

Chinese artist Yan Pei-Ming: one of the most important contemporary artists

Yan Pei-Ming, a painter of Chinese origin, living in France since 1983, is one of the most important artists at the moment. He is listed in the 500 best contemporary artists in the world. At the beginning of 2016, he had a significant exhibition at the Villa Medici in which he gave his vision of Roma, a grandiose work about death and tragedy. It was a come back to the Villa Medici for the artist who was one of its boarders in 1993-1994. "I have always been working on tragedies", explained Yan Pei-Ming during the opening of his exhibition. "Like Caravaggio", he added. "Understand the power of Caravaggio and immediately shift to contemporary history", the artist took hold of the myth of the eternal city. In July 2016 another important exhibition of the artist « Ruines du temps réel » (Ruins in Real Time) opened at Centre Regional d'Art Contemporain du Languedoc-Roussillon (CRAC) in Sete (France). The exhibition presents the most recent period of the artist including paintings dated 2015, 2016: portraits, self-portraits, landscapes, "history paintings and painting histories". The title of the exhibition 'Ruins in Real Time' "refers to the title of a triptych by the artist in which landscapes spread with ruins plunged into darkness evoke inevitably the archaeological sites destroyed by fanatics these last months". Reproductions of Caravaggio are also included in the exhibition: the Vocation of Saint Matthew and the Martyr of St Matthew which were shown at the Villa Medici, pope paintings, in this case pope François. In addition he is exhibiting a monumental work 'Cruxifixion', Christ on the cross, at the Belvedere Museum in Vienna since May 18, 2016.

A painting by Yan Pei-Ming is characterized by imposing dimensions, bi-chrome/monochrome colours, thick painting by applying the painting with big brushes. Yan Pei-Ming is a great portraitist who is very interested in current events. His famous portraits range from political figures like Mao Zedong, Barack Obama, Muammar al-Khadafi (dead), Benazhir Bhuto to artists like Isabelle Hupert, Picasso, Patrice Chéreau. He also integrates parts of his personal history by representing himself and his father, dead, in a polyptych composed of 3 pieces including the famous 'Gioconda' (The Funeral of Monna Lisa) in Louvre Museum in 2009. Yan Pei-Ming is born in Shanghai in 1960. He arrived in France in 1983 and studied at Dijon School of Fine Art (1981-1986) and at Institut des Hautes Etudes en Arts Plastiques of Paris (1988-1989). He got an international recognition by exposing at Venice Biennale in 2003. Since he never ceased to exhibit all over the world.