

Zhang Xiaogang

Recent Works

537 West 24th Street, New York
September 7 – October 20, 2018

Opening Reception:
Thursday, September 6, 6 – 8 PM



New York—Pace Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of new works by renowned contemporary Chinese artist Zhang Xiaogang. Gathering together eleven oil paintings on paper, the exhibition focuses on the artist's continued use of narrative scenes and portraits, through a lens of constructed memory and imagination, in exploration of the nature of painting, autobiography and emotional sensibility. On view at 537 West 24th Street from September 7 through October 20, 2018, the exhibition is the artist's sixth show with Pace Gallery worldwide.

The paintings in the exhibition build on Zhang Xiaogang's long-held interest in portraiture and narrative imagery with domestic scenes as his primary subject matter. However, in these recent works, a new compositional dynamic has emerged through the figures. In the artist's earlier figurative portraits, such as the iconic *Bloodline – A Big Family* series, the subjects are presented in group formations, positioned in the foreground of the canvas. In these new portraits, a powerful weightlessness or instability emerges. The figures drift upon the canvas, balance on precarious wooden stools, and even float within a bathtub of water—projecting a sense of isolation and alienation from their environments.

With this new series, the artist has introduced collaged compositions into his practice, tearing and layering the paper material into textured works that emphasize the fragmentary nature of memory. The collage technique merges with the act of painting, with the two presenting corresponding executions of both physical and cerebral creation. Both the technical and figurative composition of the works reflect the artist's broad interrogation of the nature of painting as a physical manifestation of the unconscious and as interpretive of individual and collective memory.

On the occasion of the exhibition, Pace will publish a full-color catalogue featuring installation images of the show, as well as an essay by Chinese independent curator Cui Cancan.

Zhang Xiaogang (b. 1958, Kunming, China) navigates the cultural terrain of contemporary China with works that question notions of identity and the construction of memory. Zhang came to prominence in the 1990s amid the new wave of Chinese artists breaking from aesthetic traditions. Playing off the conventions of state-sponsored Socialist Realism and inspired by Surrealism, he paints individuals and groups in stylized images that evoke

photographic portraits and dreamlike scenes, also producing stark interiors, still lives, and landscape paintings, as well as figurative sculptures. Rendered in somber grays and saturated colors, Zhang's work communicates an existentialist point of view within the context of Chinese society.

Pace is a leading contemporary art gallery representing many of the most significant international artists and estates of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Under the leadership of President and CEO Marc Glimcher, Pace is a vital force within the art world and plays a critical role in shaping the history, creation, and engagement with modern and contemporary art. Since its founding by Arne Glimcher in 1960, Pace has developed a distinguished legacy for vibrant and dedicated relationships with renowned artists. As the gallery approaches the start of its seventh decade, Pace's mission continues to be inspired by our drive to support the world's most influential and innovative artists and to share their visionary work with people around the world.

Pace advances this mission through its dynamic global program, comprising ambitious exhibitions, artist projects, public installations, institutional collaborations, and curatorial research and writing. Today, Pace has ten locations worldwide: three galleries in New York; one in London; one in Geneva; one in Palo Alto, California; one in Beijing; two in Hong Kong; and one in Seoul. Pace will open a new flagship gallery in New York, anticipated for completion in fall 2019. In 2016, Pace joined with Futurecity to launch Future\ Pace—an international cultural partnership innovating multidisciplinary projects for art in the public realm.

Image: Zhang Xiaogang, *Jump No. 1*, 2018, oil on paper, collage, 194 x 86cm. © Zhang Xiaogang, courtesy Pace Gallery

For **press inquiries**, please contact: Hanna Gisel, Pace Gallery, +1 212 421 8987 or hgisel@pacegallery.com

For **sales inquiries**, please contact: Pace Gallery, +1 212 421 3292 or info@pacegallery.com

Follow Pace on Instagram ([@pacegallery](https://www.instagram.com/pacegallery)), Facebook ([facebook.com/pacegallery](https://www.facebook.com/pacegallery)), and Twitter ([@pacegallery](https://twitter.com/pacegallery))