in the artist's catalogue:

In contrast to other important Chinese artists living or who have lived in New York, Chen functions solely as a painter. He is very clear about his position. He is committed to painting as a form that gives him space and time to do what he wants and to express what he needs (without necessarily being expressive). For Shen Chen, there is no reason to take photographs or to make installations. He has no incentive to perform or participate in media-driven spectacles that, in recent years, have seduced so many artists. He is a painter, specifically an abstract painter, intent on working with the surface, using acrylic paint the way he was trained to use ink. (Robert C. Morgan, "Paintings in Memory of Time and Infinity", 2014.)

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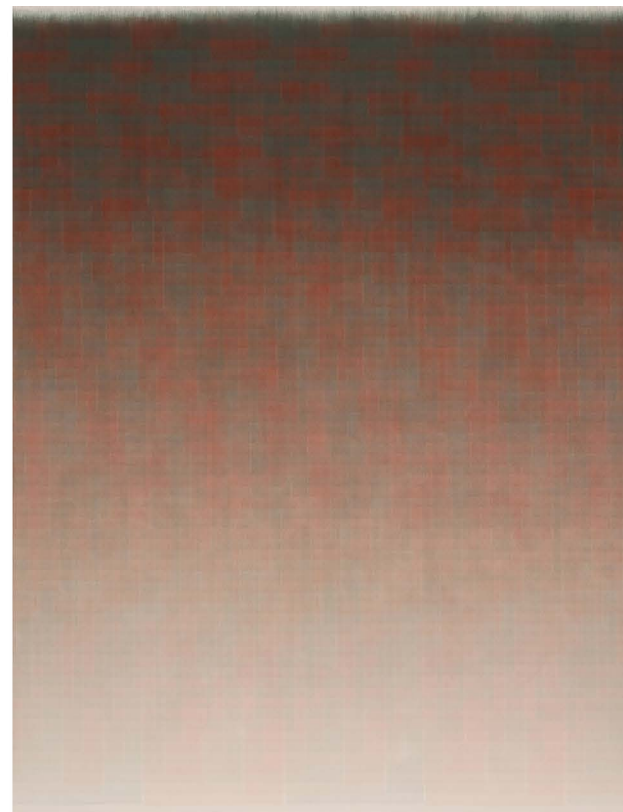
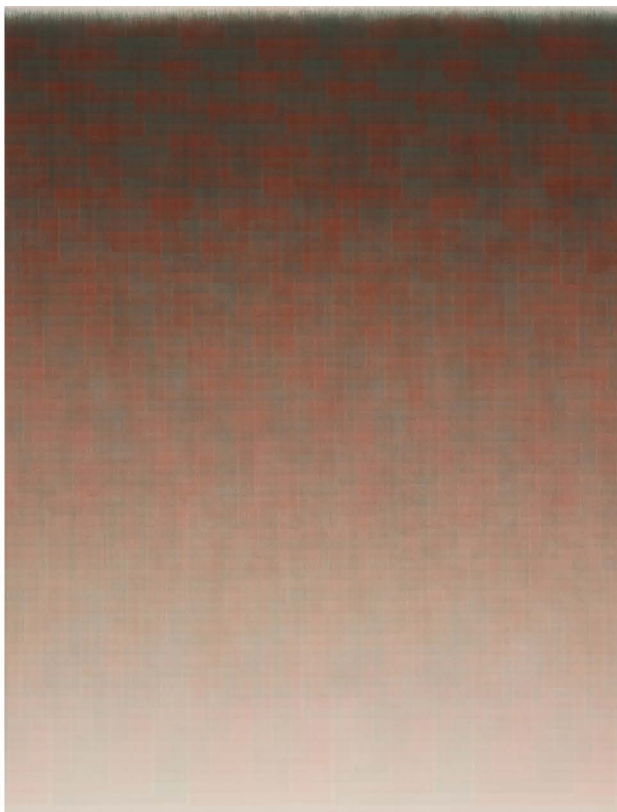
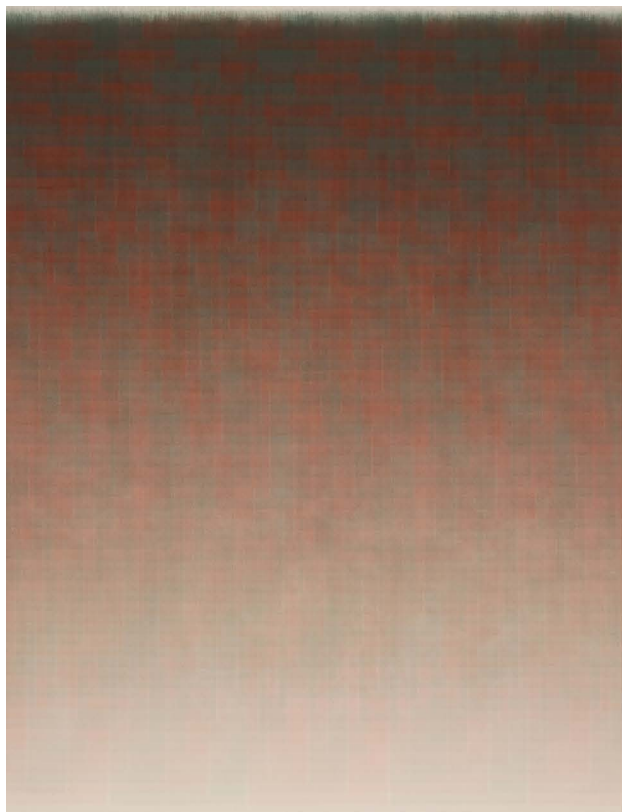


Shen Chen in Studio

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Shen Chen, 73129-15, 2015
acrylic on canvas, 60 x 138 inches



PAUL CHING-BOR

A contemporary painter whose dynamic cityscapes represent a bold new exploration of the medium, Paul Ching-Bor has reconsidered the qualities of watercolor that are often thought to be intrinsic to the medium, such as sensitivity, delicacy, and transparency. According to him, his images are “not so transparent, not so spontaneous in some parts, and not so ‘watercolor’ anymore. They are the substantial, developed face of watercolor painting.” This approach is robust and dynamic; at the same time, the works have a quiet intensity in their melancholic and stark qualities.

Ching-Bor was born in 1963 in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, the capital of the province of Guangdong. He began his study of art at the Youth Arts Centre in Guangzhou and went on to study sculpture for two years at Guangzhou Fine Art University. He spent an additional two years at the Jing De Zhen Ceramic Institute, in the Jiangxi province.

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Paul Ching-Bor, *Insomniac Lights - The Woolworth Building V*, 2016
watercolor on Arches paper, two panels 120 x 103 inches



LIANGHONG FENG

Lianghong Feng has been painting in the Abstract Expressionist style for over two decades, and he has now become one of the most influential contemporary painters in this genre in China. His lush surfaces speak of the dialog between the artist and canvas, a call and response between mark and brushstroke, of the application of color and the scribing back into the painted surface.

Feng lived in Greenpoint, Brooklyn for a time and he describes his first trip to the US as pivotal in his artistic development. While he was nurturing his understanding of Western Art, he was simultaneously re-establishing his appreciation for traditional Chinese culture. In his most recent work, Chinese culture is not overtly evident. In describing the work, he says, "It contains the meaning of ancient Chinese philosophy. If there were any Chinese characteristics, I would say I am inspired by this concept."

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Lianghong Feng, *Composition 13-3*, 2012
oil on canvas, 79 x 98 ½ inches

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Lianghong Feng, *Scribble-Scape No. 12*, 2008
oil on canvas, 47 x 39 inches

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Lianghong Feng, *Scribble-Scape No. 13*, 2008
oil on canvas, 47 x 39 inches

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Lianghong Feng, *Abstract 45-10*, 2010
oil on canvas, 47 x 39 inches

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Lianghong Feng, *Composition 11-56*, 2011
oil on canvas, 79 x 98 inches

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EXHIBITION IMAGES



Lianghong Feng and Paul Ching-Bor, *Chinese Abstraction*, 2018
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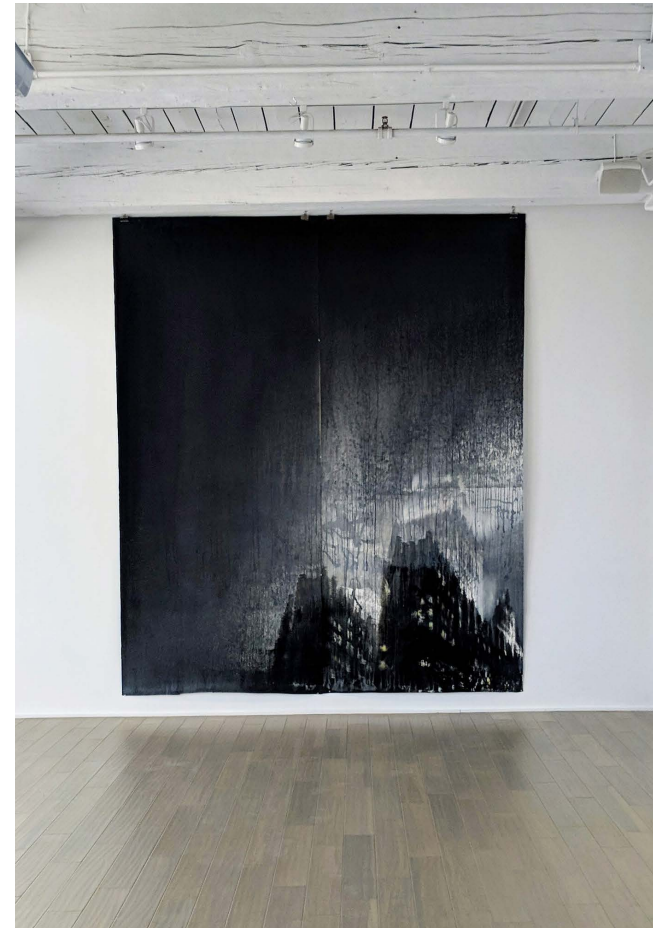
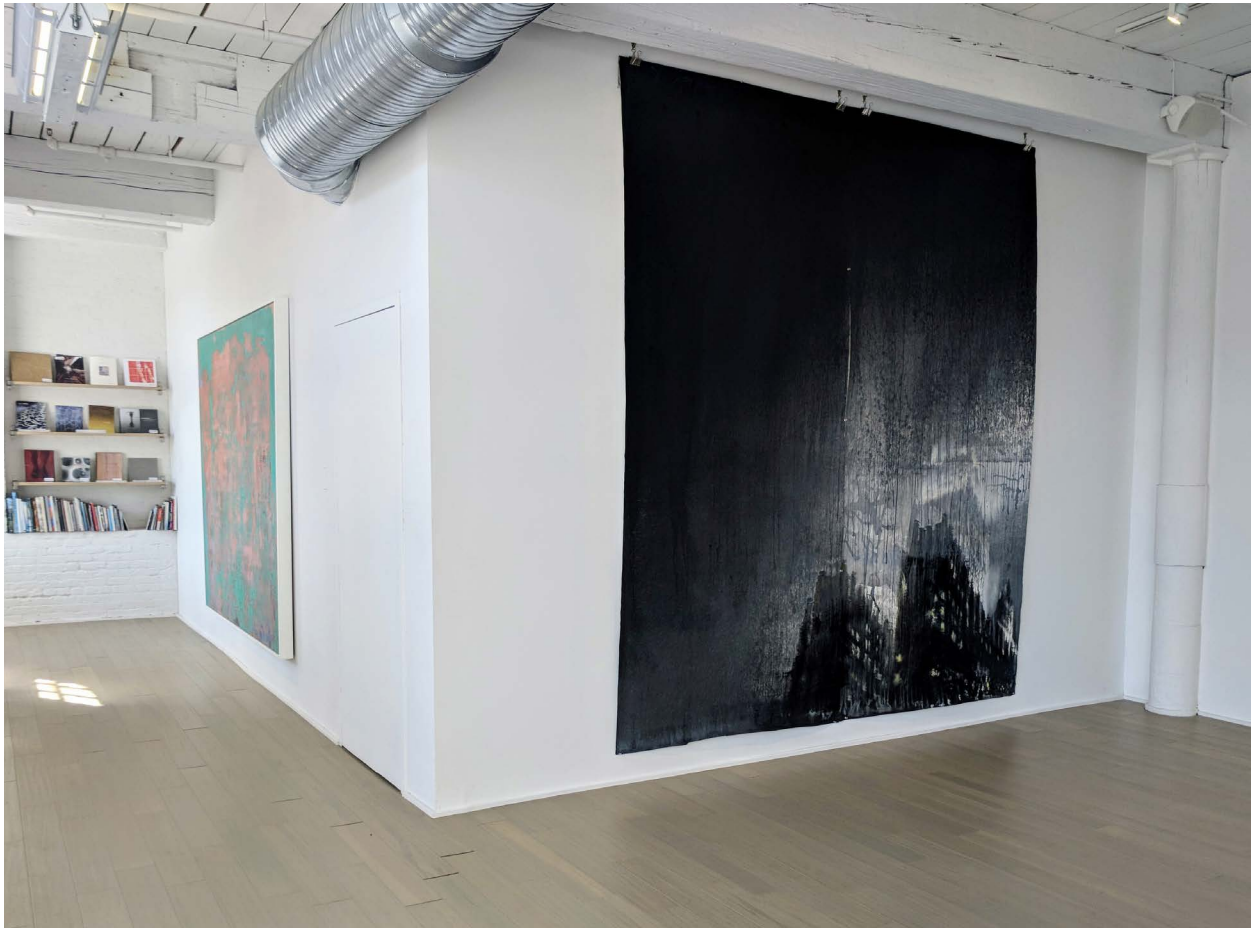


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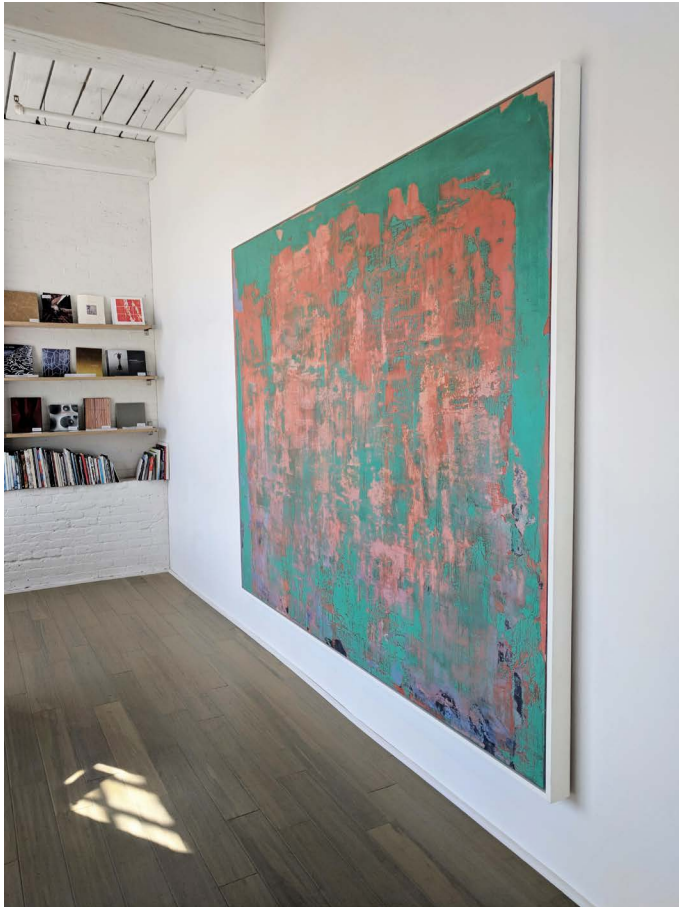


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