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CONTEMPORARY ART / DESIGN / AUCTIONS / EXHIBITIONS / ART FAIRS

Exclusive Interview With

**XIANGDONG
CHEN**

Contemporary Chinese Art
'THE INFUSION OF INK AND CLAY'



Special Interview With

BENIAMINO LEVI

*"Dalí had the gift of
irrational rationality!"*

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XIANGDONG CHEN

Contemporary Chinese Art

'THE INFUSION OF INK AND CLAY'



XIANGDONG CHEN.
One Step One Lotus (2018).
44.5 x 13 cm (High Temperature
Underglaze Color - Blue and
White Porcelain Vase)
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XIANGDONG CHEN.
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Exclusive Interview With **XIANGDONG CHEN**

Contemporary Chinese Art

Contemporary artist Xiangdong Chen was born in Nantong, China in 1963, where he attended Nantong University - School of Fine Arts. After graduating from Nantong University in 1987, Chen moved on to continue his studies at the Print Program of Nanjing Academy, where he graduated in 1991. From 1989 to today, Chen has continued to refine his background in fine arts, making him one of the most prominent international Chinese print artists of our century.

Chen's work can be found in numerous locations such as the National Art Museum of China, Jiangsu Museum of Art, Amerasia Bank, United Nations, Si Chuan Divine Printmaking Museum and Taiwan Tainan Museum, Yingge Ceramics Museum in Taiwan, National Taiwan Normal University and Nanjing Arts Institute - to name a few. He is also a member of the China Artists Association, the China Association of Print Artist and the Society of American Graphic Artists (SAGA). He is the recipient of many awards for his work in China.



XIANGDONG CHEN.
Fortune is Here (2017).
19.1 x 7.2 cm (High Temperature
Underglaze Color - Gazed Red
Porcelain Vase).
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XIANGDONG CHEN.
Free Will- At One's Wish (2018).
71 x 38 cm (5) Water Ink
© Stride Arts

Exclusive Interview With **XIANGDONG CHEN**

Contemporary Chinese Art

Art Market Magazine: Dear Xiangdong Chen, It's a pleasure to feature this interview for our readers. You are considered as one of the most successful contemporary Chinese artists, especially known for your work of painting, glazing, kiln firing, and porcelain, combined with symbols of Oriental culture.

But let's start from the beginning: You attended to Nantong University — School of Fine Arts, where you graduated in 1987. Tell us about that experience. Do you feel those years of studying in Nantong, Jiangsu province gave you the basic techniques and knowledge in the field?

Xiangdong Chen: I had a great experience at Nantong University. That is where I started my real artist life. I had not only learned all the basic techniques of being a great artist that is needed later, but also learned art history and art forms from both Eastern and Western. The techniques and knowledge I had learned there have strengthened my artistic foundation.

A.M: You continued your studying at the Print Program of Nanjing Academy, where later on, since 1998, you are based in New York, having remarkable success in the Fine Art Field.

After many years of experience both in China and in the US, How would you describe the different approaches in the Contemporary Art Field in both countries? The interests of buyers / the root of becoming a successful artist / the amount of opportunities / prices of artworks...

X.C: There are some differences, but when art or an artist have reached a certain level, just like anything else, all is one, all is connected. Then there are not many differences.

A.M: As one of the most famous award-winning contemporary artists in China, Your work can be found in many respectable museums' collections, including at the National Art Museum of China, Jiangsu Museum of Art, the Taiwan Tainan Museum and more. What led to your decision to move into NYC to the contemporary art scene? Would you say the contemporary art field is more open and with more opportunities in the US than in China?

X.C: I moved to New York because of family reasons. I wanted to support my wife's business. It worked out well, and our son has a fruitful future here in the US. Even though the first few years my art career was quite a struggle, My mentor, Liao Hsiao Ping, the world-famous pioneer of printmaking, said to me 'You can give up anything but not your art.' So, I continued to create and further my journey in the Fine Arts filed purely through my passion.

Yes, in the Western art world, it seems the contemporary art field is more open and with more opportunities, but in the recent years, in China, there are also a lot of opportunities for artists.

A.M: Let's talk about the traditional Chinese Ink Art. You are widely recognized as the first artist to successfully infuse porcelain with painting. In your porcelain artworks, we can see a very unique



XIANGDONG CHEN.
 Ten Thousand Miles of Scenery
 (2018), 9.2 x 9.2 x 29.8 cm
 (High Temperature Underglaze
 Color - Blue and White Porcelain,
 Glazed Red Porcelain, Iron Oxide
 Porcelain Vase)
 © Stride Arts

painting of mountains and oriental symbols. Would you say you have developed an original technique, so it will fit for the contemporary fine art field?

X.C: Even though I am not the first to infuse porcelain with painting, I am the first to bring these infusion contemporary style and art form to New York City.

In the last five years, I successfully incorporated my fine art style into porcelain. I was widely recognized at this time in China for my works in museums. The ink infused porcelain pieces I produced created a big impact in such a short amount of time.

Yes, the technique and style are original and authentic. It fits the contemporary fine art field.

A.M: Tell us about the special exhibition at the Stride Arts gallery located in NYC. What artworks and series of artworks can

we find at 'The Infusion of Ink and Clay'? Recent work as well as highlight from over 20 years of creativity?

X.C: Stride Arts presented my very first solo art exhibition in NYC. The 'Infusion of Ink and Clay' exhibition features a combination of my most recent porcelain and ink pieces. All of my work needed an intensive process, the clay models went through different stages of glazing and were handmade in Jing De Zhen, the porcelain capital of China. You can find some of my best work on display. For example,

Title: **The Journey of Enlightenment**
 (Right Page)
 High Temperature Underglaze Color
 Blue and White Porcelain Vase

Through this piece, you can feel how my infusion techniques are different from others and how my ink drawing style played a big role in the process.



XIANGDONG CHEN.
 The Journey of Enlightenment.
 High Temperature Underglaze Color.
 Blue and White Porcelain Vase
 © Stride Arts

Title: **The Highest Respect (Right)**
High Temperature Underglaze Color
Glazed Blue Porcelain

This piece's shape is traditional Chinese ceramic. In old-time, this shape presented high power. You would only find this kind of porcelain in the homes of a general or the Royal family General. I draw the mountain by connecting all the dots. To draw each dot on the clay is a very interesting process. It needs great discipline.

In this exhibition, I also presented a few series, include one in ink, titled, 'Free Will - At One's Wish,' that is comprised of five grand pieces. 71 x 38" (5).

"Free Will - At One's Wish," although not inspired by real mountains, were drawn from my heart and was influenced by the natural beauty of the river. In traditional water-ink creations, when an artist draws mountains or rivers he or she will use 'simple lines', but not me. My personal style uses 'water-ink-dots' to emphasize the balance between Yin and Yang; sun and moon, heaven and earth, masculinity and femininity, and humanity.

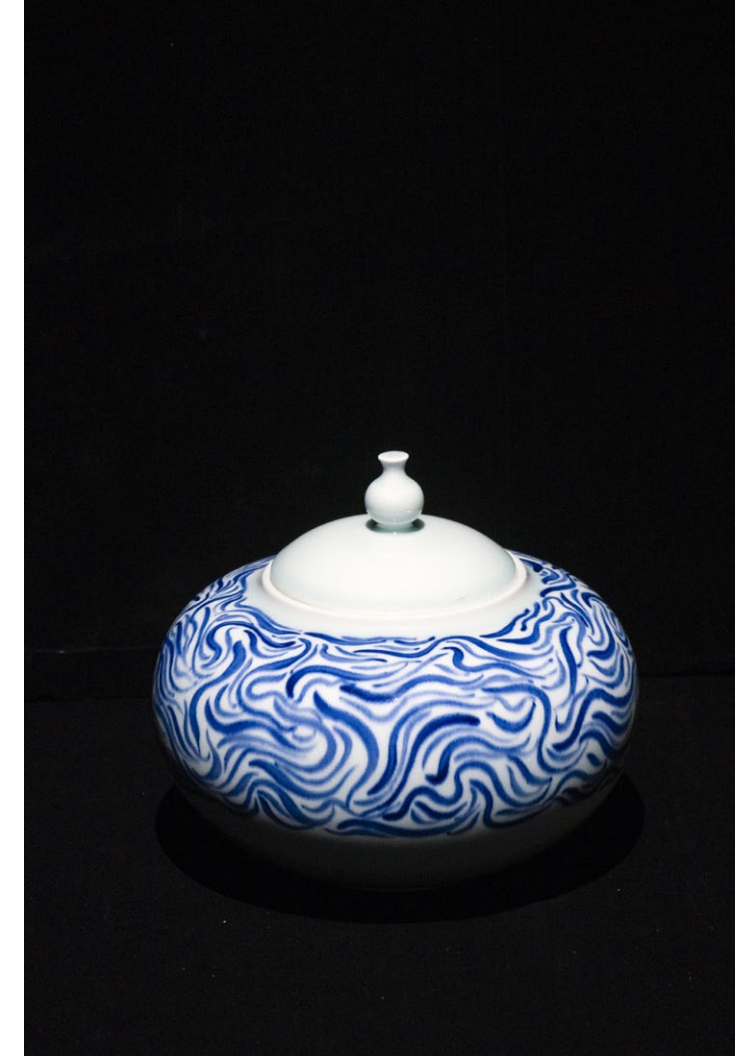
This solo exhibition emphasizes my most recent work as well as highlights my creations over the years, especially the technique of infusion ink and porcelain, and using "dots" instead of "line" in my ink series.

A.M: What does the future hold? Should we expect future exhibitions, participation at Art fairs or auctions both in the US and China?

X.C: Through this solo exhibition presented by Stride Arts in NYC, I have gained great confidence for the future. Yes, you definitely will see more of my work in Stride Arts and other exhibitions, art auctions and art fairs around the world in the near future.



XIANGDONG CHEN.
The Highest Respect (2019)
© Stride Arts

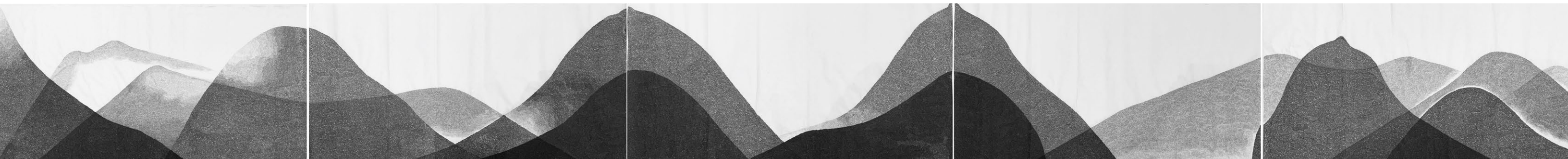


Top Left: XIANGDONG CHEN.
Immortal Soul (2017). H8x 8.5
(High Temperature Underglaze Color -
Blue and White Porcelain Vase)
© Stride Arts

Left: XIANGDONG CHEN.
From The Heart (2015). 6 x 7.5
(High Temperature Underglaze Color -
Glazed Red Porcelain Vase)
© Stride Arts

Top Right: XIANGDONG CHEN.
Enjoying the Hunting (2017) H12 x Ø4
(High Temperature Underglaze Color -
Blue and White Porcelain Vase)
© Stride Arts

Bottom: XIANGDONG CHEN.
Free Will- At One's Wish (2018)
71 x 38 cm (5) Water Ink
© Stride Arts





STRIDE

STRIDE ARTS is pleased to present 'The Infusion of Ink and Clay,' a solo show from the award-winning Chinese artist, Xiangdong Chen. Chen is one of the most famous contemporary artists in China, and this show will present pieces from his most recent period of production as well as historic pieces that have brought him such acclaim. The exhibition will be open through August 16th, 2019, Monday to Friday 9 AM to 6 PM.





XIANGDONG CHEN.
The Wind of May (2019) 5 x 5.9; 2.1 x 4.5
(High Temperature Underglaze Porcelain
Tea Pot)
© Stride Arts

Xiangdong Chen is recognized as the first artist to successfully infuse porcelain with painting. From clay selection to painting, glazing and kiln firing, to his skillful execution of the delicate dance between porcelain and painting, and his unique rendering of the symbols of Oriental culture with New York's creative scene, Chen has created visually stunning works that showcase an unparalleled mastery of the process and materials.

“The Infusion of Ink and Clay’ exhibition is not only intended to highlight the trend and quality of contemporary art, but to also find inspiration that communicates the natural beauty of porcelain,” said Mr. Chen.

The exhibition presents close to 100 works, comprised of both porcelain and ink paintings that invite the viewer to immerse themselves in the history of the material and modernity of design. These meticulously constructed sculptures comment on the intersection of humanity and nature.



Xiangdong Chen addressing reception guests
© Stride Arts



The Infusion of Ink and Clay Exhibition Reception
© Stride Arts

ABOUT

Stride Arts

Stride Arts offers a multitude of services to artists and their art collectors. For artists, they provide a multifunctional platform with studio space, marketing, and business strategic advice, and promotion through unique and appealing programming. For collectors – personal, business and institutional, they will negotiate the sale of the work as well as providing rental

services, where art aficionados of all types can benefit from their team of specialists who will curate work, available at affordable prices that can be regularly rotated.

Angel Zhang has a background as an investor in the arts and as a supporter of emerging artists. Angel is the Founder and CEO of a commercial, industrial and digital printer manufacturer in China that has offices across the country and

internationally. She is a prolific collector and an investor in several galleries across China, where she helped several famous Chinese artists to establish their careers. Angel moved to New York City more than a decade ago and now splits her time between her homes in Manhattan and Long Island.



The Infusion of Ink and Clay Exhibition Reception
© Stride Arts



Left: Angel Zhang (right) with reception guests discussing Xiangdong Chen's collection
© Stride Arts



Middle: (Left to Right) Chang Ge, Liyan Li, Josh Cohen, Xiangdong Chen at The Infusion of Ink and Clay. Exhibition Reception
© Stride Arts



Right: The Infusion of Ink and Clay Exhibition Reception © Stride Arts



XIANGDONG CHEN.
Lovely Lotus (2017). 29 x 7
(High Temperature Underglaze Color -
Glazed Red Porcelain Vase)
© Stride Arts

XIANGDONG CHEN

Contemporary Chinese Art

'THE INFUSION OF INK AND CLAY'

Location: 1110 2nd Avenue, Suite 200, NY, NY, 10022 (at 58th St. and 2nd Ave.)

Opening Times: Monday to Friday 9 AM to 6 PM. For weekend appointments, please call at the below number.

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