

For Immediate Release

CHINESE ARTISTS SHAO YINONG & MUCHEN
“A Splendid Web from Heaven to Earth” by Shao Yinong and Muchen



Shao Yinong and Muchen, *A Splendid Web from Heaven to Earth*, 2013 (left); *That Hrdaya*, 2013 (right)

Shao Yinong & Muchen

“A Splendid Web from Heaven to Earth”

Opening 15 April 6:30 – 8:30pm

15th April, 2014 – 3rd May, 2014

10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Central, Hong Kong

[23 March 2014, Hong Kong] 10 Chancery Lane Gallery is proud to present Shao Yinong and Muchen: Almost eight years since the duo's last titled exhibition in Hong Kong, Shao Yinong and Muchen return with four series of enlightening new works as a tribute to the new stage of their creative venture. The exhibition will open at 10 Chancery Lane Gallery in Central from 15th April, 2014.

The acclaimed artist duo Shao Yinong and Muchen have been working together and individually throughout the years. Since the first collaboration entitled *Family Register*, to the highly critical and successful *Assembly Halls*, they have been documenting the part of history in which they lived through with mixed media including photography, painting and installation. Having experienced the decades of rapid developments in China, the artists pity the vanishing of the quintessence of traditional Chinese culture. The search for meaning within the social context has eventually shifted to the concern on cultural humanity. Muchen said, “What remains today can tell you what have varnished in time. Since *Assembly Halls*,

we have looked beyond the recent history in which we lived through, eyeing on a broader history concerning culture and humanity.”

A Splendid Web from Heaven to Earth is an installation of a giant web flowing delicately from ceiling to the floor. The stainless-steel-made web looks shimmering and inviting from afar. However, as one gets closer, what seems so still and peaceful a moment ago suddenly turns unsettling. The conflicting feeling is a metaphor of the chaos in today's world. It poses a question to our being, a threat to our sense of existence. *The Hrdaya*, or literally “Eternal Heart”, is a series of wood works by Shao Yinong. As he takes off the layers of bark of the tree trunk following patterns of its annual rings, the artist uncovers the pagoda-like structure hidden in it. He further fills the cracks of the trunks with ash which is commonly seen in temples in Qinghai area. The installation triggers a religious and spiritual reading into it, inviting the viewers to look into eternity through traces of life.

Also in the exhibition are the photographic work, *Webbed* by Muchen and a series of etching by Shao Yinong entitled, *Objects of Nature*. Shao Yinong and Muchen have selected these four series of new works to conclude a stage of their on-going research in the past few years. It also marks the beginning of another journey for the artists, one that leads to a deeper search concerning both the external and internal worlds.

About the artists:

The powerful artist duo Shao Yinong and Muchen are a married couple who work together and separately. Their works are exhibited on the international art scene and Art in America (2004) stated that they were “by far the best artists in the whole of the 2004 Shanghai Biennial”. Their well known photographic series, *The Assembly Halls*, from 23 different provinces of Mainland China captures in truth and simplicity the very profound leftovers of the cultural revolution, which spanned between 1966 until 1976. The empty halls devoid of life reek with a ghost-like atmosphere of the past at once nostalgically beautiful and at the same time simmering with the historical intensity of one of China's most turbulent periods. Their recent work *East Wind West Wind* is currently in a touring exhibition in Europe entitled *Political/Minimal*. Their embroidery series, *Spring Autumn*, has never been exhibited. The 30 works have been in the process of making since 2004.

The artists currently live and work in Beijing. Their works have been internationally exhibited at the Groningen Museum in The Netherlands, The Tate Liverpool Biennial, Guangzhou Triennial in China, the Pompidou Center in France, the Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art in Australia, the Mori Museum in Japan, the Shanghai Art Museum in China, the Israel Museum and the multi-city U.S. touring exhibition *Past in Reverse*, as well as other touring exhibitions and museum shows

The artists will be in Hong Kong from April 12th to April 16th, 2014 including the exhibition opening date. For press enquiry or scheduled interview, please contact Bo Kim at bo@10chancerylangallery.com or +852 2810 0065.

About 10 Chancery Lane Gallery

10 Chancery Lane is one of the pioneering galleries on the Hong Kong scene. Founded in 2001 the gallery presents emerging and historically important movements in art across Asia-Pacific, supporting the development of the careers of the most exciting artists in the region including Dinh Q. Lê, Vietnam, The Propeller Group, Vietnam, Huang Rui, China, Wang Keping, France/China and Manit Sriwanichpoom, Thailand. The gallery is committed to documenting the development of the highest quality art in the region through survey exhibitions, talks, forums and publishing. There is a strong curatorial focus. Important shows are conceived and hosted with some of Asia's leading curators, Feng Boyi (China),

Erin Gleeson (Cambodia), Zoe Butt (Vietnam) and Iola Lenzi (Thailand). There is a particular focus on artists from the Asia Pacific including from South East Asia and visual and performance art from China including that of the 1979 Beijing early art movement "The Stars". Represented artists have important museum shows. Dinh Q. Le was the first Vietnamese artist to exhibit at MOMA New York in June 2010., while the Australian artist John Young was shown at the Guggenheim in New York. Gallery artists have exhibited in the Venice Biennale, Documenta, Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Fukuoka Triennial, Singapore Biennial, Guangzhou Triennial and Busan Biennale. Four artists represented by the gallery were included in dOCUMENTA13. 10 Chancery Lane Gallery supports the development of contemporary art in Hong Kong as a founding member of the Hong Kong Galleries Association and through its *HKFOREWORD* Series, showcasing the work of young artists from the city.

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"A Splendid Web from Heaven to Earth"

10 CHANCERY LANE GALLERY

15 April 2014 – 3rd May 2014

at 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Central, Hong Kong

Opening 15 April 6:30 – 8:30pm

G/F, 10 Chancery Lane, SoHo, Central, Hong Kong

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm

Enquiry: +852 2810 0065