

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 17 OCTOBER 2017**

## **Black & White**

**Boo Sze Yang | Ben Loong | Tang Da Wu | Benny Teo | Wong Keen | Zhuang Sheng Tao**

artcommune gallery & AC43 gallery jointly present *Black & White*. Featuring 22 works by local artists Boo Sze Yang, Ben Loong, Tang Da Wu, Benny Teo, Wong Keen and Zhuang Sheng Tao, the exhibition includes canvas, paper and mixed media works which illuminate how these artists engage with the restricted palette of monochrome to create highly personalised and fascinating aesthetics.

**Boo Sze Yang** (b. 1965 -) graduated from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore in 1991 and completed his Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art at the University of Reading, UK in 1995. He received his Master in Arts Degree from Chelsea College of Art & Design, the University of the Arts London in 2004. Boo's paintings examines a broad range of subject matters, from mundane domestic objects to images of car and airplane crash-scenes, to the derelict interiors of cathedrals and glittering chambers of shopping malls. Boo treats banal objects, modern industrial architectural interiors and destructive scenes as metaphors for the human condition.



**Boo Sze Yang**, *The Mirage #3*, 2016  
Oil on linen, 120 x 150 cm

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**Ben Loong** (b. 1988 -) explores themes central to the human condition, and actively documents it through his art, believing in the ephemeral nature of existence and the need for art to capture the fleeting moment. Following a fascination with geography and the natural world, his current Terra Blanca series examines geographical and geological phenomena, and considers it in the context of contemporary society. Working primarily with drywall plaster, his works engage with the industrial, inviting the viewer to question the value of our physical world.



**Ben Loong**, *Divergent*, 2017  
 Resinated drywall plaster and gold leaf on wood, 36 x 29 cm

**Benny Teo** (b. 1988 -) graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Fine Arts from LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore in 2013. The profound painterliness of British Master J. M. W. Turner is a palpable influence in his work. Utilising the expressivity of gesture, elements like line, shape and colour engage in dramatic exchanges to create an atmospheric and emotionally-charged space where the diaphanous and the concrete collide. Through a palette rich in tonal expansion and provocative brushwork that oscillates between a fluid, searching spirit and a bold, agitated character, Teo's work captivates with its intense pursuit of emotions, both raw and controlled; feelings and desires, freedom and entanglement translate into compelling interactions in pictorial space.



**Benny Teo**, *Untitled*, 2017  
 Oil on canvas, 41 x 41 cm

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**Tang Da Wu** (b. 1943 -), whose father was a journalist at the now defunct *Sin Chew Jit Poh*, was educated in a Chinese-medium school. Tang picked up ink and brush painting at a young age through his father, who painted in the medium. In the 1970s, Tang travelled to the U.K. to study at the Birmingham Polytechnic's School of Fine Art where he graduated with a First Class Honours in sculpture. He later received a Master's Degree in Fine Arts from the Goldsmiths College at the University of London. As with his performance and installation art, Tang's painting often examines concepts relating to traditions and mythologies; his ink expression drastically breaks away from the traditional confines of the medium, choosing instead to demonstrate the fluid subtleties of ink-wash aesthetics in a contemplative and highly idiosyncratic manner.



**Tang Da Wu**, *Untitled*, 2007  
 Ink on paper, 109 x 79 cm

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**Wong Keen** (b. 1942 -) grew up in a Chinese literati environment and was a highly acclaimed teenage painter in the early Singapore art scene. In 1961, he left for America after being accepted by the prestigious Art Students League of New York, making him the first Singaporean and among the earliest of Chinese artists to venture into the flourished post-war American art scene – then the most avant-garde art center in the world. Wong’s unique body of work, which encompasses oil, ink, acrylic and collage since the 1960s to the present, is a powerful embodiment of the elegant expressivity of Chinese ink wash aesthetics and Western Abstract Expressionism.

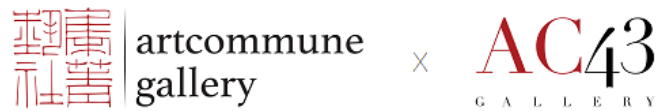


**Wong Keen**, *Picture Writing 24*, 2012  
 Acrylic on archive paper, 94 x 64 cm

**Zhuang Sheng Tao** (b. 1944 -) founded his artistic fundamentals in the Chinese literati tradition, having learnt calligraphy and painting in his youth under pioneer artist, See Hiang To. Zhuang’s adherence to the Chinese literati concept remains striking in his ink expression even as he composes with rhythmic, abstract monochromatic colour elements. His ink paintings are essentially poetics of nature; rather than presenting formal properties of a landscape, his work distills the physical essence of nature into motion, rhythm and atmosphere.



**Zhuang Sheng Tao**, *Fragmentaries 1*, 2015  
 Chinese ink on korean paper, 56 x 78 cm



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**Exhibition Period: 27 October – 8 November 2017**

**Time: 12 – 7 pm (daily)**

**Venue: artcommune gallery (Address below)**

**Contact Information**

artcommune gallery

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[www.artcommune.com.sg](http://www.artcommune.com.sg)

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