

Motherland

Cai Zhisong Solo Exhibition 2006

Duration: 15th November-15th December

Opening Reception: Saturday 18th November, 3pm

Venue: SHiNE Art Space

(Block 9, No. 50 Moganshan Road, Shanghai)

Opening Hours: 10am-6pm (Tuesday to Sunday)

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SHiNE Art Space is pleased to introduce the exhibition of 'Motherland', a Cai Zhisong solo exhibition. The 'Motherland' series consists of three parts: the 'Ode' and 'Custom' works, which are figurative, and the 'Refinement' object pieces. In his figurative works Cai creates warriors which take influence from the Qin dynasty (221-206 BC), the era in which the infamous Xian terracotta warriors were created. In his interpretations of these ancient soldiers he implies no symbolic significance concerning this time period however. What we see is not a literal representation of a historical figure or one moment in time, but a figure who is representative of the trials and tribulations that have existed throughout history.

We live in a time of great social flux, where decades of social upheaval have contributed to a frequently contradictory cultural identity. Cai Zhisong, in the midst of this turmoil creates sculpture that looks back to the stability of the past; his work is not a reiteration of Chinese history however, but a reaffirmation of the past and its relevance to contemporary times.

A variety of materials are used in the artist's works: the clothed figures and objects are created using lead or bronze, and the nude warriors are constructed from a fiberglass shell that is covered in small copper squares, a method which results in a tactile surface which is richly textured and apparently aged.

Cai Zhisong was born in Shenyang, Liaoning province in 1972 and graduated from the Beijing Academy of Fine Arts in 1997 with his BFA, and in 2001, with his MFA. In this year Cai was also invited to exhibit at the Paris Autumn Salon, the first time in the salon's over 100 year history that a Chinese artist had been asked to do so. Here he won the prestigious Taylor prize and has since gone on to increasing international success. Today Cai lives and works in Beijing.

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