



Gang Zhao: *Wedding*, 2007, 200 x 300 cm, oil on canvas

#### Gang Zhao

\*1961 in Beijing; lives and works in Beijing

Zhao is the youngest member of the original Star group and left China at a very young age, moving first to Holland, where he studied at the academy of fine art in Maastricht, and then to America, where he was a student at Vassar College and Bard College. Zhao has recently returned to Beijing. He has changed direction in style from his early abstract works to an art that is figurative and politically aware. His interpretations of a young Mao with his wife, a formal wedding, or a white-faced woman asleep with a bed of flowers on either side of her show him to be a powerful narrative painter interested in portraying both a historical and imaginary China.

#### Hui Ren

\*1957 in Nanjing; lives and works in Songzhuang

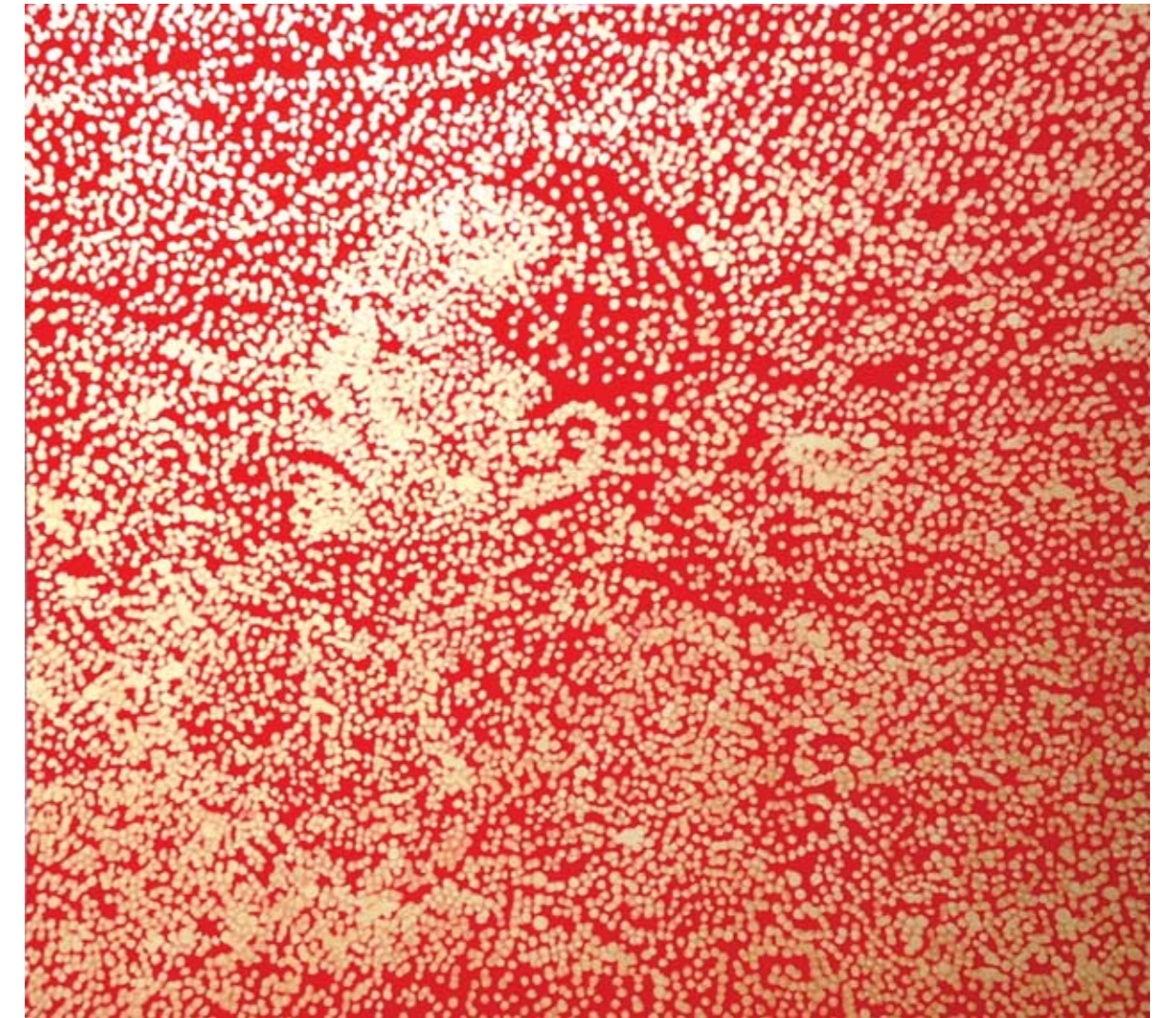
Hui Ren began as a poet and writer, but in 1991 he decided to become a full-time artist. He has exhibited in Germany and America, as well as Beijing. His oil-on-canvas portraits, completed by his use of white drops in groups of greater and lesser density, show us the bare outlines of a face. The sharp psychological description implied in his art is his forte. In one painting we find a face of a youth, a young child really; in another, we see the portrait of a man blowing into what looks like a piece of glass. In both cases, white drops arranged in clusters create the features of the figures.

Chinese contemporary art reflects many changes and influences. The artists in this show offer work that reinforces the notion of a complicated international art culture, referring to Western as well as Asian art. While stylistically various, most of this group explores both the transformations and traditions of Chinese life and art; sometimes the results criticize Chinese culture, and sometimes the results praise Chinese institutions. Interestingly, the artists' practice presupposes a shared continuity with contemporary Western art, its methods and innovations.

This show has been curated by Ric Rossi

## GALERIE KASHYA HILDEBRAND

Talstrasse 58, 8001 Zurich, Switzerland Tel: +41 44 210 02 02 Fax: +41 44 210 02 15  
Opening Hours: Monday to Friday: 11 – 18.30, Saturday: 12 – 16.00, or by appointment  
info@kashyahildebrand.org www.kashyahildebrand.org



Hui Ren: *The Sun is Too Bright – Swim*, 2007, 200 x 220 cm, oil on canvas

A POINT IN THE RED  
CONTEMPORARY CHINESE ART  
TIANBING LI WEI LIU HUI REN SHI ZEPING GANG ZHAO



Tianbing Li: *Arbre I*, 2002, 200 x 200 cm, oil on canvas

### Tianbing Li

\*1974 in Guilin; lives and works in Paris

Tianbing Li, who is the youngest of the four artists in this show, resides in Paris after having been educated at the Ecole supérieure des Beaux-Arts. Like many artists of his generation, he addresses both Western and Asian issues, on both technical and thematic levels. Many of his series allude to the increasingly commercial, material aspects of a changing Chinese society. His lovely landscapes with bright colors suddenly transform themselves into sceneries of corrupted, polluted and decaying elements. All at once we are introduced to Li's philosophy, which is Asian in its sense of continuous change. In his 'Arbres' and 'Nature Morte' series he makes references to traditional motifs while criticizing our increasingly globalized consumer culture.

### Shi Zeping

\*1963 in Tianjin, lives and works in Songzhuang

Shi Zeping studied at the Tianjin Academy of Art. He has shown mostly in Beijing, with a couple of early appearances in exhibitions in Nanjing and, more recently, Shandong, Shanghai, and Hong Kong. His contribution to the show, which consists of three children, dressed in uniform and sitting on top of one another, is an ironic version of patriotism: in each group of three, one of the youths holds a red flag. The theme is serious, but also, like much of the work in this show, absurd; Shi connects with the jaded cynicism many must feel on seeing the flag of communism raised in a contemporary society that is now deeply capitalistic.



Shi Zeping: *Untitled*, 2007, 4\* 155 x 80 cm, Oil on Canvas



Wei Liu: *Flowers*, 2007, 150 x 150 cm, oil on canvas

### Wei Liu

\*1965 in Beijing; lives and works in Beijing

Wei Liu, who is a leading artist in the Songzhuang group, took his bachelor's degree from the printmaking department in the Central Academy of Fine Arts. Wei played an important role in the Cynical Realism movement, reminding us of the absurdities of historical China. He sees life in China without the idealist's preconception; his rough style and corrosive content, in which familiar icons such as babies and Chairman Mao are described, show an artist at odds with his experience in China. Indeed, his provocative manner of painting attacks the self-satisfied bureaucracy of modern and contemporary China.