

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIN GUOCHENG:
Moonlight Mile in the Snow

I often think of the winter night in the north, when I rode through the fields and sleeping villages at the foot of the Yan Mountains in the silver moonlight.

Waiting for a bright moon in the half-acre wasteland

— — *Lin Guocheng*

May 25th – July 31st, 2019
Galerie Dumonteil Shanghai
Building 105, 199 Hengshan Road 200031
11 a.m. - 7 p.m., closed on Mondays

Galerie Dumonteil Shanghai is pleased to present Lin Guocheng – *Moonlight Mile in the Snow*. Following the success of the artist's first solo exhibition with the gallery, this exhibition continues to explore Lin's ink pen practices with more than ten recent works pertaining to his contemplations on the aesthetics of Taoism, the synergetic growth between nature and urban environment, as well as the flow of his own state of mind.

"Incredible", perhaps, is the viewer's first impression on Lin Guocheng's works. It is hard to imagine that a large-scale work with such momentum is done with a pen. Combining European sketches, engravings, and Chinese literati paintings, the artist's pen technique originates from his unique perspective on the Eastern and Western painting traditions, while the tension and dynamism of the work stem from the constant blending and collision of the two systems. Small condensed engraving strokes work with long smooth flowing lines; intricate details play alongside the use of blanking under the composition with both scattered and focus perspective. Lin's confidence and relatively relaxed state is the magic potion that makes all his hard work seem effortless.

This sense of "naturalness" sheds light upon the influence of Taoist aesthetics on Lin's methodology. As one of the oldest philosophical systems in China, Taoism believes that everything in the universe originates from "Tao" — bodiless, invisible and yet ubiquitous. In Lin's heart, *"Whether it is an instant or eternity, solidity or liquidity, there is no definite answer. Things are neither tangible nor empty, which provides artists with a vast creative space where they experience moments of life and eternity in one picture, transcending the material world and pursuing their spirituality."*

To express his innermost thoughts and feelings, Lin Guocheng empties himself in this mundane world and traces the flow of energy in all life forms, depicting the illusion and reality of scenery or space. *"What I would like to show is simple, nothing more than lines and beauty."* As one frame of his "Moonlight Mile in the Snow"—one of his most cherished memories, "Moonlight Sonata" unveils

a dance of light and shadow performed by the glistening trees covered with snow during one of Lin's riding moment in the silver moonlight. The deep forest turned into a portal that leads to a paralleled space-time as if time had stopped. For Lin, painting is to bypass the exterior and to focus on the running of his inner world. In works such as "Manifolds III", "Tree on a Cliff III" and "Heartbeat", Lin transfigures forms and imagery, lines and space with his deep understanding of "Relativity".

More than a memorable personal experience, "Moonlight Mile in the Snow" also corresponds to Lin's pursuit in the realm of beauty, as well as the unique experience that he wishes to offer the viewers — inviting everyone to perceive, meditate and find a place for one's true self beyond this overwhelmingly informative and materialistic world.

Lin Guocheng (b.1979, Guangdong Province) is a Chinese artist known for his fantastic ink landscapes drawn with pen. Lin attended Sichuan Fine Arts Institute between 2002 and 2003 after withdrawing from high school. He currently works and lives in Beijing and Kunming.

Lin's unique language embraces the artistic traditions of the East and the West and challenges the integration and collision of those two systems. On the one hand, the artist's exquisite ink pen technique originates from his passion for European medieval and Renaissance art, especially Michelangelo's sketches and Albrecht Dürer's engravings. On the other hand, Lin has a profound understanding of Chinese philosophies and literati paintings with particular admiration for the works by Shi Tao, Chen Hongshou, and Dong Yuan. Fully absorbing the strengths of both systems, the artist explores the possibility of combining pen and Chinese ink in contemporary dimensions. The fluidic Qi — the circulating life force — is always present in Lin's work. Through the rich techniques of literati painting and its pursuit of the spirit, the repetitively dense pen strokes become vital, unpredictable, and full of room for imagination, giving the final works spontaneity, momentum, and interesting details as well.

Lin's work has been featured in exhibitions at multiple galleries and art institutions including Macdonald Stewart Art Center, Canada; David Aaron Gallery, London; Chinese Cultural Center, Malta; Galerie Dumonteil Shanghai/New York; 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong; Today Art Museum, Beijing; Hubei Museum of Fine Art, Hubei; Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangdong, etc. His work has been collected by private collectors from North American, Europe and Asia, including organizations such as M K Lau Collection, Hong Kong; Yiqingzhai Collection, Hong Kong; HSBC Art Collection; MGM Resorts Fine Art Collection, and Macdonald Stewart Art Center, Canada, etc.

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GALERIE DUMONTEIL

Since 1982, Galerie Dumonteil has assumed a major role in the market of the figurative sculpture. Focusing on modern and contemporary art, the gallery has expanded its space to Shanghai and New York (2012-2019) respectively. While the headquarters in Paris focuses on gathering a permanent collection of artifacts, the branches serve to preserve the zeitgeist of the Interwar Period and promote European artists from this epoch to both Chinese and American audiences through focused, themed exhibitions.

Established in 2008, Galerie Dumonteil's Shanghai branch, committed to strengthen the collaboration and professional ties within the art scene in Asia, is one of the first Western art galleries involved in the early stage of the burgeoning Chinese contemporary art scene.

Galerie Dumonteil is renowned for its group and solo exhibitions featuring artists active between the 1930s and 1970s such as François Pompon, Georges-Lucien Guyot, Rembrandt Bugatti, Diego Giacometti, Charles Artus, Marcel Dery, Pablo Picasso, Armand Petersen and Joseph Czaky. Through its extensive networking with artists and collectors, Galerie Dumonteil has become the leading gallery in the field of animal figures and objects depicting nature around the world. For more than 20 years, the gallery has devoted itself to the discovery of and promotion of talented contemporary artists. Today, artists such as Daniel Daviau, Tess Dumon, Jean-Marie Fiori, Eric Pillot, Rubén Fuentes, Hubert le Gall, Lin Guocheng, Wensen Qi, Ugo Schildge, Wang Keping, and Nisky Yu, with their predecessors, share the walls of the gallery's spaces, creating a truly diverse group of objects for the appreciation of collectors.

Through a careful selection of artists and objects reflecting the ideologies and aesthetics of the founders, Pierre and Dothi Dumonteil, the gallery builds up an unparalleled taste for its clients by showing selected French art from the 1930s alongside with works by contemporary artists. The gallery's financial support for sculptors whom it has promoted has been exceptional. Putting much care into the management and distribution of the artist's works, Galerie Dumonteil out-stands from other art galleries due to its collaboration with artists' families, various foundations, and artists' estates. Furthermore, much more than a commercial gallery, Galerie Dumonteil expands its influence and involvement to other sectors of the art industry. The gallery not only offers bespoke art consultancy which aims to help clients form important and valuable collections but also leases objects to museums for special exhibitions.

Regularly collaborating with museums and numerous influential publications, Galerie Dumonteil is member of the Comité professionnel des Galeries d'Art, Carré Rive Gauche, Compagnie Nationale des Experts, Syndicat National des Antiquaires.