

For immediate release

May 16th, 2012



SHI ZHIYING 石至莹
Palomar Observatory 帕洛马尔观察站, 2012
Oil on canvas 布面油画
15 3/4 x 19 11/16 inches; 40 x 50 cm

SHI ZHIYING:

The Infinite Lawn

May 26 through July 26, 2012

Opening Reception: May 26th, Saturday, 6 to 8 pm

Venue: James Cohan Gallery Shanghai

Add.: 1F, Building 1, No.170 Yueyang Road

James Cohan Gallery Shanghai is pleased to present the solo exhibition *The Infinite Lawn* by Shanghai-based artist **Shi Zhiying**, opening May 26 and continuing through July 26, 2012. This is the artist's debut exhibition at the gallery.

Known for her stark black and white paintings depicting vast views of the sea, endless landscapes of scattered rocks, traditional sand gardens and intricate blades of grass, Shi's paintings are at once deeply visceral and contemplative. "I wish to face things quietly, attentively" the artist has stated, "I treat painting [and objects] sincerely; I am communicating with them...."

The exhibition features Shi Zhiying's recent project *Palomar*, a set of 30 watercolor and ink works inspired by the book *Mr. Palomar* by Italian writer Italo Calvino (1923-1985). The novel's central character, whose name also evokes that of a famous observatory, continuously makes philosophical observations and speculations about the world around him—a wave, the rays of the sun, a pair of turtles, a sand garden—all leading to ruminations on the nature of things and Being towards the universal. Each of Shi's 27 works corresponds to a single chapter.

The centerpiece to the exhibition, *The Infinite Lawn*, is a large scale painting which also refers to one of the novel's key chapters. The *Grass* painting series was started in 2010. As in Shi's earlier seascape paintings or her recent *Mars* and *Sand* series, grass is one of the motifs the artist keeps returning to, eliminating all that is inessential and to further distill its essential characteristic. Or, as Shi Zhiying might ask, "Are any two blades of grass ever alike?"



SHI ZHIYING 石至莹
Palomar--Forward I 帕洛马尔——序 I, 2011-2012
Watercolor and ink on paper 纸本水彩与墨
12 3/16 x 16 1/8 inches; 31 x 41 cm

JAMES COHAN GALLERY SHANGHAI

Shi Zhiying (born in Shanghai, 1979) graduated from the Oil Painting Department, Shanghai University Fine Arts College. In 2009, Shi Zhiying was the subject of a major solo exhibition *From The Pacific Ocean to the High Seas* at Ullens Center of Contemporary Art in Beijing. Her work has been featured in distinguished group exhibitions, including 2011 *N Minutes Video Art Festival*, Shanghai, China; 2011 *Decade of the Rabbit*, White Rabbit Gallery, Sydney, Australia; 2011 *DAS ICH IM ANDEREN*, Stiftung Mercator, Essen, Germany; 2010 *Double Act – 2010 Chinese Contemporary Art Exhibition*, Red Town Warehouse, Shanghai; 2010 *Centennial Celebration of Women in Art*, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, and a solo exhibition at White Space in Beijing in 2010. She currently works and lives in Shanghai.

For further information, please contact Ms. Ivy Zhou at izhou@jamescohan.com or +86 - 21 -54660825 *602.

Gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10-6 p.m., Sunday 12-6 p.m., and Monday by appointment.