

# Shen Fan

# 申凡

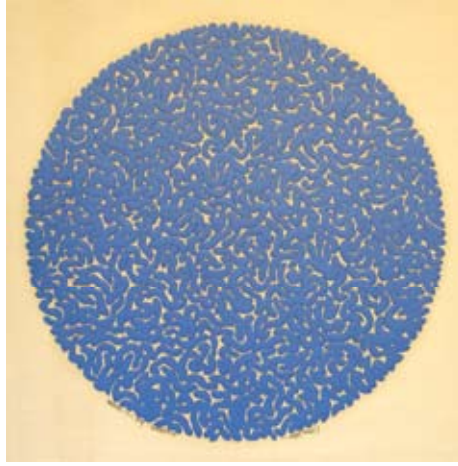


1	3	
		5
2	4	6

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6  
Shan Shui Series, 2005  
Oil/Acrylic on Canvas  
138x69cm

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*River, Oil/Acrylic on Canvas, 2003  
96x96cm*

The primary media of Shen Fan's artistic production is two-dimensional abstract painting. These images resemble the minimalist appearance of Western abstract painting, but are, nevertheless, fundamentally different. The Chinese version and approach has been coined with the term Maximalism. This practice attempts to establish a balance between the spiritual and the material components of the process. In Shen Fan's work it may be regarded as the incomplete and fragmented records of daily meditation: He continuously repeats the same patterns and forms in order to remove individualism or to eliminate any desire for self-expression through certain physical repetition as to reach the distillation of pure spirituality. This serialisation and monotonous process constitute the characteristics of Shen Fan's Maximalism.

Shen Fan's paintings come across as visually pure and harmonious composition devoid of any extravagant or superfluous elements. For Shen Fan, the surface of the canvas becomes a field where color plays a key role. His images consist of monochromatic (and often primary) colors. His works are tactile compositions created by the artist with a palette knife that result in a structure of limitation. Here, an ambiguous space appears to twist and unfold. The shapes equal geometric diagrams that are then filled out with beautifully simple and repetitious ornamental figures. And with a rare radicalism, he always accomplishes compositions full of discipline, rigor and perfection. Shen Fan disregards representation or narrative instead he focuses his emphasis on the pure, clear expressive methodology of the process of production and its serialisation. Shen Fan, thus, creates a self-referential or perhaps 'pure' world that follows an inner logic. Silence becomes a powerful concept that addresses the intimacy between the artist's mind and the materialized society.

Shen Fan was born in 1952 in Jangyin Town, Jiangsu. He graduated from the Fine Arts Department of the Shanghai Light Industry Institute in 1986. Today he lives and works in Shanghai. Selected exhibitions include Chinese Maximalism, Millenium Art Museum, Beijing, China (2003), The Paintings of Shan Fan – Pioneering Abstraction from Shanghai, Goedhuis Contemporary, New York, USA (2002), Shanghai Abstract Art Group Show, Liu Haisu Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2002), Metaphysics 2001, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2002) and Shen Fan – New Works, ShanghART Gallery, Shanghai, China (2001).