

TJ Ren (b.1962)



About

Ren Tianjin is a Chinese contemporary artist and collector himself. His work was being featured in *Calligraphy Occurred in the Context of the World—an “East Wind” Blowing at the Main Entrance*, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, a piece from CAFA Art Info in October 2022. Shaped to resemble cursive Chinese calligraphy spelling out “east wind” (dongfeng, 東風), the 8-foot-tall sculpture erupts from its two-dimensional written origins into three dimensions like an illustration in a pop-up book. This phrase references a Chinese idiom that encourages total preparation, in case a critical element is missing: “Everything is ready except the east wind.” Director and CEO of the Asian Art Museum, on the creation of Ren Tianjin at the seminar held by the Hangzhou International Modern Calligraphy Festival, and his creation forms some “calligraphy that takes place in the context of the world.”

Following *Your Dog* by Yoshitomo Nara that debuted at the Asian Art Museum in 2019, *Taihu Rock—East Wind II* created by artist Ren Tianjin as the latest rotating sculpture, made its debut at the plaza facing the Main Entrance of Asia Art Museum of San Francisco. The expressive imagination of Taihu rock has almost become an artistic behavior in traditional Chinese garden culture, as the huge tension between the rich and explainable forms contained in the unique texture and shape of Taihu rock and artificial carving has constituted Ren Tianjin’s exploration in the traditional art concept of “Taoism follows nature” in the process of making calligraphy three-dimensional. While enabling the spectator to

experience more dimensional information, he draws on an abstract artistic language to realize the reconstruction of the classical semantics in the East. This bold reconstruction means that “it cuts, splits, reorganizes, superimposes the external nature of the whole and the partial, stability and rhythm, abstract forms and representational texts,” said Prof. Shao Yiyang from the Central Academy of Fine Arts. Thus it was externalized into a new artistic language and trans-boundary innovative imagination.

TJ Ren’s work has featured extensively in Asia, in the Aston Martin Shanghai showroom in 2019. TJ Ren was also invited by different art institutions and brands like Moleskine to lead workshops on contemporary art expression.

Selected Exhibitions

- 2024 *Summer-Scape*, 3812 Gallery, Hong Kong
The Traces of Driving Rapids, Whitestone. Beijing
The Treasure House Fair, Royal Hospital Chelsea, London
Seeking Connections, Mandarin Grill + Bar, Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- 2023 *3812 Gallery Artists*, The Treasure House Fair, London
- 2022 *Taihu Rock – ‘East Rock’*, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco,
New Shanghai, Abstract Art Exhibition, Shanghai Young art museum, Shanghai
Gilding Of Summer Poetry, Shanghai Brics Tower, Shanghai, China
- 2021 *Universal Resonance —Ren Tianjin Exhibition*, The School of Art and Design of Eurasia University, Xi’an, Shanxi, China
- 2019 *Inquiry on Water*, Ink NOW ,Suning Art Museum, Shanghai
The Fourth Writing Non-Writing Hangzhou International Modern Calligraphy Festival, China Academy of Art, Hangzhou
Beautiful Is In the Wind—Ren Tianjin Exhibition, Aston Martin House, Shanghai

- 2018 *1978 – 2018 The artistic creation and practice group exhibition*, Museum of China academy of art, Hangzhou
 Biennial Exhibition of Lanting Calligraphy Association, Zhejiang Art Museum, Hangzhou
- 2017 *China and ASEAN calligraphy exchange exhibition*, Guangxi Art Museum, Guangxi
 Experiencing China-Excellent Works Exhibition, China Academy of Art, Hangzhou

Public / Corporate Collections

Asian Art Museum (San Francisco)
Aston Martin (England)
Park Hyatt Shenzhen (Shenzhen)
Porsche Centre (China)