

### **CHEN WEI MENG (B. 1965)**

Having grown up in Dungun, Terengganu Chen Wei Meng's muse is the landscape. This obsession is reflected deeply in the hyper-realistic paintings that he painstakingly creates.

The works are meditative in their execution as he strives to transcend merely a depiction of the landscape, but endeavours to capture a spirituality and soul that far supersedes humanity, and within this, an all encompassing energy and power. It is in this space that he finds comfort and inspiration. His journey and investigations have seen him spending months travelling - living and sleeping in a car, in order to be as close as possible to what moves him.

His *'Sekinchan: Land of Fertility'* (2016) series saw him revisiting the same place over and over again, as each visit presented him with a different nuance of the same paddy fields, as they morphed through the different seasons of harvest. Each painting is a form of 'imprisonment', as the image draws its audience tenderly in; while all the while, conceivable existences become impenetrable barriers; and there is no way of leaving.

His latest series *'Musang's Words'* (2020) was a meditative and dedicated exploration into his perpetual quest for 'flow'. The approach is reminiscent of the emotive gestures and mark-making seen in abstract expressionism, where it is the movement of the line which inspires emotion.

This idea of 'flow' which Chen has long felt in the landscapes in much of his previous work, can most aptly be described as lines and shapes which seem to have a "vivid and rhythmic" quality in its contours, something which forms a "mysterious shape" that Chen cannot quite put into words. Instead, he expresses his findings by pushing the limitations of the landscape in its abstraction into an almost pure representation of said 'flow'; distilling the forms and shapes of Gua Musang mountain into a raw, symbolic state, and allowing the push and pull of its lines to guide his hand.

In **'A Paradigm Shift - Reflecting on Twenty Years of the Malaysian Art Scene'**, the artist explains, 'Departures and Arrivals' are my messages to the Universe. I wish for a new beginning, for hope, for peace and unity."



Chen Wei Meng  
Drawing Studies  
Charcoal, acrylic on paper  
size: unknown  
1999



Chen Wei Meng  
*A Decaying Bamboo Root Got It Glory Too 1*  
Acrylic on paperboard  
55cm x 79cm  
2000



Chen Wei Meng  
*Night Is Swimming*  
Acrylic on canvas  
112cm x 145.5cm  
2003



Chen Wei Meng  
*Monsoon 3*  
Acrylic on canvas  
60cm x 73cm  
2006



Chen Wei Meng  
*Absolute Terengganu 1*  
Acrylic on canvas  
145cm x 245cm  
2010



Chen Wei Meng  
*Vigil*  
Acrylic on Canvas  
92cm x 163cm  
2012

Exhibition :  
Silent Monsoon  
6 August – 4 September 2012  
WEI-LING CONTEMPORARY



Chen Wei Meng  
*Memorable 2007*  
Acrylic on canvas  
92cm x 163cm  
2016





Chen Wei Meng  
*Impermanence 5*  
Acrylic on canvas  
60cm x 135cm  
2016

Exhibition :  
Sekinchan: Land of Fertility  
1 – 30 July 2016  
WEI-LING GALLERY



Chen Wei Meng  
*Mist'rious 1*  
Acrylic on canvas  
163cm x 92 cm  
2017



Chen Wei Meng

*Qiankun* 乾坤

ink on xuan paper

138cm x 207cm

2019