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FITZGERALD FINE ARTS’ DEBUT APPEARANCE AT ASIAN ART IN LONDON
TO FEATURE NEW WORKS IN THE SCHOLAR AND THE SENTINEL: INK PAINTINGS AND JINGDEZHEN PORCELAIN BY CONTEMPORARY SCHOLAR ARTISTS
OCTOBER 30–NOVEMBER 8, 2014

New York, NY (September 15, 2014)—In its debut appearance at Asian Art in London, FitzGerald Fine Arts will offer The Scholar and the Sentinel at The Weiss Gallery, Jermyn Street. The exhibition presents a group of contemporary Chinese works in ink and porcelain by artists united in their knowledge of ancient scholarly traditions. While respecting the formalities of the past, their works portray a vivid contemporary sensibility. Within each artist is a dramatic tension created by a desire to obey ancient disciplines while bursting with a need for stand-alone self-expression.

The porcelain works to be offered are created by internationally acclaimed artists trained and based in jingdezhen (the porcelain city of China and home to the famed Ming kilns) and whose works are in found in museum and private collections. Many of the vessels created by the gallery’s artists draw on centuries-old vase shapes and painterly techniques. As B.K. Walker, director of FitzGerald Fine Arts comments, “Many of our contemporary Jingdezhen pieces are direct ‘descendants’ of the fabled Ming blue and white.”

FitzGerald Fine Arts’ artists are also connected by their method of working in (Continued)
the traditional scholar’s fashion—alone in their respective studio—but also as part of a collective group that values process-based media experimentation. They each have a profound respect for the natural environment and organic materials, an adherence to time-honoured artistic techniques and an embrace of the subconscious and enigmatic, particularly as it relates to cultural metaphors.

Porcelain artists to be presented in FitzGerald Fine Arts’ at Asian Art in London exhibition include:

Gan Daofu, a master of blue and white porcelain vessels and panels utilizing diffused glaze-stain techniques applied with cloth and brush. The Sentinel and the Pines (2013) is a large work central to the display (illustrated right). This elegant baluster vase, a stately style based on a classical 17th-century Qing shape intended for display in a grand setting, celebrates Gan Daofu’s passion for combining multiple artistic canons and media: here he marries the vertical format and detailed realism of Northern Song monumental landscape painting with the poetic romanticism of the Wu School. Utilizing ‘the five shades’ of gradient blue for which the best Kangxi wares are known, the painting is a stunning visual journey amid ethereal mountain peaks adrift in a sea of ultramarine clouds.

Zhu Di, another of FitzGerald Fine Arts’ artists, creates monumental, high-fired porcelain panels, usually in diptych and quadriptych form, depicting abstracted landscapes in flambé polychrome glazes. He also creates porcelain vessels. In Delicate Fragrance (2013, illustrated right), a large baluster-style piece, Zhu Di’s exploration of the Himalayan landscape hypnotically lends itself to the three dimensions of his perfectly potted vase. His dewy, overlapping brushstrokes are

(Continued)
EVCATIVE OF LAYERED CLOUDS IN AN ESCARPMENT, YET THE COLOR PALATE OF SUMPTUOUS DONCHUANG-RED AND SPARKLING MALACHITE GREEN RENDERS THEM ALIEN.

A third FFA artist, Zhang Guojun, is presently working on a panel series depicting polychrome scholars' rocks on solid Jingdezhen white porcelain with eroded finishes. Titled Beyond Mountains (2014), some of these works are up to approximately 72 inches tall (Beyond Mountains 14, illustrated left). Trained in classical painting at the Chinese National Academy, Zhang Guojun seeks to marry an abstract Western sensibility with traditional Chinese academic themes. Evoking the poetic individualism of the Wu School, his expressionistic washes of color add a unique dimension to formalized subjects such as river landscapes.

Painters to be presented at the FitzGerald Fine Arts exhibition at Asian Art in London include:

Mansheng Wang, a painter and calligrapher. At university he was a student of classical Chinese literature, a subject that has deeply influenced his work. His paintings, such as the scrolling cliffs of the monochrome Dream of Wuxia (2006, detail right) are often drawn from the landscapes and images of Chinese history, yet he uses modern styles and techniques in his brush strokes and composition that would surprise and intrigue a viewer familiar with antique works.

In true scholar fashion, Wang makes his own mulberry fibre and tree bark papers by hand, mixes his own monochrome and colored inks using locally-sourced materials such as walnuts, and makes his brushes from reeds he finds (Continued)
The gallery’s first female artist is Zhou Rong, a 22-year-old, award-winning artist from Hangzhou, ZheJiang province, China. She works in charcoal on paper and nickeled bronze. Joining the gallery marks her first international representation. “Zhou Rong’s visionary work tackles complex, temporal-based metaphors in an extraordinarily poetic manner,” says Walker.

Works range in price from the low thousands to more than $175,000 for larger porcelain panel groups.

Since its founding in 2007, Fitzgerald Fine Arts has established itself as one of the world’s leading galleries in its expertise in contemporary Chinese porcelain and ink painting. The gallery showcases master contemporary artists working in traditional mediums with a particular emphasis placed on those who incorporate techniques that date back thousands of years with modern-day sensibilities. The gallery exhibits works by renowned international artists including Zhu Di, Zhang Guojun, Mansheng Wang, Gan Daofu, Feng Linzhang, Ma Xinle and Jared FitzGerald. Many of these artists’ works appear in the permanent collections of prominent museums including the Brooklyn Museum, Seattle Art Museum, China Institute, Shanghai Xuhui Art Museum and Yale University Art Museum and all have been exhibited in solo and group shows around the world.

FitzGerald Fine Arts’ New York Gallery is open to the public Tuesday-Saturday from 10:00-6:00 or by appointment. The gallery is located at 41 Greene Street, New York, New York. Tel: 212.966.5754. Website: www.fitzgeraldfinearts.com.

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FitzGerald Fine Arts, The Scholar and the Sentinel: debut exhibition at Asian Art in London

Venue:
The Weiss Gallery,
59 Jermyn Street,
St. James’s, London SW1 Y 6 LX
T: +44 (0)20 7409 0035

Exhibitor Details:
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Exhibition Hours:
Monday to Friday 10:00-18:00
Saturday 1 November 10:00-18:00
Sunday 2 November 10:00-21:00 (Late Night evening in St. James’s)
Saturday 8 November 10:00-18:00