

PRESS RELEASE

wang jian : nothingness was not

Exhibition: 15 October – 18 December 2016 10:00–18:00 (Closed on Mondays)

Opening: 15 October from 16.00

A white line bisects a space of intense blackness. Two curving lines – whose geometries differ slightly – sit in sublime misalignment balancing an all-consuming emptiness. The viewer is drawn in, and, as if standing on the edge of a great abyss, struggles against the vertiginous desire to fall into the deep black. The feeling is almost overwhelming... and then, there is the line. Simply drawn it confidently reasserts itself, drawing attention once again to the surface and pushing the viewer back from the brink. Still the nothingness perseveres as does the unnerving and unconscious desire to allow oneself be enveloped by it. In just one painting, and with a few brushstrokes, the artist Wang Jian has made manifest what written and spoken language has been unable to articulate: the universal struggle between the Void and the not-void.

*Nothingness was not, the existent was not;
Darkness was hidden by darkness...
That which became was enveloped by the Void*

The exhibition, curated by Adrian George, London-based writer, lecturer and Senior Curator with the British Government Art Collection, takes as its starting point a 4000-year-old Rig-Vedic poem known as the *Hymn of Non-Eternity*. Reflecting on Wang Jian's extensive body of work and research material this exhibition brings together photography, works on paper and large-scale oil paintings to interrogate the origins of Wang Jian's explorations in metaphysics, Chinese Maximalism (after Gao Minglu) and international minimalism.

Wang Jian

Born 1972, Handan, Hebei Province. 2003 completed Plastic Arts Studio course at the Chinese Painting Department, China Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA). Lives and works in Beijing.

As a young adult Wang Jian worked as a train driver while following a period of self-directed study – reading extensively on literature, art, history and Zen. In 1996 he moved to Beijing to pursue his art career. He has worked an editor, TV director, art director and designer and completed his studies at the influential China Central Academy of Fine Art in 2003. His work, both abstract and minimal, references his early exploration of Eastern philosophies and demonstrates in its maturity an sophistication, his growing interests in Western poetry and sociology.

Press enquiries/images: Frankie Lu luhan@pifo.cn T: +86 10 59789562-8005

All other enquiries: Dayu Yang dayu@pifo.cn M: +86 13810040162

新闻稿

王剑：无非物

展览时间：2016年10月15日-12月18日 10:00-18:00（周一闭馆）

开幕时间：10月15日 16:00

一道白线将紧促的黑暗一分为二。两条形状有些许不同的曲线，置身于这静默的偏差中，制造出一种极致的空虚。观者被拉近，好似站定在这深渊的边缘，对抗着晕眩的冲动，奋力不跌入这深不见底的黑暗。这感觉仿佛势不可挡，始作俑者却是那线。漫不经心地吸引着你而后理直气壮地推翻了自己，将观者的注意力吸引至表面而后推回危险的边沿。只有那虚无久久不散，甘愿被包裹在那有些不安却又无法自持的渴望中。只需一幅画，寥寥数笔，艺术家王剑将文字或言语所不能言明的东西这般呈现出：在空与不空之间忘我地挣扎。

无物无存

暗隐于暗

堕入空洞

此次展览由乔德安策展，他是来自伦敦的作家、学者，同时担任英国政府艺术收藏的副主任和高级策展人，展览的灵感来源于4000年历史之久的史诗《梨俱吠陀》中的《无有歌》。为展示王剑作品的丰富形式及研究素材，此次展览将摄影作品、纸上绘画及大幅油画相结合，追溯至王剑在形而上、中国极多主义及广泛意义上的极简主义方向的艺术探索的源头。

关于王剑

1972年出生于河北邯郸。2003年毕业于中央美术学院国画系造型工作室。目前生活、工作于北京。

年轻时的王剑曾从事过火车司机这一工作，而后很长一段时间他自主学习，期间广泛阅读了文学、艺术、历史及禅宗等书籍。1996年他开始在北京寻找艺术生涯的方向，期间从事过编辑、电视编导、美术指导、设计等工作，并于2003年完成了在中央美术学院的学习。无论抽象还是极简，王剑的作品显示出早期他对东方哲学的探索、创作日趋成熟时期的诡辩，以及对西方诗歌与社会学渐长的兴趣。

媒体/图片垂询：谿晗 luhan@pifo.cn T: +86 10 59789562-8005

其他垂询：杨大宇 dayu@pifo.cn M: +86 13810040162