

PRESS RELEASE

Deng Shiqing. *Forgery of Reality*

Solo Show

Curated by **Charles Moore**

29.05.2024 – 29.07.2024

Opening Reception **May 29th, 6 PM**

C+N Gallery CANEPANERI

Foro Buonaparte, 48 – 20121 Milan

C+N Gallery CANEPANERI is proud to present the first solo exhibition in Europe by **Deng Shiqing**, titled ***Forgery of Reality***, curated by **Charles Moore**.

In a thought-provoking exploration of value, authenticity, and the enigmatic nature of the art world, this summer's exhibition at **C+N Gallery CANEPANERI's** Milan space will leave us questioning where art as aesthetics ends and art as a commodity begins.

Born in China, Deng Shiqing's artistic journey has been marked by a relentless pursuit of innovation and self-expression. After honing her craft in the formal, yet often restricting, aspects of traditional Chinese painting, she relocated and began a transformative journey, first to Beijing and then to New York City. It was amidst these bustling cities full of new ideas and cultures that she found liberation in embracing new forms of artmaking. This is reflected in the distinctive blend of Eastern and Western influences, resulting in a bold exploration of the surreal as she questions relevant societal, cultural, and artistic issues.

In "Forgery of Reality," Shiqing delves deep into the heart of the art world, questioning the very essence of artistic value within our globalized society. In a series of over two dozen works, Shiqing unveils the intricate dynamics that govern our perceptions of art and its creators with her signature fusion of critique and humor. Drawing upon her own experiences and observations, Shiqing challenges the notion of authenticity in an age dominated by appropriation and replication. Each piece showcases a different yet poignant commentary on the commodification of culture and the elusive nature of artistic identity in our modern age.

The intrinsic worth of art has been called into question. With meticulous attention to detail and a keen sense of symbolism, she constructs immersive narratives that blur the boundaries between reality and illusion. As figuration and surreal abstractions collide, everything we think we know about art is upended.

Within the series, they could almost be mistaken for commonplace actions—gazing upon a painting, preparing a canvas, striving to create realistic works of art. However, upon closer examination, Shiqing subverts these everyday activities of the art world.

The person admiring the work of art, too, is covered in hand-drawn imagery that echoes sentiments of credibility and inadequacy. Another piece shows a man stretching a canvas, but among the wooden frame is a human body that replaces the substrate, now flattened, contorted, and manipulated by the artist.

"Forgery of Reality" prompts introspection and a reinvigorated dialogue about the nature of creativity for all who experience it. They are glimpses into both the art world's complexities and also into our own mentalities and perceptions of what makes art worth anything. Enthralled by the absurdity and struck by the relevance of her critiques, we are confronted with what it truly means to create with authenticity.

Contemporary painter **Deng Shiqing** invites us into a world continually teetering between the real and the absurd. Deng's work has been a draw on her artistic roots, learning the foundational rigid elements of traditional, and often nationalistic, Chinese painting in her youth to add in more imaginative qualities once she moved to the city of Beijing and eventually New York. From these autobiographical and geographical investigations of place and identity, she dives deep into larger commentaries about our world today. Deng obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, China, and her Master of Fine Arts from the New York Academy of Art. She has been the recipient of the 2019 International Biennial Portrait Competition, the Chubb Fellowship, and the Terra Foundation Residency in Giverny, France. Among the notable exhibitions she has exhibited with are, Parasol Projects in New York, Art Basel Miami, Enjoy Art Museum in Beijing, the Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art in Wisconsin, and Sotheby's New York, among others.

Charles Moore is a New York-based curator, author, and art historian investigating abstraction, color theory, and social justice challenging systemic disparities in the art world. Moore received his Master's degree in Museum Studies from Harvard, and is currently a doctoral candidate at Columbia University's in the Art & Museum Studies program. He is a regular contributing author to notable publications including Juxtapoz, CULTURED, Artsy, Brooklyn Rail, and Fine Art Connoisseur. He is the author of three books about art criticism and collecting: *The Black Market: A Guide to Art Collecting* (2020); *Israel's Transformative Black Artists* (2020); and *The Brilliance of the Color Black Through the Eyes of Art Collectors* (2021). *The Black Market* has been translated into 10 languages.