

Q&A

IVAN LAM RETURNS WITH A SOLO *DICHOTOMY OF OPPOSITES* AT WEI-LING GALLERY WHERE PAINTINGS REFLECT THE CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN CONFIDENCE AND DOUBT

Tell us more about the exhibition.

I have always known I wanted to make epic works — *Catto*, *Hanako* and 990, and more. When I was working on the *Catto* painting, I would spend hours on it. Little did I know the series meant to be about ‘confidence’ would sow a lot of doubt in me. There was a lot of interference and I went through a mental block. I overcame that challenge by letting go of rigid techniques. So this exhibition is about staying true to myself and not being in control of everything.

How did you select the materials?

I picked mediums I had never used before like spray paint and stencils. They were easy to use as they required little mental power but were very physical because I would spend hours on my knees every day, repeating the mantras on the canvas so many times until it became clear I couldn’t any more.

Where do you seek inspiration?

I still struggle with this question until this day because inspiration can come from anywhere. So it is important to keep an open mind and surrender the ego. It’s okay to give

yourself time to stay away [from the artwork] and come back [to it] when you’re ready.

What do you hope people will take away from the exhibition?

I’m using the space to capture the dichotomy, so I hope when viewers enter the gallery, they will be able to see two sections: one side is quite calm and the other is really chaotic and messy. I want the display to reflect the mindset I went through in the last couple of years.

Do you have any future projects lined up?

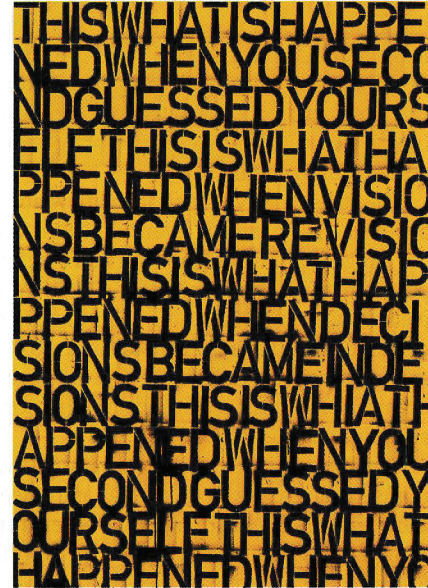
After this, I have a group show where I will be working on animation — something I have never tried before. Because paintings are static, how do you make them move? How do you deal in 4D? I’d love to take up more fresh projects and break the mould as a conventional painter.

— As told to Jazlin Zakri

***Dichotomy of Opposites* runs until March 29.
For more information, visit weiling-gallery.com.**



Ivan Lam with *Catto* (2024)



***Revisions* (2025)**