

Overwhelming Surfaces

无尽之潜

Luo Qing 罗清

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REDBASE
contemporary art space

No.2/19 Wellington St, Chippendale, Sydney, NSW 2008, Australia | www.redbaseart.com

Overwhelming Surface

Luo Qing

"**Overwhelming Surface**" marks **Luo Qing's** debut solo exhibition in Australia. In his practice, bold and determined brushwork, rich colours, and textures resembling rugged terrain flood the canvas; however, distorted and blurred faces depict the struggles and unease of life. There is a logic that beneath the rough surface lies an intense and ineffable sense of sorrow, as if a suppressed cry for life or but a glimmer remaining in darkness; the works struggle, in company with the viewer, to reach for inner strength.

These peculiar images originate from Luo Qing's encounters and emotional struggle with contemporary Chinese society. To Luo refinement and purity have become fleeting illusions; life, in all aspects, is now rough, dirty and hypocritical, saturated with violence. Confronted as such, he struggles with the purpose to convey earnestly. For example, in the age of dwindling faith, the pursuit for physical desires is elevated to the highest value, replacing belief: so what room is left for exploring the soul? Without a spiritual anchor, are we but mere animals seeking but solely physical gratification?

Luo thus delves into the landscapes within his own personal psychology to represent the "theatre of psychosis", drawing inspiration from film and literature. Compelled by the struggles of inner conflicts, his works mark the objects in his psyche, with the painter "constructing" pigments to consummate what one believes are the remaining connections between art, cognition, faith and mental battle. When we confront the moment of the end without faith, can we face an overwhelming fear of emptiness? This is perhaps the ultimate contemplation that Luo Qing's art expresses.

Adhering to inner truths, discarding surface falsehoods, exploring the evolution of dimensions, depth, and the language of art; a discovery towards the reflections on faith, spirituality, humanity, and society, are all subjects worthy of in-depth exploration. It can be said that this series of works present the multidimensionality of oil paint as a matter of practice, compressing the vastness and profound artistry within life into the thickness of but a canvas. Each stroke and layer of paint attaches to the dense experiences and emotions of life, tightly woven together like pages in a rich book.

About the artist:

Luo Qing was born in the southern province of Jiangxi in China in 1970 and graduated with a master's from the Oil Painting Department at the Central Academy of Fine Arts. He has held significant solo exhibitions worldwide, including "Ruins" across Singapore, Indonesia and China and "Dirty City" in Zurich, Switzerland. He has also exhibited in the United States and Germany and has been shown in the National Art Museum of China. He was awarded prizes by the Central Academy of Fine Arts and the International Art Palace. Luo Qing currently lives and works in Beijing.

无尽之潜

罗清

《无尽之潜》标志着罗清在澳大利亚的首次个展，呈现了艺术家罗清对绘画媒介的深刻探索，以回应广泛的现实世界。这种回应不再聚焦于客观的日常生活和社会现实的描绘，而将罗清置于与特定背景相对立的位置，从特定情境中审视世界。在他的创作实践中，大胆而坚定的笔触、浓重的色彩和犹如沟壑的肌理充斥着画布，然而扭曲和模糊的面孔却描绘出生活的挣扎和不安。在这些粗糙的表面之下，常常隐藏着一种浓烈而难以言喻的悲哀感，仿佛是生命被压抑的呐喊，又仿佛是黑暗中残存的一丝微光。这些作品邀请观众一起直面内心，激发坚韧的精神。

这些奇特的形象源于罗清个人在当代社会的经历和内心感受。对于艺术家而言，精致和纯洁只是一种不稳定的幻想；生活，无论从哪个角度看，都可能是粗糙、甚至肮脏、虚伪和充满暴力的。面对现实生活的严酷，罗清选择在画作中坦诚地探讨：在这个信仰日益减少的时代，我们探索灵魂的空间是否变得越来越狭窄？当人类失去了精神支撑，将物质欲望和肉体享受视为至高无上的价值时，我们是否还能被称为真正的人类？因此，罗清从电影和文学中汲取灵感，深入研究自己的内心和创作对象，以创造出他的“心理剧场”。同时，他通过“构建”颜料的过程传达了他所认为的艺术、认知、信仰和心理挣扎之间的深刻联系。当我们在面对死亡时失去信仰的支撑，该如何应对那种无尽的空虚和深切的恐惧呢？这正是罗清的艺术引发我们深思的核心问题。

当谈及罗清时，可以说他以令人印象深刻的方式将生命的多维度呈现在画布上，仿佛是把生命的广阔与深刻艺术性地压缩成了画布的厚度。他的每一笔、每一层颜料都宛如生命中的丰富经历和情感，紧密交织在一起，如同一本丰富的书籍的页面。这种独特的创作方式不仅突出了作品的立体质感，更让我们深刻领略生命的复杂性和深度。他坚守内在真实，摒弃了表面的虚假，通过作品探索了维度、深度和艺术语言的演进脉络。在他的作品中，我们发现了对信仰、精神、人性和社会的深切反思，这些都是值得我们深入探讨的课题。通过罗清的艺术，我们被引导着思考自己的存在，以及在这个世界中如何找到内心的平衡和意义。

关于艺术家：

罗清生于1970年，并于1998年，在中央美术学院取得油画硕士学位后，他在中国戏曲学院任教长达六年。他的作品以个展与联展形式在世界各地展出，包括新加坡，印度尼西亚，德国，瑞士和中国。其中“废墟”（2006）在新加坡、印度尼西亚和中国进行过巡回展览，以及在瑞士苏黎世举办的“脏城”（2007）展览。罗清于中央美术学院与国际艺苑美术馆分别获得两个奖项，他的作品曾在中国美术馆与上海美术馆展出。罗清现居住创作于北京。



Untitled 4

canvas, 40 x 50 cm, 2020



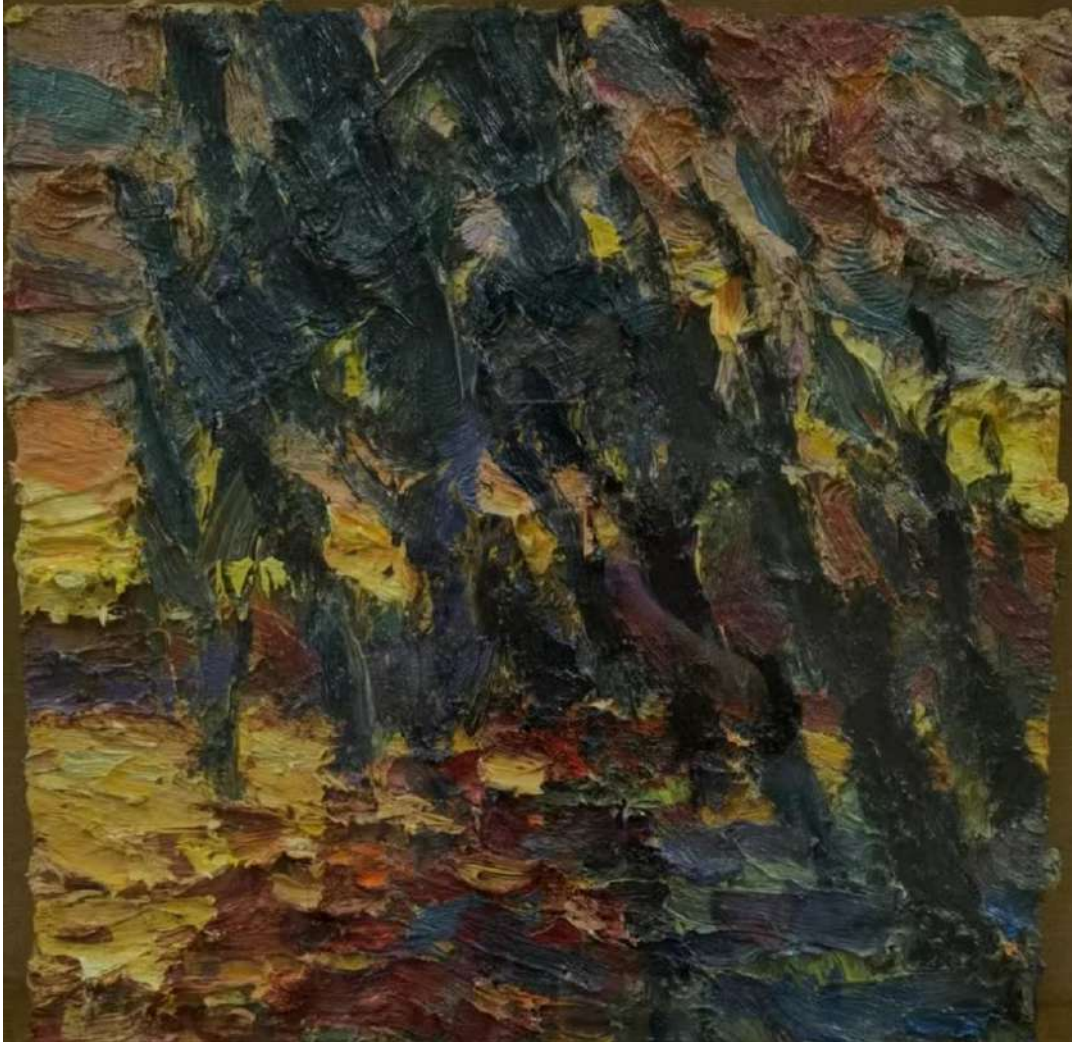
Landscape 2

canvas, 70 x 60 cm, 2020



Portrait 3

canvas, 50 x 50 cm, 2020



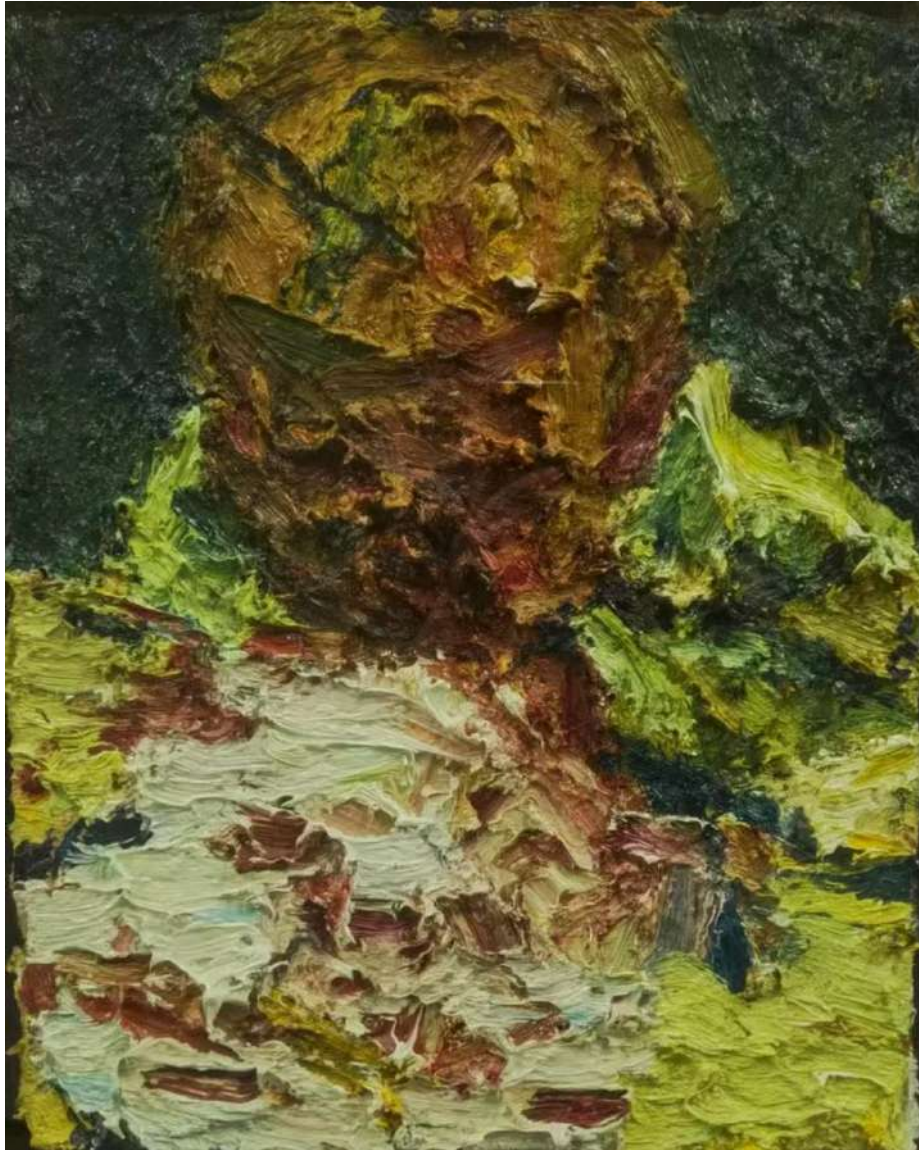
Untitled 5

canvas, 50 x 50 cm, 2020

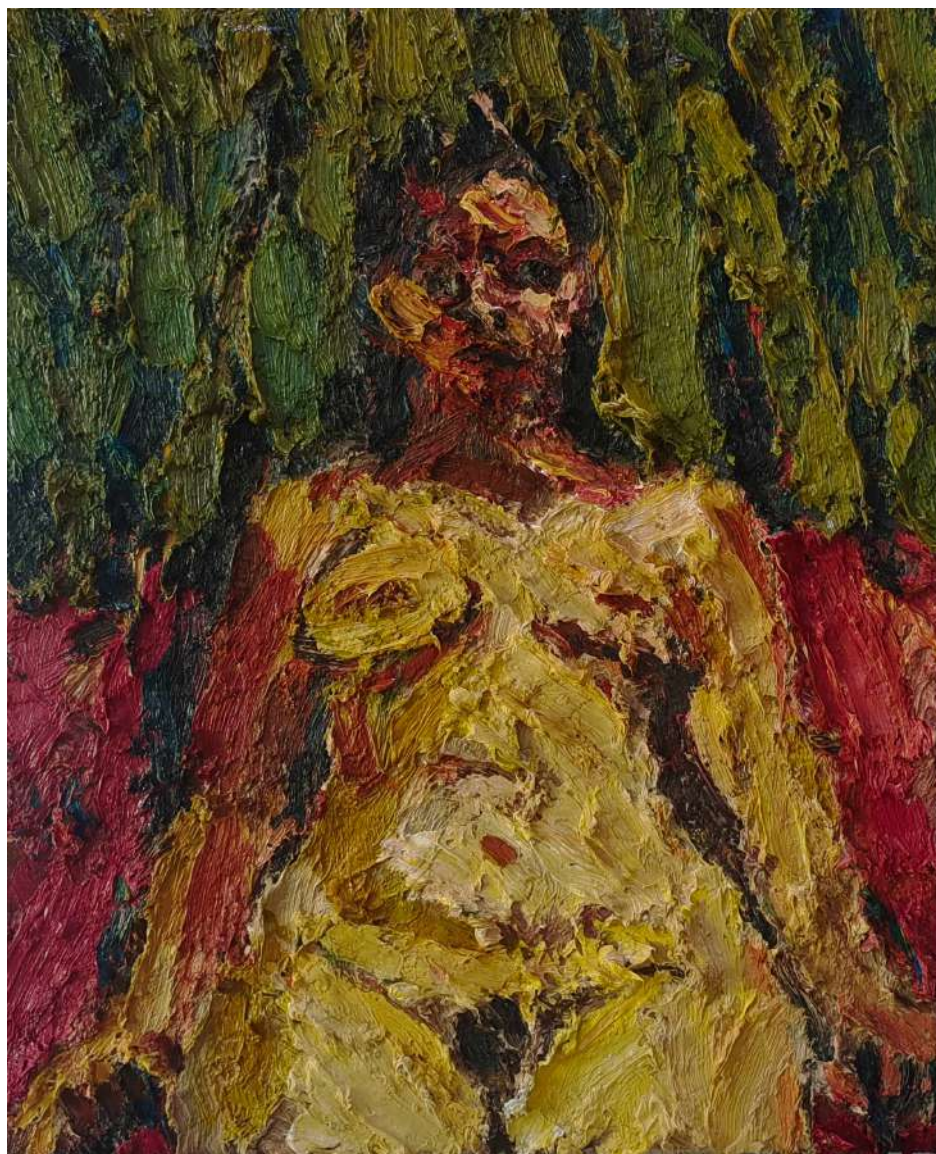


Portrait 1

canvas, 50 x 40 cm, 2019



Portrait 8
40 x 50 cm, 2020



Portrait 9

50 x 60 cm, 2020



Portrait 13
50 x 60 cm, 2020



Portrait 14
60 x 80 cm, 2021



Portrait 7
40 x 50 cm, 2020

Luo Qing

Luo Qing was born in Nanchang, Jiangxi province in 1970, currently living and working in Beijing.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2012 *Solaris*, Millennium Time Gallery, Beijing, China
- 2011 *Hypnotized*, Yilai Gallery, Beijing, China
- 2010 *Mask*, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2009 *No One Will Come out Alive*, Yilai Gallery, New York, USA
- 2007 *Dirty City-Luo Qing Solo Exhibition*, Art Seasons Lake Zurich, Switzerland
- 2006 *Ruins*, Seasons Gallery, Beijing, Singapore & Jakarta, Indonesia
China Now, Art Seasons, Singapore
- 2004 *China · New Beijing*, Seasons Gallery, Singapore
China Now, Art Seasons, Singapore

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2021 *Chronicles of Time: Contemporary Art Exhibition*, Longyin Yafeng Visual Art Center Gallery, Beijing, China
- 2019 *Funniness or Seriousness*, Seasons Gallery, Singapore
- 2017 *Art Capital*, Grand Palais, Paris, France
Integration: Contemporary Oil Painting Language Research Exhibition, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China
- 2010 *Winter Show*, Yilai Gallery, New York, USA
- 2009 *Halberd*, Yilai Gallery, Chicago Art Fair, Chicago, USA
- 2008 *Star Archive-Documentary Library Witnessing 21st Century Chinese Art*, Yilai Gallery, Elsewhere Space, Beijing, China
Blooming-Contemporary Art from China, Dresden Art Center, Dresden, Germany
World-International Perspective in Contemporary Painting, Blank Space, Beijing, China
Die Wahren Orte I, ALEXANDER OCHSGALLERIES, Berlin, Germany
- 2007 *Spirit and Character-Chinese Realist Oil Painting Research Exhibition*, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China
Art Singapore, Singapore
China International Gallery Exposition, Beijing, China
Germany Cologne Art Fair, Germany
Art Taipei, Taiwan
- 2006 *China Contemporary Oil Painting Exhibition*, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China
Spirit and Character-Chinese Realist Oil Painting Research Exhibition, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China
Art Singapore, Singapore
China International Gallery Exposition, Beijing, China
Germany Cologne Art Fair, Germany
- 2005 *New Wave-Beijing Seasons Summer Exhibition*, Seasons Gallery, Beijing, China; Singapore
Art Singapore, Singapore
China International Gallery Exposition, Beijing, China
- 2004 *Beijing Seasons Winter Exhibition*, Seasons Gallery, Beijing, China; Singapore
Milestone, Vanessa Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia
LARASATI Asia Fine Art Auction, Singapore
Art Singapore, Singapore
New Wave, Art Seasons, Beijing, China
- 2003 *China Semi-Contemporary*, Seasons Gallery, Singapore
Beijing Seasons Winter Exhibition 1, Seasons Gallery, Beijing, China; Singapore
LARASATI Asia Fine Art Auction, Singapore

- 2002 *Three-person Show of New Central Academy of Fine Arts*, Hanmo Gallery, Beijing, China
Urban Illusion and Perception, Seasons Gallery, Beijing, China; Singapore
The International Art Exposition, Shanghai, China
- 2001 *China Oil Painting Exhibition*, Hangzhou, China
- 1998 *Academy Silver Award*, Central Academy of Fine Arts Excellent, China
Graduation Works, Central Academy of Fine Arts Gallery, Beijing, China

Publications

- The Glory of the Present: 1979-2019, A Sample of Individual Cases in 40 Years of Contemporary Chinese Art in 2020*, Zhejiang People's Fine Arts Publishing House
- Documentation of Contemporary Chinese Art 2015* in 2015, Hunan Fine Arts Publishing House
- Works Collection of Luo Qing* in 2002, Henan Fine Arts Publishing House