

# Chen Linggang 陈灵刚

ARTIST PORTFOLIO



## ARTIST INTRODUCTION 艺术家简介

Chen Linggang is a Beijing-based artist who was born in 1978 in Jilin Province, China, and graduated in 2000 from the Environmental Art Department (similar to Landscape Architecture) of the Jilin Forestry University (now Beihua University). Although he never formally studied painting, he began painting during his spare time while working at contemporary art magazines after college. Eventually he decided to focus on art, and in 2008 began creating the form that has become his artistic trademark - grid-like collages of knotted and compressed paper. His textured compositions on canvas play with our understandings of heritage, language, and reading, adding a tactile dimension to the written word by using paper as the primary medium for his contemporary works.

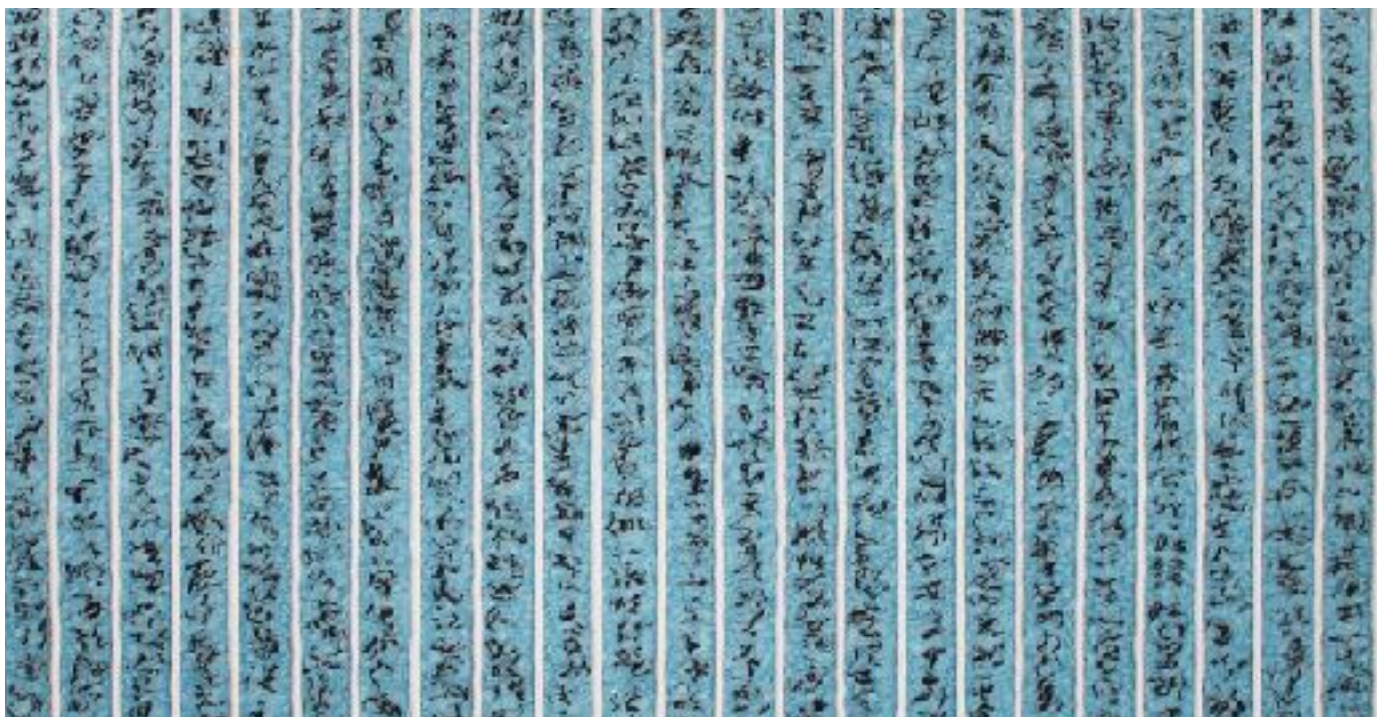
陈灵刚1978年出生于中国吉林，目前在北京生活、工作。他2000年毕业于吉林林业大学学习环境艺术专业。他充满肌理的构图与我们对传统、语言以及阅读的理解相互玩味，同时也添加了一种用书写过的纸张来作为基本媒介的真实触感。



*Reading series 阅读系列 No.150801, Mixed media on canvas 布面综合材料, 160 x 80 cm, 2015*



## CONTENT 目录



Reading series 阅读系列 180305, Mixed media 组合材料, 120cm×120cm, 2018 (detail, 局部)

## SELECTED WORKS 部分作品



*Reading series 阅读系列 No. 180301, Mixed media on canvas 布面综合材料, 120 × 120 cm, 2018*

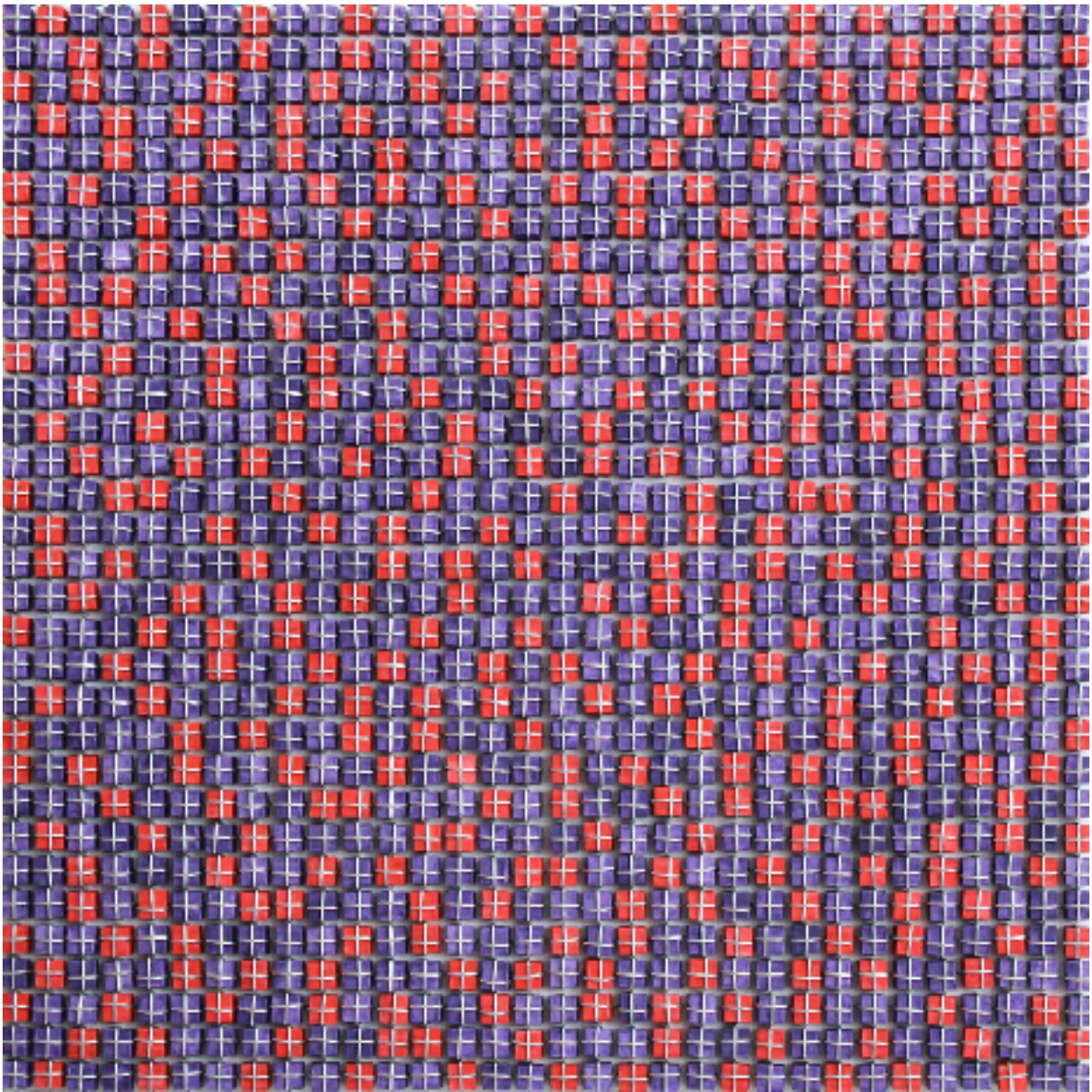
Rice paper (traditional xuānzǐ paper used in Chinese calligraphy), printed ephemera, and pages from books, magazines, and newspapers are crumpled, knotted, compressed and wrapped around wooden blocks or cylinders, before being adhered to canvases in grid-like collages. Sometimes painted with notable figures or fragments of Tang Dynasty poetry, once crumpled and adhered, the pages' contents are no longer fully legible or accessible. Utilizing paper and print, two of China's greatest ancient inventions that revolutionized thought and culture, Chen Linggang challenges the symbolic nature of

language by reconstructing it as a medium of expression that does not rely on the written word, and instead creates art in the space between.

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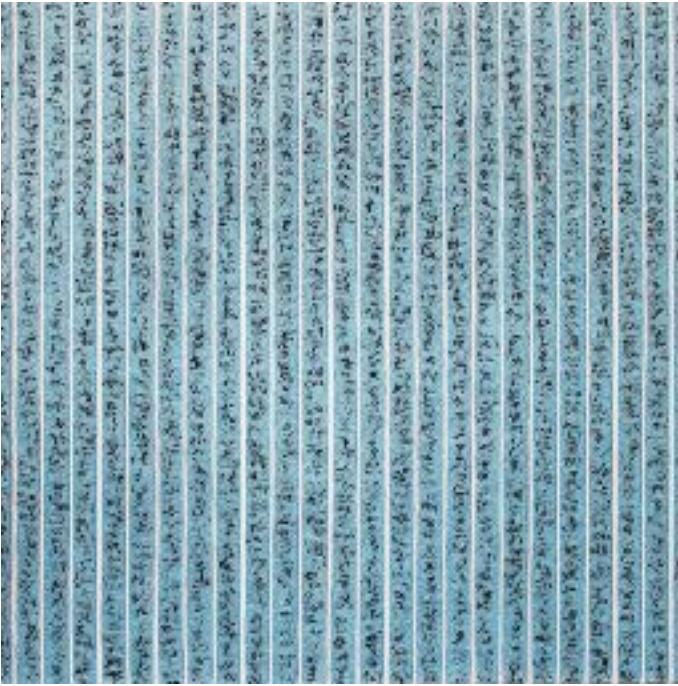
米纸（中国书法使用的传统宣纸）、印刷品、从书籍、杂志和报纸收集的纸张在被陈灵刚拼贴至栅栏格之前，需要经过揉捏、捆扎、压缩。有时还绘上引人注目的图形或书写上唐代诗歌的片段，一旦弄皱和粘贴，纸上的内容却不再清晰可见。他所利用的纸和打印技术，同时也是彻底改变人们思想与文化的中国两项最伟大的古老发明，陈灵刚向语言的象征本质发出挑战，不依赖书面文字而是利用这个

**LATEST WORKS 新作**

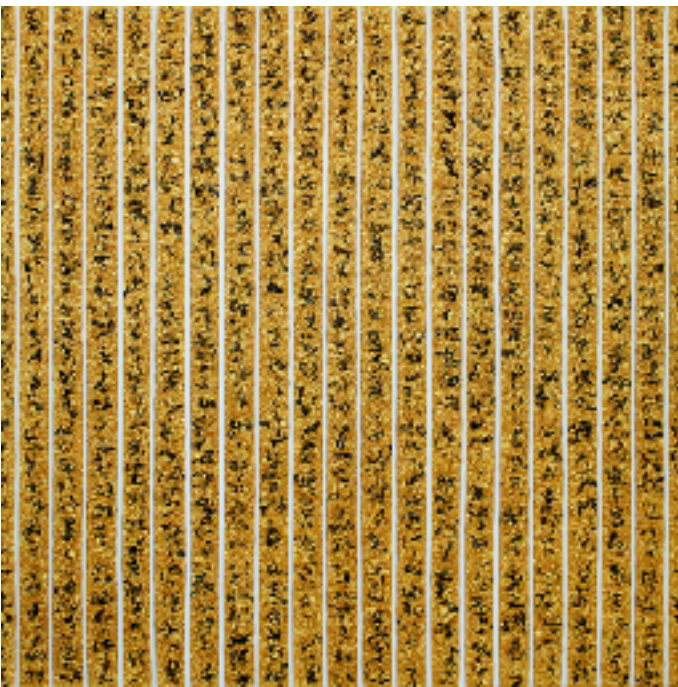


*Reading Series 170309, Mixed-media, 80 cm × 80 cm, 2017*

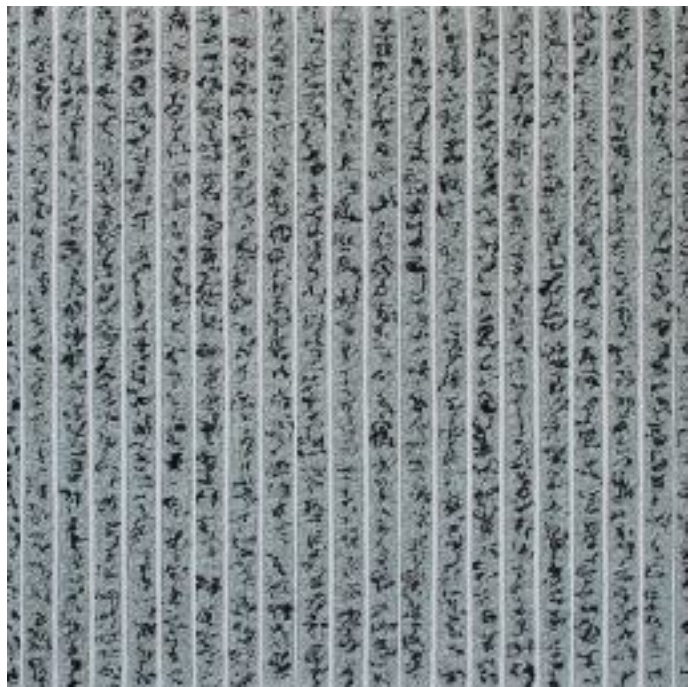
## LATEST WORKS 新作



Reading Series No 180305, Mixed media, 120cm × 120cm, 2018

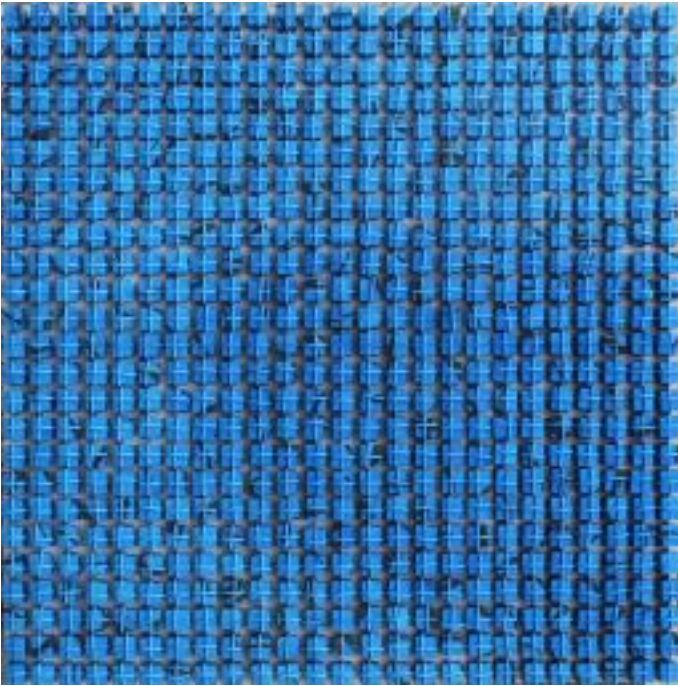


Reading Series No 180305, Mixed media, 120cm × 120cm, 2018

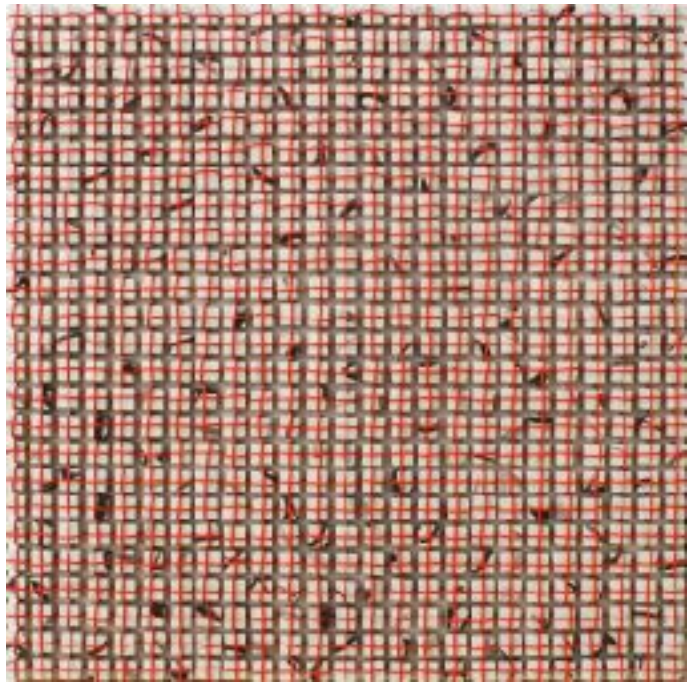


Reading series No 171203, Mixed media, 100cm×100cm, 2017

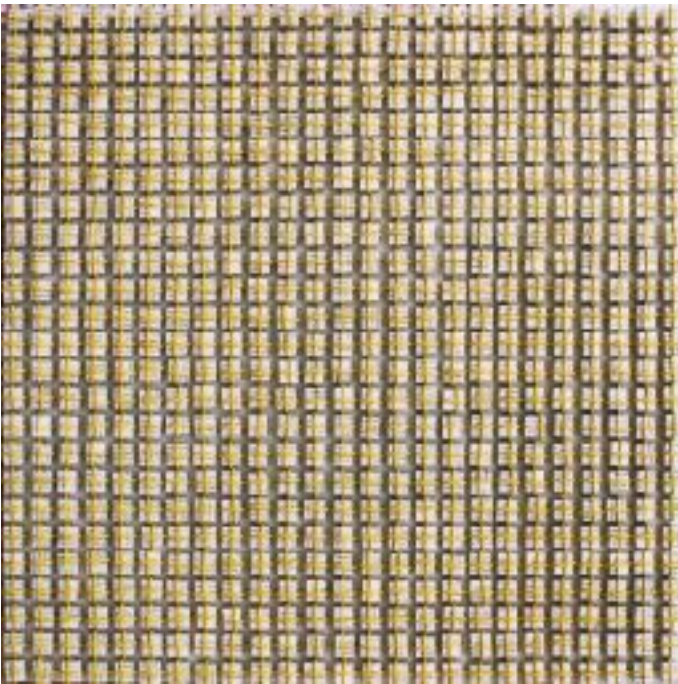
## SELECTED WORKS 部分作品



Reading series 阅读系列 No. 160305, Mixed media on canvas  
布面综合材料, 100 × 100 cm, 2016



Reading series 阅读系列 No.160301, Mixed media on canvas  
布面综合材料, 100 × 100 cm, 2016

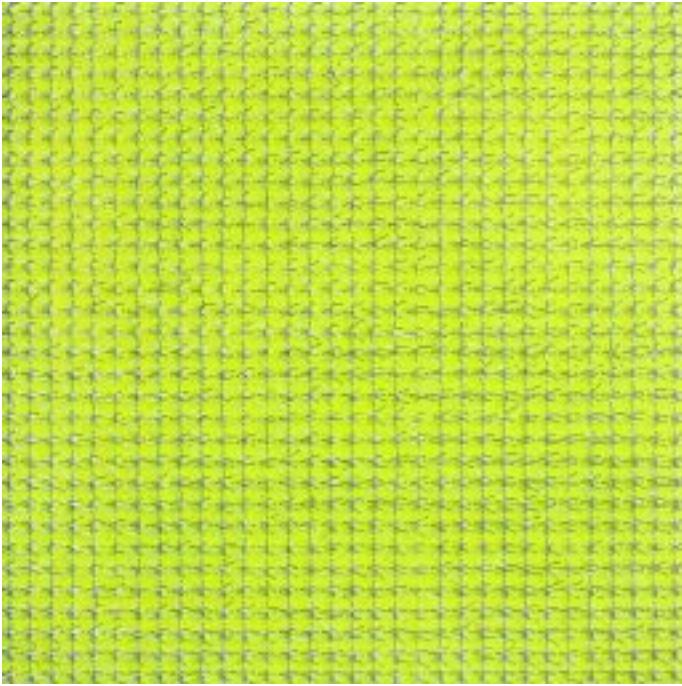


Reading series 阅读系列 No.160303, Mixed media on canvas  
布面综合材料, 100 × 100 cm, 2016

Chen's works come together like elaborate tapestries, grids of orderly repetition that are simple yet decoratively complex. The structure of his canvases offers a sense of repetition and homogeneity in its rows and columns, which are sometimes sharply delineated with plastic or metal. Containing uncertainty in their structured minimalism, Chen's works are to be reflected upon and deciphered, perhaps with each viewer reaching a different conclusion.

陈灵刚的作品放在一起貌似精细的编织物，有序、重复的网格构图简洁明了，但又在细节处进行了复杂的装饰。在极简的构图中包含着不确定性，陈灵刚的作品恰好反映了一种现象：即每个观者有各自

## NEW WORKS 新作品系列



Reading series 阅读系列 No. 171008, Mixed media on canvas  
布面综合材料, 80 x 80 cm, 2017



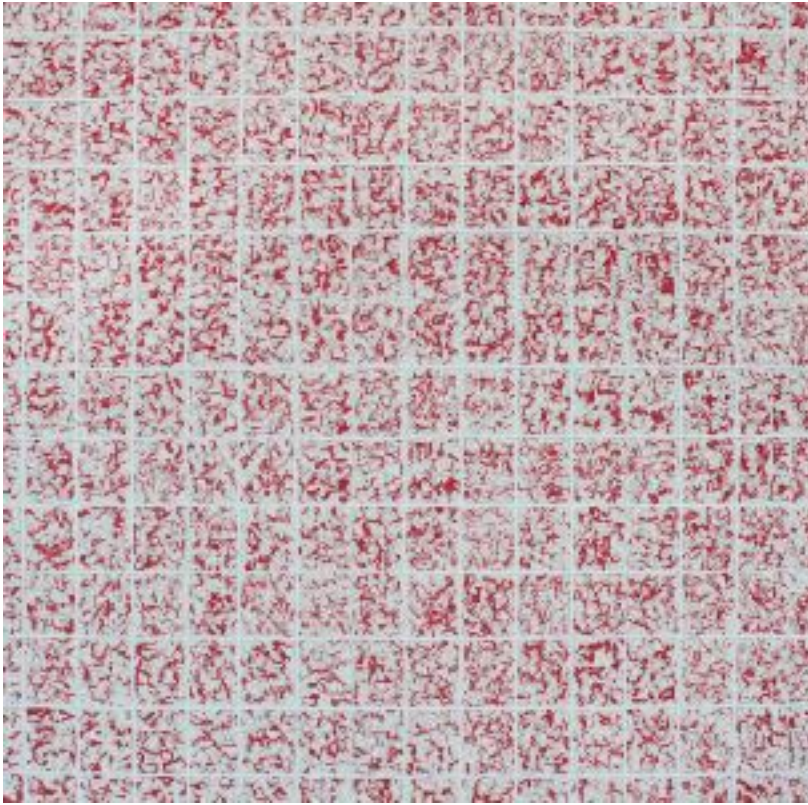
Reading series 阅读系列 No.171005, Mixed media on canvas  
布面综合材料, 80 x 80 cm, 2017



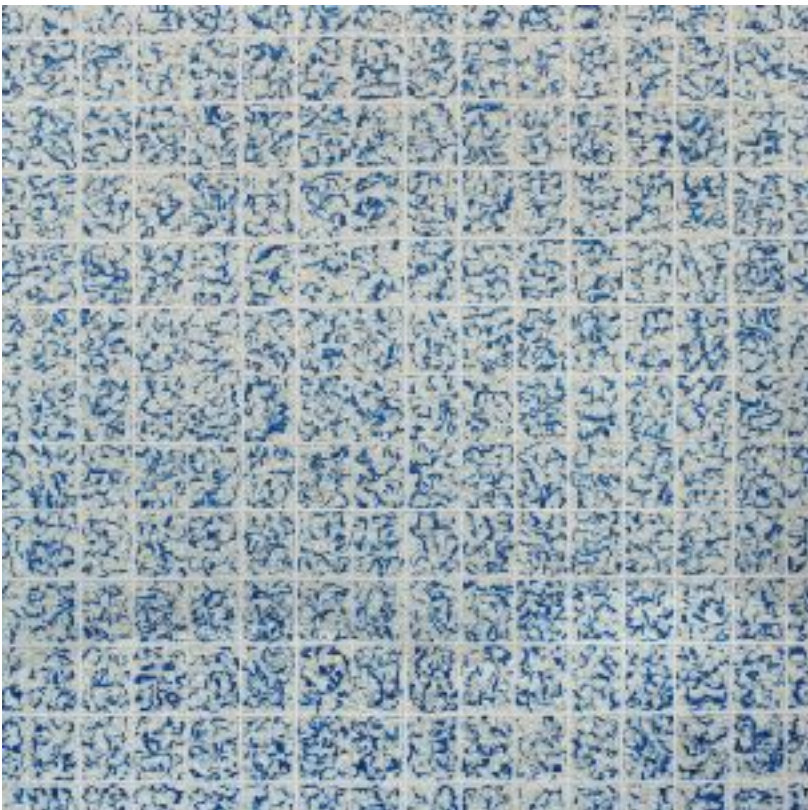
Reading series 阅读系列 No.171002, Mixed media on canvas 布面综合材料,  
80 x 80 cm, 2017



## NEW WORKS SERIES 新作系列



*Reading series 阅读系列 No.171101,  
Mixed media on canvas 布面综合材料,  
100 x 100 cm, 2017*



*Reading series 阅读系列 No.171102,  
Mixed media on canvas 布面综合材料,  
100 x100 cm, 2017*

**NEW WORKS SERIES 新作系列**



*Reading series 阅读系列 No.171207, Mixed media on canvas 布面综合材料, 100 x100 cm, 2017*

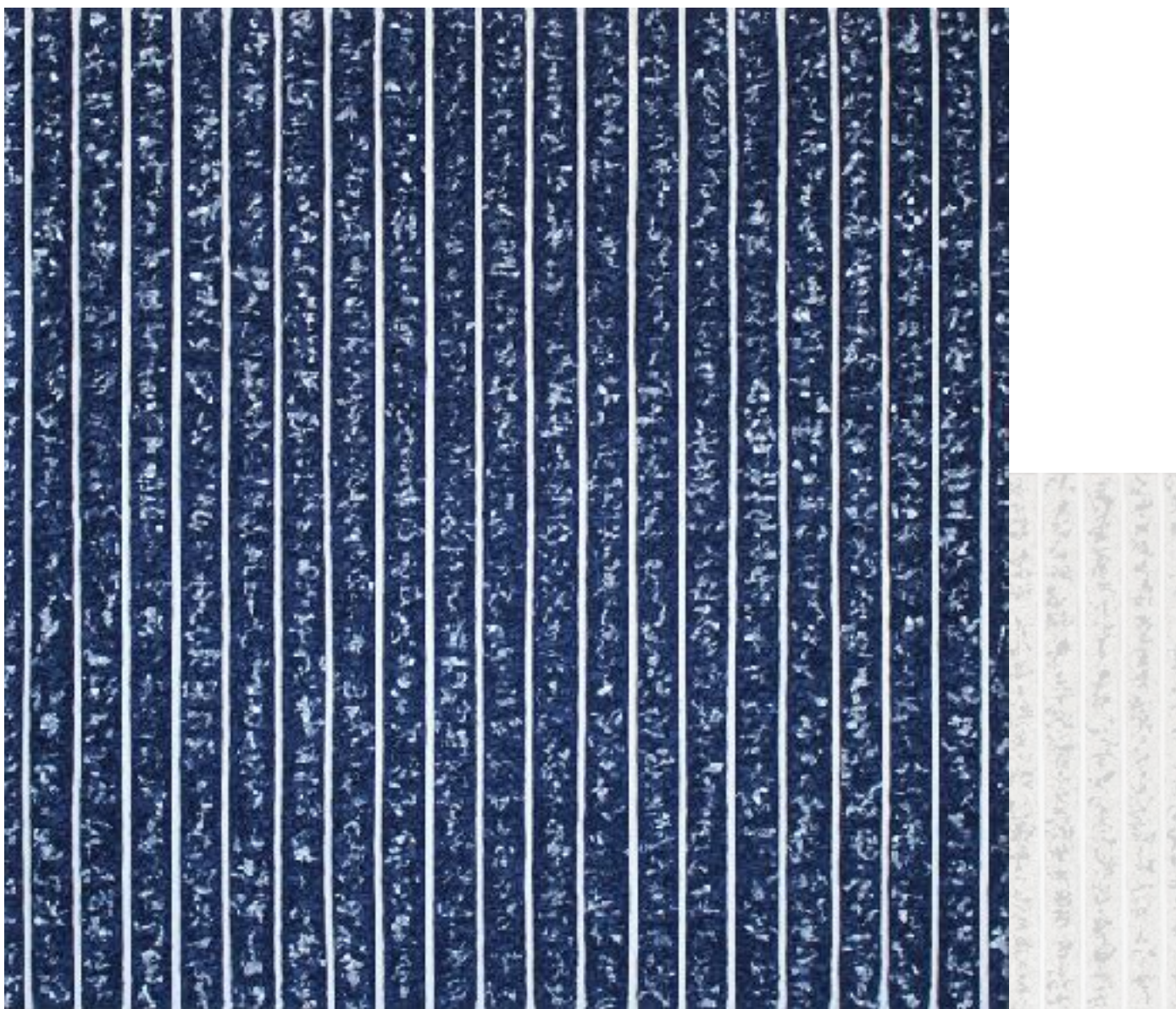
## ARTIST ON HIS WORK 艺术家自述



**“My art is an explanation and exploration of history, reality, and culture, but it also represents the issues and ideas that I encountered in the course of these explorations. In turn, these issues and ideas obscure my ability to truly discover history and culture, and this uncertainty inspires the desire to find deeper meaning in history and culture.”**

**- Chen Linggang**

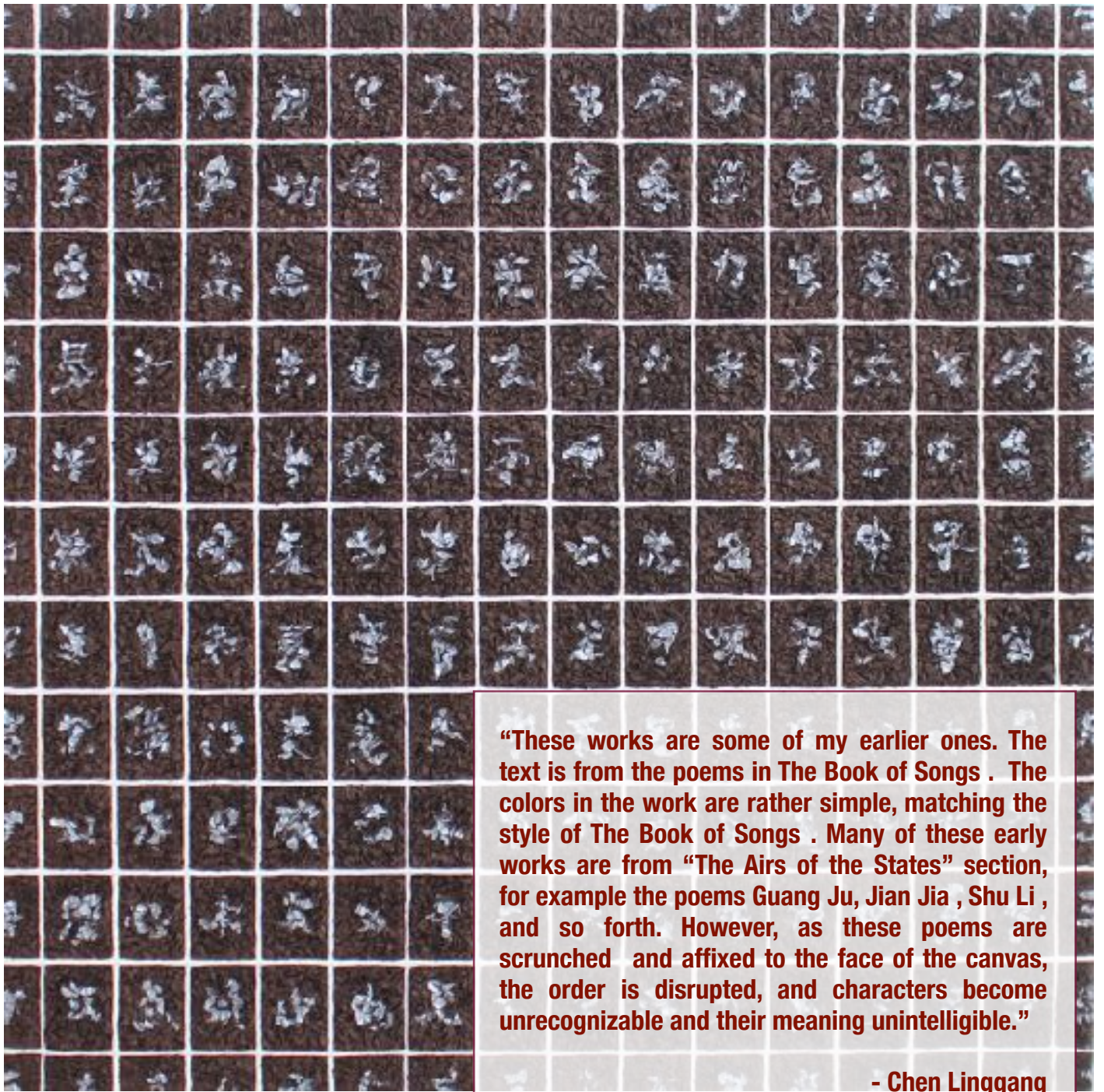
## SELECTED WORKS - HERITAGE SERIES 部分作品 – 传统系列



*Reading series 阅读系列 171202, Mixed media 综合材料, 100 cm × 100 cm, 2017*

Chen Linggang began creating mixed media works of crumpled calligraphy/paper on canvas in 2008. His works often borrowed from The Book of Songs (诗经), also known as Classic of Poetry or Odes, the oldest existing collection of classical Chinese poetry, comprised of 305 works dating to the 11th to 7th centuries BCE. The Airs of the States (国风) is a section dating to the 8th to 7th century BCE with shorter lyrics in simple language that are thought to derive from ancient folk songs and the voice of the common people. The simple color schemes of Heritage Series reflect the simple, understated nature of these poems, which often cover themes such as love and courtship, farming and housework, and political satire.

## SELECTED WORKS - HERITAGE SERIES 部分作品 – 传统系列



“These works are some of my earlier ones. The text is from the poems in The Book of Songs . The colors in the work are rather simple, matching the style of The Book of Songs . Many of these early works are from “The Airs of the States” section, for example the poems Guang Ju, Jian Jia , Shu Li , and so forth. However, as these poems are scrunched and affixed to the face of the canvas, the order is disrupted, and characters become unrecognizable and their meaning unintelligible.”

- Chen Linggang

*Heritage Series 传统系列150502, Mixed media on canvas 布面综合材料, 100 x 100 cm, 2015*

“这些作品是早一些的，文字是《诗经》中的诗句，这幅作品的颜色也比较古朴，和诗经的风格很相符，其中多为“国风”中的诗句，例如，关雎，蒹葭，黍离等，但这些诗粘到画布上后顺序是打乱的，也是无法辨识的。”

— 陈灵刚

## THE OBSTACLES OF READING 阅读的障碍



“The first impression of Chen Linggang’s works is the existence of many small square grids, where various ‘compressed’ rice paper and books are. It is too difficult to make out those characters and content in the paper. The artist seems to create an ‘obstacle’ of interpretation deliberately, in other words, he creates an invisible ‘obstacle’ between ‘readers’ and ‘cultural history’. We have been unconsciously directed to another unique viewpoint of time and space when we interpret his works. “The ‘obstacle’ of reading brings another angle to meditate on history and culture.... It drives us to think actively, rather than accepting passively. His works make people rethink and reinterpret history and culture, even question them with confusion! When people observe those pictures, they can feel the fragments of history are flowing in the grid, and the cultural heritage is transforming. Suddenly they are frozen into a historical moment - an unchangeable picture appears in front of us. Chen’s works ask a question and create a way of thinking. It is a contradiction without any solution. It is an ‘obstacle’. However, it is also the charm of his works because this is an exploration of art itself!”

- Meizi

“看到陈灵刚作品的第一感觉就是方方正正的小格子，在每个格子里面都有‘压缩’了的各种宣纸和书籍，我们却辨认不清纸上的文字和内容，而作者似乎更是在故意制造这种解读的‘障碍’，即艺术家在“阅读者”和‘历史文化’之间制造了一种无形‘障碍’。我们在解读他的作品的时候，不由的被艺术家指引到另一个独特的时空角度！”

“这种阅读的‘障碍’带来的是对历史文化的另一种思考方式与审视的角度。它使人们从被动的接受转向了主动的思考。这正是作品所指引的，他使人们重新对历史文化进行自己的认知与理解，甚至是迷惑与质疑！当人们注视这些画面时候，不知不觉中仿佛看见历史的片段在方格中流淌，文化的传承在方格中变换，突然又定格成某一历史瞬间，成为眼前这不变的画面。陈灵刚的作品向我们提出一个问题，一种思考问题的方式。它是矛盾的，是没有答案的，是‘障碍’的，但这也是作品的魅力所在，是对艺术本身的一种尝试与探索！”

## CURRICULUM VITAE 简历

- 1978 Born in Jilin Province, China  
2000 Graduated from the Environmental Art Department, Jilin Forest University
- SOLO EXHIBITIONS**
- 2016 Chen Linggang on Reading and Writing, Red Gate Gallery, Beijing  
Resonance of History: Dual Exhibition by Chen Linggang and Pang Yun,  
Art+ Shanghai Gallery, Singapore
- 2014 Between the Lines-Reading: Reading Chen Linggang and Liang Weiyuan,  
Art + Shanghai Gallery, Shanghai
- 2013 On the Paper: Chen Linggang's Solo Exhibition, SiTouAiRanSe Gallery,  
Beijing, China
- 2011 Heritage - Chen Linggang's Solo Exhibition, Studio Rouge Gallery of  
Contemporary Art, Shanghai, China
- 2009 History on the Paper — Chen Linggang 2009, 798 Jindu Art Center, Beijing,  
China
- GROUP EXHIBITIONS**
- 2018 China Contemporary Young Artist Nomination Exhibition, Guangzhou  
2017 Multi-Dimension II Second Contemporary Art Invitation Exhibition, Riverside Art  
Museum, Beijing  
Thunderbot! Surge Art Summer POP-UP, Red Gate Gallery, Beijing
- 2016 Whiplash! Surge Art Celebrating Ten Years of Emerging Art, Red Gate  
Gallery, Beijing
- 2015 Out of the Box! Surge Art Group Exhibition, Red Gate Gallery, Beijing  
Formosa Art Show 2015, Rhythm Gallery, Taipei  
The Third V—Age Contemporary Art of Youth, Tree Museum, Beijing  
Poly Ten Anniversary of Contemporary Art Fair, Beijing
- 2014 Youth. A Passion To Be Homage, The Young Artist Exhibition, Beijing  
2013 Art Across the City, Guanxiang Art Gallery, Taipei  
Red Hot, Red Gate Gallery, Beijing  
On Paper - Supreme, Jiuceng Art Museum, Beijing, China  
Beijing Mini Art, Jiuceng Art Museum, Beijing, China  
SURGE Art Fair, Beijing
- 2012 China Art Industry Expo, Beijing, China  
Kingroad Gallery, London, UK
- 2011 Spicy Asian Art Exhibition, HF Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany  
Affordable Art Beijing 2011, Beijing, China  
100 Young Artist of Excellence, Xiaopu Art Museum, Beijing, China  
Langham Gallery, Beijing, China
- 2010 Maria Pestana Art Gallery, Madrid, Spain.  
Artinnno Galleria, Singapore  
Spirit-retaining & Orient — First Exhibition of Overseas Chinese Painters'  
Abstract Works, Huangjueping Contemporary Art Gallery, Chongqing, China
- 2009 Let's Play Together, Soul Collection Art, Beijing  
The Fifth Cultural & Arts Festival of Songzhuang China, Songzhuang Artists  
Community Exhibition, Wansheng Art Center, Beijing, China  
Beijing, China  
Span—Chinese Abstract Art Invitational Exhibition, 798 Jindu Art Center,  
Galerie am Kreuzplatz, Erschwil, Switzerland  
ART GALLERY, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2008 Contemporary Abstract Art Exhibition, Duoshang Gallery, Beijing  
Footprint - First Art Exhibition of National Defense Art Zone, Beijing, China  
I·Love·Songzhuang, Roundness Art Community, Beijing, China  
The Second China·Songzhuang Contemporary Artists Exhibitions, Beijing  
Survival Scene, Sunshine International Museum, Beijing, China

## CURRICULUM VITAE 简历

- 1978 生于吉林省，中国
- 2000 毕业于吉林林学院环境与艺术系
- 个展**
- 2016 历史共振—陈灵刚与庞云作品展，艺术+上海画廊，新加坡  
跃然纸上陈灵刚作品展，红门画廊，北京
- 2014 弦外之音—解读陈灵刚与梁伟员，艺术+上海画廊，上海
- 2013 纸上—陈灵刚作品展，SiTouAiRanSe, 北京
- 2011 传承陈灵刚作品展，红寨画廊，上海
- 2009 纸上春秋——陈灵刚2009个人作品展，798锦都艺术中心，北京
- 群展**
- 2018 **2018中国当代青年艺术家提名展，广州**
- 2017 多维度•第二回"当代艺术邀请展! 山水美术馆，北京  
霹雳! 红门画廊，北京
- 2016 光之回响! 红门画廊，北京  
SURGE Art艺起的艺术家群展"嘭! Out of the Box! 红门画廊，北京  
福而摩沙国际艺术博览会，缘境画廊，台北  
第三届V时代青年当代艺术展，树美术馆，北京  
保利十周年当代青锋艺术博览会，全国农业展览馆，北京
- 2014 致敬•青春全国青年艺术家特展
- 2013 发光体，红门画廊，北京  
纸上•至上，北京玖层美术馆，北京  
北京迷你艺术展，北京玖层美术馆，北京  
SURGE Art艺术节，北京
- 2012 中国首届艺术品产业博览会，北京  
Kingroad Gallery，伦敦，英国
- 2011 麻辣亚洲，HF Contemporary Art，柏林，德国  
AAB艺术节，798时态空间，北京  
青年领袖百人新锐展，小堡驿站，北京  
朗豪画廊联展，北京
- 2010 玛丽亚佩斯塔纳画廊，马德里，西班牙  
气蕴•东方首届世界华人抽象艺术大展，黄桷坪当代美术馆，重庆
- 2009 大家一起玩，798原色生活画廊，北京  
第五届宋庄艺术节艺术家群落展，万盛美术馆，北京





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