



PING ZHENG

ARTIST STATEMENT

Born in China, I grew up in a traditional son preference family and lived in many different geographic regions, where I was surrounded by starkly contrasting natural environments. As an artist, my strong interest in the natural environment originated from my childhood, when I could feel free as a human in the outdoors, avoiding family pressures. Because I am a third born girl in the restricted traditional Chinese family, everything I do at home is wrong. Therefore, the outdoor environment was the only place that opened my imagination, as if an escape from family and cultural pressures. Therefore, my inspiration is grounded in my memories of these natural landscapes. Since I studied abroad, I became aware of gender equality, the power of women's right in the West and imagination in shaping my world. I began to express female power to my artistic practice. My art practice becomes a type of female freedom. Freedom is as wide as the desire to expand my horizons, and through an exploration of a mother nature comes a growing opportunity to express my point of view as an artist. Currently my work tends to be more a modernist, elemental pictorial landscape; they may evoke mountains, female body part and frame our view into suggested landscape spaces. The paintings function as metaphors for the energy erupting from my artistic freedom, the limitless possibilities, the scope for dreaming behind forms. Because of my art is about myself-autobiography, the artwork straddles the line between figuration and abstraction. They are inspiration taken from relationships in my personal life as a female artist.

DESCRIPTION OF ART

The pieces featured here are, on the one hand, inner landscapes from my memories of the past and present that are virginally created. The places are pure and full of magic, where I could breathe and feel comfortable. Feelings of unease come from my parents' preference for a son. Growing up, I experienced so many rules being a girl. My parents disliked me very much and thought the female body was dirty. In contrast to my brother, the male body was superior. I dream of a world where male and female doesn't matter. While my paintings look like one thing, they mean another. The viewer can't identify exactly what is in my paintings, but they are alive and exist in the universe. They form a part of the sky, day and night, mountains or lands, Overall, the artwork straddles the line between figuration and abstraction. They are about my autobiography and take inspiration from relationships in my personal life.