

For immediate release

**Shanghai Longmen Art Projects Spring Exhibition  
“The Time Thief – Prophecies & Fragments Ye Yongqing Works 2010-2014”**

“The Time Thief” is a metaphor of being. It refers to the documentation of the process by which inspiration is gained, intentionally, or unintentionally, in life, and in time. “Prophecies and Fragments” is a commentary on contemporary culture. The underlying theme of these creations is fragmented and prophecies of the apocalypse.

-Ye Yongqing 2014

**Press Release**

Shanghai Longmen Art Projects Spring Exhibition - “**The Time Thief – Prophecies & Fragments Ye Yongqing Works 2010-2014**” will publicly debut a massive piece comprised of 110 small paintings and will be shown from March 8<sup>th</sup> – April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Completed between 2010 – 2014, each of the 110 works that make up “The Time Thief – Prophecies & Fragments” embodies their own character and thesis. For this exhibition, Ye Yongqing has split up the works into several groups based on his own feelings and inspirations and will present them in a dramatic installation view – emphasizing the transitional state of the works, their interaction and relativity with each other as well as separating and narrating the artist’s own fragmented vision and experiences over the past 4 years.

Lv Peng has once said: “Ye Yongqing has always been a poet, and has always injected his poetry into his paintings and images. Therefore, if we use a Western methodology to interpret this artist’s works, we would lose a key perspective. Chinese contemporary art is constantly evolving, regardless of how complicated and tedious this evolution is, one thing we can be sure of, is that we need art that is based on the realistic living world of the artist, as well as their inherent cultural background, spirit, and sophistication”.

Ye Yongqing loves to travel. He has said: “It’s true that travelling around the world has opened up a new window for me: how big is this world? How tall are the mountains? How long is this road? How open is the heart? I’ve gradually learned to open up my heart and make new friends, using a calm and easy attitude to look upon life and art”. He has also said “In my home, amongst the mountains and waters of Dali, the rustic, cultural customs are still being passed on till today. I refer to it as my home, but not merely as a geographic reference, but also it is the home of my own spirit; reinforcing my attitude as well as my love for life”.

Lyricist Yao Qian once said: “Ye Yongqing is like a parallel walker; walking his own path at his own pace and keeping his distance. Unchanged is his romantic elegance. One could always sense that his artistic language is like a soft-spoken person, speaking effortlessly using a very casual vocabulary, but in just the right temperament to clearly trace the outlines. It does not affect the reader’s attitude or emotions, but make their hearts flutter!”

Cultural Observer Huang Liaoyuan: “Basically, Ye Yongqing does not use structure, or any reliable form of people or objects for his expression. This is his transcendent skill: as effortlessly as a reed crosses the river, sailing with the wind, as clouds slowly covering a mountain, his paintings are driven by a force that is deeply rooted within Ye Yongqing’s delicate brushstrokes. He organizes and cleans up his own disorderly chaos, and his canvases are infused with enlightened and romantic atmosphere; apropos for any occasion, and any one.”

In preparation for Longmen Art Projects’ presentation of “The Time Thief – Prophecies & Fragments Ye Yongqing Works 2010-2014”, Ye Yongqing has selected several entries from his own journal to compliment the thesis of the exhibition. Below is an entry from “I Touch My Own Image\_Prophecies & Fragments\_Journal Excerpts I”:

In recent years, it seems that we've been living in a persistent countdown; bombarded by apocalyptic prophecies, social media, social unrest, and the explosion of digital information. These bits and fragments have become the basic backdrop to survival. Amongst all the chaos, I spontaneously documented and compiled these fragments into over a hundred small paintings, each describing an individual story, and yet, relevant to each other. Someone once said, "Artists are thieves of time!" plucking bits and pieces from time, stealing moments of leisure from a tireless existence, creating culture – a non-physical product. Therefore, the underlying thesis of these works is leisurely art; produced from time, but not actually spending or taking up time. Leisurely time is like empty space within a room. Painting becomes a means to kill time, to pass the time, from these small gaps within a lifetime, to gain freedom, knowledge, and vision for one's mind and soul.

Shanghai Longmen Art Projects is honored to present "The Time Thief – Prophecies & Fragments Ye Yongqing Works 2010-2014", The 110 individual canvases do not simply document Ye's fragmented canvases, but as Lv Peng said: "We now see a contemporary artist who has inherited an attitude from ancient scholars: everything is art, nothing is art, the most important truth is inherent in art, she sustains our lives".

Exhibition Dates	March 8 – April 30, 2014 Tue – Sat 10:00 – 18:30
Opening Reception	March 8, 2014 16:00 – 19:00
Exhibition Venue	Shanghai Longmen Art Projects Suite 102, Tian An Centre 338 Nanjing West Rd., Shanghai 200003

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