



Feng Xiao-Min
Brush of Light

OPERA GALLERY

Feng Xiao-Min

Brush of Light

3 May to 1 June 2024

OPERA GALLERY
30
YEARS

Foreword

Gilles Dyan
Founder & Chairman
Opera Gallery Group

Jeremy Weltmann
Director
Opera Gallery Hong Kong

Feng Xiao-Min is a Franco-Chinese artist whose artistic practice is remarkable and captivating. Born to Chinese parents and raised in France, Feng Xiao-Min skillfully merges the cultural influences of both countries in his works.

His artistic style is often described as poetic and enigmatic. His paintings are imbued with deep sensitivity and impressive technical mastery. The colours he employs are often vibrant and expressive, creating visually striking compositions. Feng Xiao-Min explores themes such as identity, memory, and the relationship between humans and nature. His works are infused with profound reflections on the connections between individuals and their environment, inviting viewers to engage in introspection.

His artistic journey has led him to exhibit his works in many countries around the world. He has garnered attention from the public and critics alike, thanks to his exceptional artistic talent and his ability to create works that resonate universally. Feng Xiao-Min represents an important and original voice in the world of contemporary art. His work transcends cultural boundaries and offers a unique perspective on universal themes that touch us all.

The connection between Feng Xiao-Min and light is profoundly significant in his artistic practice. Feng Xiao-Min utilises light in a meticulous and expressive manner to create specific atmospheres and moods in his works. Light is often used as a key element in the staging of his compositions. He skillfully manipulates light and shadow to intensify contrast and emphasise the details of his subjects. Beyond its aesthetic use, light in Feng Xiao-Min's work also carries symbolic meaning. It often represents the search for truth, clarity, and transcendence. Light is employed to evoke emotions, spiritual experiences, and reflections on human existence.

Thus, the connection between Feng Xiao-Min and light is intricately intertwined in his artistic practice, both visually and symbolically. The way he manipulates and interacts with light in his works creates captivating visual experiences and invites viewers to deeper contemplation on the human condition.

Feng Xiao-Min at Opera Gallery Hong Kong

Feng Xiao-Min (b. 1959) is concerned with the interplay of form, light and colour. His canvases are imbued with a distinct, wordless feeling that transcends the boundaries between movements in contemporary and historical painting. They evoke ocean vistas, starless nights and endless dark matter, drawing the viewer in with subtle washes of paint and forming seemingly boundless scenes reminiscent of twilight skies.

The artist, who moved to Paris to study at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts after his early training in China, fuses an Eastern aesthetic sensibility with Western techniques. In his paintings, resonances of both Chinese calligraphy and American Abstract Expressionism can be found. Manipulating acrylic paint as a calligrapher manipulates ink, he precisely controls the flow of paint and water. The result is an image that incorporates a uniquely broad range of influences, from Turner to Zao Wou-Ki.

The paintings on show here serve as a kind of antidote to the claustrophobia of modern life. "In a somewhat chaotic world today," the artist explains, "I would like to bring and express through my works, and this exhibition in particular, a kind of balance, purity and serenity." Warmth, softness, depth and diffusion all have their place in his paintings, their combination amounting to a subtly powerful effect: the rare dual feeling of wonder and tranquillity.

He is not inspired by a specific subject or location; instead, he focuses on the spatial configuration of the image as a whole. The vivid colours and bold contrasts he uses bring his hazy subjects to life and create an atmosphere that is at once soothing and intense. He conveys a sense of movement and transformation, capturing fleeting moments wherein light dances and metamorphoses.

Each brushstroke is imbued with deep artistic intent, created at a rare intersection of technique and expression. Each canvas embarks on an emotional journey, guided entirely by the artist's intuition. As he put it, "only natural things will last over time. Artistic creation is part of the same philosophy."

Feng Xiao-Min's paintings are timeless. They go beyond the canon of abstract painting, referencing the raw and powerful energy of the world outside the gallery: skies and oceans, hopeful dawns and dramatic dusks. Ultimately, his work is a homage to light, and an invitation to open our eyes and contemplate it with renewed wonder.

Interview with Feng Xiao-Min



Feng Xiao-Min studio in Fontainebleau, France

Your new exhibition is titled 'Brush of Light'. How did you choose this title?

In my creations, light always represents something essential, because it is thanks to the existence of light that we perceive colour. And it is also thanks to light that a painting becomes more dynamic and alive, giving it perspective. It gives substance to the painting, transcending reality and space-time. This is why I am always in search of a kind of natural light through my brushstrokes.

What message would you like the exhibition to convey?

In a somewhat chaotic world today, I would like to bring and express through my works, and this exhibition in particular, a kind of balance, purity and serenity.

Who do you think has inspired and influenced your practice to date?

Having been introduced to calligraphy and painting at a young age thanks to my parents, I was first influenced by Chinese art and its great masters such as Mi Fu, Shitao, Zhu Da... I was particularly touched by their mastery of brushstrokes and space, as well as the art of composition.

Then, I had the chance to make friends with great Franco-Chinese artists, notably Zao Wou-Ki and Chu Teh-Chun. Their works influenced me towards a fusion of Eastern and Western art. I then began to really become interested and to deepen my research into the union of these two techniques.

Naturally, great Western painters, like Turner, Cézanne, Matisse, etc., also inspired me a lot, particularly in their mastery of colour and light.

What do you think is the most important aspect of your practice?

I mainly seek a mastery of light, colour and space in my creations, in order to bring what I call a natural serenity of mind.

How do you think your practice is evolving?

I have never sought artificial evolution. I always let myself be guided naturally by my feelings and my inner emotions. I believe that the importance of creation rests on the path of nature, which connects with the philosophical concept of Taoism. For me, only natural things will last over time. Artistic creation is part of the same philosophy.

Can you name your all-time favourite artwork?

This is a delicate question for me, because I appreciate more than one...

Over time, I continually discover new creations, which move me differently, and this is what art brings us: infinite richness and creativity.



Feng Xiao-Min in his studio in Paris, France

Artworks

Composition N° 9.3.10
2010

Acrylic on paper laid on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

55 × 80 cm | 21.7 × 31.5 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Poésie de l'espace N° 6 . 8 . 18
2018

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

80 × 80 cm | 31.5 × 31.5 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N° 8.4.19
2019

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

130 × 162 cm | 51.2 × 63.8 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N°1.9.20
2020

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

210 × 260 cm | 82.7 × 102.4 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N° 18 . 11 . 20
2020

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

130 × 195 cm | 51.2 × 76.8 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N° 22.3.21
2021

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

114 × 146 cm | 44.9 × 57.5 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N° 18.4.21
2021

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

97 × 130 cm | 38.2 × 51.2 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio

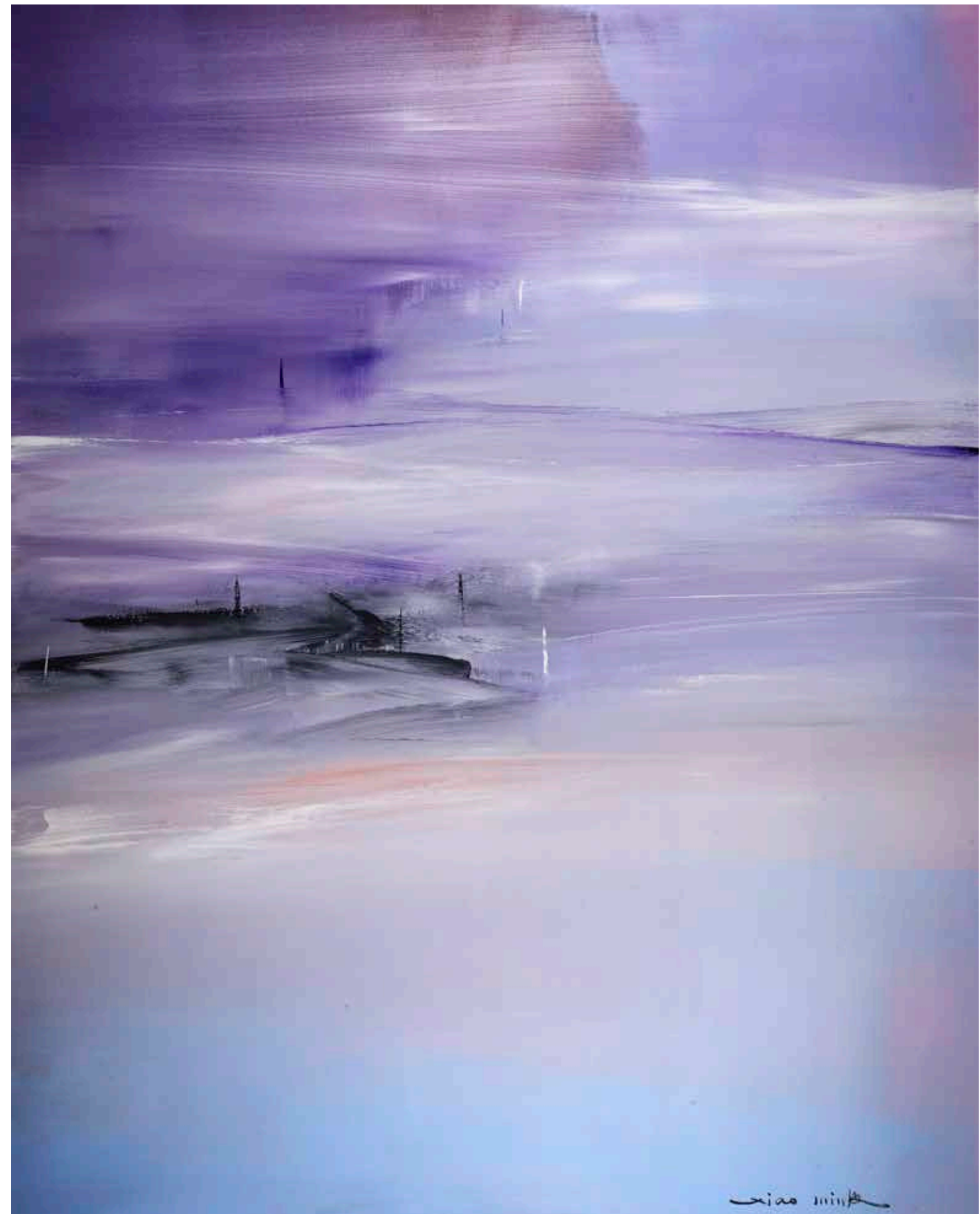


Composition N° 28.8.22
2022

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

162 × 130 cm | 63.8 × 51.2 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N° 2.4.22
2022

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

130 × 195 cm | 51.2 × 76.8 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N° 12.1.22
2022

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

162 × 130 cm | 63.8 × 51.2 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N° 20.6.22
2022

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

130 × 162 cm | 51.2 × 63.8 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N° 28.4.22
2022

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

130 × 195 cm | 51.2 × 76.8 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N° 22.5.23
2023

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

73 × 92 cm | 28.7 × 36.2 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N° 24.12.23
2023

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

162 × 97 cm | 63.8 × 38.2 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N° 28.3.23
2023

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

130 × 195 cm | 51.2 × 76.8 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N° 18 . 12 . 23
2023

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

97 × 162 cm | 38.2 × 63.8 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N° 8.3.23
2023

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

130 × 195 cm | 51.2 × 76.8 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N° 8.5.23
2023

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

92 × 73 cm | 36.2 × 28.7 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N° 10.8.23
2023

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

210 × 260 cm | 82.7 × 102.4 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N° 18.1.23
2023

Acrylic on canvas (triptych)
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right on the right panel

195 × 291 cm | 76.8 × 114.6 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N° 18.4.23
2023

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

97 × 130 cm | 38.2 × 51.2 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N° 8.1.24
2024

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' on the lower right

50 × 150 cm | 19.7 × 59.1 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio



Composition N° 28.2.24
2024

Acrylic on canvas
Signed 'xiao min' along the edge on the lower left

80 × 80 cm | 31.5 × 31.5 in

PROVENANCE
Artist's studio





Biography

Born in 1959 in Shanghai, Feng Xiao-Min is a French-Chinese artist. His passion for art was evident early on. He was raised in a family of intellectuals, with his mother's side hailing from a banking background, and received a quality education guided by his father, who broadened Feng Xiao-Min's horizons to the world of art.

After graduating from Fine Arts studies in China, he moved to France in 1988 and enrolled at the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Feng was later invited to teach at the prestigious institution from 1997 to 2000. Afterwards, he decided to forego teaching to focus solely on his own creations.

Feng's artwork celebrates the fusion of Eastern aesthetics and Western techniques depicting his visions of landscapes from dusk to dawn. No specific subject or location inspires Feng. Instead, he focuses on the powerful visual impact created by the blending of colour and spatial configuration of the whole image. Taking inspiration from his training in traditional Chinese calligraphy, Feng uses acrylic on canvas and skillfully mimics the Chinese aesthetic of ink on paper, often being known to paint on the floor to control acrylic and water flow.

Today, his artworks are collected and presented in private and public collections, including galleries, museums and foundations, both in France and internationally. Feng Xiao-Min frequently exhibits at international art fairs and biennales and was commissioned to produce work for the 2017 BRICS summit. Several French publishers have also issued books about his paintings. Furthermore, some of his works have been chosen to illustrate publications by the French Éducation Nationale.

Feng Xiao-Min currently lives and works in Paris.

Selected Exhibitions

2024 France, Paris, Opera Gallery, Art Paris
Hong Kong, Opera Gallery, Art Central

2023 Singapore, Opera Gallery, 'Reflections'
Hong Kong, Opera Gallery, Art Central
Hong Kong, Opera Gallery, French May Arts Festival
China, Shanghai, Opera Gallery, ART021
Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair
France, Paris, Opera Gallery, FAB Paris
China, Shanghai, Putuo Cultural Pavilion, Group Exhibition, Commemorative exhibition of Wu Dayu and Zao Wou-Ki

2022 UAE, Dubai, Opera Gallery, Group Exhibition, 'Abstraction, A Visual Reality'
France, Paris, Opera Gallery, Art Paris
South Korea, Busan, Opera Gallery, Art Busan

2021 South Korea, Seoul, Opera Gallery, Group Exhibition
France, Paris, Opera Gallery, 'Compositions'
France, Paris, Opera Gallery, La Biennale Paris

2020 Hong Kong, Opera Gallery, Art Central
China, Shanghai, Opera Gallery, ART021
Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair
Singapore, Opera Gallery, Group Exhibition

2019 Hong Kong, Opera Gallery, 'Feng Xiao-Min: Inspired Resonance'
China, Suzhou, Suzhou Art Museum, Group Exhibition, 'Yi Xiang Jiang Nan'
Hong Kong, Opera Gallery, Group Exhibition, 'Abstraction Athwart Worlds: Ties Between Modern Worlds'
Taiwan, Taipei, Opera Gallery, Art Taipei
China, Shanghai, Opera Gallery, ART021
Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair
Monaco, Opera Gallery, Group Exhibition, 'The Monaco Masters Show'

2018 Hong Kong, Opera Gallery, Group Exhibition, 'Asia Abstract'
Taiwan, Taipei, Gin Huang Gallery, 'Blossoming: Gallery Collection'
Taiwan Taipei, National of Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memory Hall, 2018 Taipei International Ink Painting Exhibition
China, Shanghai, Philippe Staib Gallery, Shanghai Art Fair
Taiwan, Taipei, Gin Huang Gallery, 'Blossoming: Gallery Collection'

2017 Taiwan, Taipei, National of Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memory Hall, Taipei International Ink Painting Exhibition
China, Shanghai, Jing'an Sculpture Park Art Center, 'The Master of Colors'
Taiwan, Xin Zhu, Philippe Staib Gallery; Sophia.C Art Gallery
Taiwan, Taipei, Philippe Staib Gallery, Art Taipei
China, Shanghai, Philippe Staib Gallery, Shanghai Art Fair
Taiwan, Taipei, Gin Huang Gallery, 'Regent Fantasy'

2016 South Korea, Busan, Philippe Staib Gallery, Art Busan
South Korea, Seoul, SOMA Museum of Art, 'From France to Korea – World Contemporary artists from France'
China, Shanghai, Philippe Staib Gallery, Shanghai Art Fair
Taiwan, Taipei, Philippe Staib Gallery, Art Taipei
Taiwan, Kaohsiung, Philippe Staib Gallery, Art Kaohsiung

- 2015** China, Beijing, Antoine Poncet; Yishu 8; Philippe Staib Gallery, 'The Masters of Shapes and Colors' (traveling exhibition)
Taiwan, Taipei, Philippe Staib Gallery, Art Taipei
China, Shanghai, Philippe Staib Gallery, Shanghai Art Fair
Taiwan, Kaohsiung, Philippe Staib Gallery, Art Kaohsiung
- 2014** China, Shanghai, Shanghai Himalayas Museum, 'A Fragment in the Course of Time – Landscape of Chinese Ink Art in the 1980s'
UAE, Dubai, Opera Gallery
Hong Kong, Opera Gallery
France, Paris, Opera Gallery
Monaco, Opera Gallery
Singapore, Galerie Image of China
China, Shanghai, Philippe Staib Gallery, International Art Fair
- 2013** France, Paris, Goldenberg Gallery, 'Rencontre'
France, Paris, Linz Gallery, 'Intersection'
France, Paris, Linz Gallery, 'Dessins – traits et encre'
China, Shanghai, Purple Roof Gallery, Asian Galleries Art Fair
China, Shanghai, Purple Roof Gallery, International Art Fair

- 2012** Taiwan, Taipei, Zhongshan National Gallery, National of Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memory Hall, 'International Contemporary Ink Painting Exhibition'
China, Shanghai, Purple Roof Gallery, 'Shanghai Contemporary'
China, Shanghai, Purple Roof Gallery, International Art Fair
- 2011** France, Paris, Cité Internationale des Arts, 'Dialogue des Civilisations'
France, Paris, Artco France Gallery, 'Le Carré Rive Gauche'
France, Marseille, Alcazar, 'Artistes Marseillais / Artistes Chinois / Correspondances ?'
China, Shanghai, Purple Roof Gallery, Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair
China, Shanghai, Purple Roof Gallery, International Art Fair
Singapore, Galerie Image of China, 'Convergence in the Lion City'
- 2010** China, Beijing, Purple Roof Gallery, 'Art Beijing'
Hong Kong, Yun Feng Gallery, Hong Kong Biennale, 'Contemporary Watercolour Exhibition between Shanghai and Hong Kong'
China, Shanghai, Purple Roof Gallery, Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair
China, Shanghai, Artco France, International Art Fair
China, HangZhou, Zhe Jiang Museum; Si Nan Exhibition Center, 'Dialogue des Civilisations' (traveling exhibition)

- 2009** China, Shanghai, Duolun Museum of Modern Art, 'Contemporary Watercolour Exhibition'
- 2008** Taiwan, Taipei, National of Dr. Sun Yat-sen Memory Hall, International Contemporary Watercolor Biennial
China, Beijing, Artco France, Beijing Contemporary Art Fair
Ukraine, Kiev, Academy of Fine Arts and Sciences of Ukraine; China, Shanghai, Association of International Culture of Shanghai
China, Shanghai, Purple Roof Gallery, International Art Fair
- 2007** France, Paris, 82 Gallery
France, Paris, Frédéric Moisan Gallery
China, Shanghai, Ariane Bomsel Gallery, International Art Fair
- 2006** France, Châteauroux, Châteauroux Museum
China, Beijing, Ariane Bomsel Gallery, China International Gallery Exhibition
China, Shanghai, TQ Gallery, International Art Fair
China, Shanghai, Ifa Gallery
China, Shanghai, Tian Qing Gallery
- 2005** France, Paris, 82 Gallery
Belgium, Brussels, Musée Cinquenaire, 'Le Mur du Son'
Hong Kong, Grand Palais
China, Shanghai, Academy of Fine Arts

- 2003** France, Paris, Musée Carnavalet, Group Exhibition
France, Paris, Galerie de l'Hôtel Claridge
France, Charenton-le-Pont, Actée Gallery
China, Shanghai, Shanghai Museum of Fine Arts, Shanghai Biennale; China, Shanghai, Anting Museum of Modern Art ; Germany, Weimar
- 2002** France, Paris, Espace Auteuil, 'Salon du Dessin et de la Peinture à l'Eau'
- 2001** France, Charenton-le-Pont, Actée Gallery
- 1998** Belgium, Brussels, Château de l'Orangerie
- 1993** France, Livry sur Seine, 'Salon d'Art'
France, Paris, Everarts Gallery
- 1992** France, Mantes-la-Jolie, Musée Duhamel
France, Paris, Grand Palais, Salon d'Automne
- 1985** China, Shanghai, Shanghai Cultural Center
- 1981** China, Shanghai, Shanghai Cultural Center
- 1977** China, Shanghai, Shanghai Museum of Fine Arts

Index

p.12 — p.13
Composition N°9. 3. 10
2010



p.24 — p.25
Composition N°18. 4. 21
2021

p.14 — p.15
Poésie de l'espace N°6. 8. 18
2018



p.26 — p.27
Composition N°28. 8. 22
2022

p.16 — p.17
Composition N°8. 4. 19
2019



p.28 — p.29
Composition N°2. 4. 22
2022

p.18 — p.19
Composition N°1. 9. 20
2020



p.30 — p.31
Composition N°12. 1. 22
2022

p.20 — p.21
Composition N°18. 11. 20
2020



p.32 — p.33
Composition N°20. 6. 22
2022

p.22 — p.23
Composition N°22. 3. 21
2021



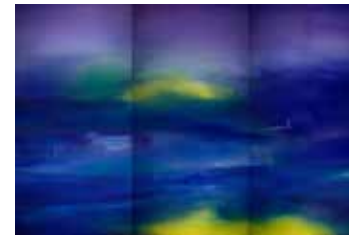
p.34 — p.35
Composition N°28. 4. 22
2022

p.36 — p.37
Composition N°22. 5. 23
2023



p.48 — p.49
Composition N°10. 8. 23
2023

p.38 — p.39
Composition N°24. 12. 23
2023



p.50 — p.51
Composition N°18. 1. 23
2023

p.40 — p.41
Composition N°28. 3. 23
2023



p.52 — p.53
Composition N°18. 4. 23
2023

p.42 — p.43
Composition N°18. 12. 23
2023



p.54 — p.55
Composition N°8. 1. 24
2024

p.44 — p.45
Composition N°8. 3. 23
2023



p.56 — p.57
Composition N°28. 2. 24
2024

p.46 — p.47
Composition N°8. 5. 23
2023



Credits

**This publication was created for the exhibition
'Feng Xiao-Min: Brush of Light'
Presented by Opera Gallery Hong Kong
from 3 May to 1 June 2024**

AUTHORS

Feng Xiao-Min
Phin Jennings
Jeremy Weltmann

COORDINATION

Anne Pampin

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Marine Duroselle

RESEARCH

Anaïs Chombar
Phin Jennings
Anne Pampin

PROOFREADING

Louise Bassou
Anne Pampin

PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS

© Studio SLB

COVER

Feng Xiao-Min, *Composition N°10.8.23*, 2023

All rights reserved. Except for the purpose of review, no part of this book should be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers.

OPERA GALLERY

Shop G08–09, 9 Queen's Road Central, Central, Hong Kong | T. +852 2810 1208 | hkg@operagallery.com | operagallery.com

New York Miami Bal Harbour Aspen London Paris Madrid Monaco Geneva Dubai Beirut Hong Kong Singapore Seoul

