

Tang Maohong

唐茂宏



Orchid Finger, 2005
Silkscreen Prints
45x45cm

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Photosynthesis
 Performance/Unspecified Media, 2000

Tang Maohong's unique and imaginary artistic approach is eminently expressed in his short animated video entitled *Orchidaceous-Finger (Theatrical Gestures)* and the accompanying series of silkscreen prints *Orchid Finger* (2005), which are full of witty grotesquerie. The pieces are composed within circular frames, thus referencing traditional Chinese birds and flower painting. On a closer encounter, though, Tang Maohong's aesthetic depictions of various scenes of flowers, pagodas and mushrooms are as far removed from a traditional composed still life as imaginable. Here, a surrealistic universe of interacting persons, animals and plants converge in orgiastic and explicit scenes with a humorous legibility all their own. Tang Maohong show-cases a degree of technical expertise combined with a rich fantasy life and sensibility that is transformed into his own distinctive and recognizably flamboyant touch.

Tang Maohong both references and undermines art history and popular culture. He has integrated a variety of visual elements and subject matters, producing works that inhabit the ever-blurred border between high art and popular illustration. His work is simultaneously absurd, magical, humorous and confrontational, indicating that these juxtapositions of figurative objects might be more than just illusions. Tang Maohong's pictorial universe reflects not only a new subject – a psyche whose internal eclectic imagination is echoed in the environment of constantly flowing images – but also the inversion of out-grown traditions.

Tang Maohong was born in 1975. Recent exhibitions include *Orchid Finger*, ShanghART H-Space, Shanghai, China (2006), *Sunday – Tang Maohong's Solo Exhibition*, Longhua Lu, Xuhui, Shanghai, China (2006), *A Lot of Ash – A Lot of Dust*, BizArt, Shanghai, China (2005) and *Asian Traffic Shanghai: Magnetism – Suspension*, Zendai Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, China (2005).



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