

Chinese contemporary artist Zeng Fanzhi solos at Acquavella Galleries



Zeng Fanzhi - Lion, 2008 - Oil on canvas, 280 x 540 cm. - Images Courtesy Acquavella Galleries

New York , NY - Acquavella Galleries will present the first U.S. solo exhibition of Chinese contemporary artist Zeng Fanzhi from April 2 through May 15, 2009. Most of the approximately 20 oil on canvas works in the exhibition, featuring Fanzhi's newest landscapes and recent portraits, will be shown publicly for the first time. Fanzhi is one of the most in-demand of his peer group, and **set a new world auction record for Chinese contemporary art in May 2008, when his diptych *Mask Series 1996 No. 6* sold for \$9.7 million at Christie's in Hong Kong.**

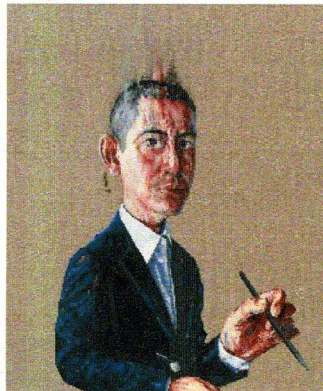
"We look forward to presenting Zeng Fanzhi's first exhibition in the United States," said William Acquavella, President of Acquavella Galleries. "Since the early 1990s, he has been shown in major museums and sold by major galleries and is now the most admired figurative artist of his generation in Asia. His powerfully distinctive paintings explore personal identity and social convention."

Zeng Fanzhi was born in 1964, and came of age during the Chinese Cultural Revolution. He studied at the Hubei Academy of Fine Arts in his province, where he was deeply influenced by Expressionism. From his graduate work on, Fanzhi's paintings have reflected these cultural and critical touchstones, from his breakthrough "Mask" series, featuring Chinese youths wearing the traditional bandanas of the Red Guard, to portraits of Communist figureheads such as Marx and Chariman Mao, to his recent abstract landscapes filled with intense brushstrokes and primary colors.

Since 1993, Fanzhi has lived and worked in Beijing. He has exhibited widely at acclaimed institutions such as the Shanghai Art Museum, National Art Museum (Beijing), Kunst Museum Bonn, Kunstmuseum Bern, Santa Monica Art Centre (Barcelona), and Art Centre (Hong Kong).

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue with full-color reproductions and a Q&A with the artist. Acquavella Galleries, located at 18 East 79th Street, New York, will be open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm for the run of the exhibition. For visitor information, visit : www.acquavellagalleries.com or call 212-734-6300.

About Acquavella Galleries



Acquavella is a family-owned gallery founded by Nicholas Acquavella in 1921. The gallery first specialized in works of the Italian Renaissance, but in 1960, when William Acquavella joined his father, the focus of the gallery expanded to major works of the 19th and 20th centuries, including masters of Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, Cubism and Surrealism. Recently, William Acquavella has been joined by daughter Eleanor and sons Nicholas and Alexander, and the entire scope of the 20th century is now represented, including Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art.

For over eighty years, Acquavella has sold major paintings and sculpture to private collectors and museums worldwide. The gallery has presented museum-quality exhibitions of Monet, Degas, Cézanne, Sisley, Renoir, Pissarro, Modigliani, Bonnard, Tanguy, Léger, Picasso, Matisse, Rauschenberg, Feininger, Giacometti, and Miró. Acquavella is the exclusive international agent for the renowned British painter Lucian Freud, James Rosenquist, and Damian Loeb.