

XU Longsen
徐龍森

hanart
TZ Gallery
漢 雅 軒



XU Longsen 徐龍森
(b. 1956)

Xu Longsen's key contribution to the evolution of Chinese landscape painting is his own concept of 'monumental ink landscape painting,' which is both deeply immersed in the Chinese monumental painting tradition, and brings to it a completely contemporary language. Most significant in this methodology is the way in which the artist brings about a fundamental change in the form and connotation of brushwork. His monumental landscapes conjure a breathtaking, almost overwhelming sense of vastness and grandeur, boldly drawing out a fresh contemporary spirit from within the still-evolving heart of the landscape tradition, and simultaneously breaking out of the spatial boundaries of that tradition. In this way Xu also creates a new kind of challenge to the confines of the exhibition hall, and a means of breaking through them. Xu Longsen is truly a pioneer, opening up new spaces and new vistas for Chinese landscape art.

Xu Longsen's ink landscape paintings also challenge the monumentality of modern architecture with their imposing presences. In these works, the sublimity hinted at by Chinese classical landscapes is manifested in physical presence. In spring 2018, the Art Institute of Chicago presented Xu Longsen's solo exhibition *Light of Heaven*, marking the first time the AIC has mounted an exhibition of contemporary ink painting. With this site-specific installation, Xu created an impressive dialogue with the architecture of the site of display, evoking a sense of aesthetic and physical fusion. In the same way, Xu's monumental installations shown at the Museum of Roman Civilization in Italy in 2011 and the Palace of Justice in Belgium in 2009 astonished viewers with their breath-taking effects that challenged the edifices of architecture with natural peaks that burst through the confines of manmade space.

Xu's art is both a radical departure from, and an homage to, the past. His position within the lineage of the Chinese landscape tradition was recognised in the invitation by the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in 2013 when he was invited to exhibit his immense horizontal landscapes together with the museum's famous collection of masterwork paintings from the 10th to 18th century. The way Xu Longsen builds his mountains is essentially sculptural, eschewing classic methods of delineating landscape through the addition of trees and plants or the use of texture strokes (*cunfa*). Rather, the textural effects and the spirited movements of brushwork are contained within the physical construction of Xu's mountain forms. The artist's layers of ink wash provide an entryway into the inner structure of the mountains: up close we find intimations of form in the time before form began, and at a distance is revealed the stillness and solemn grandeur of the mountains. These lofty mountains and unending waters occupy a realm that is remote from the concerns of the everyday world. They seem to hover and shift between the concrete and the ephemeral, between form and non-form. All that the painting surface reveals is the movement and rhythm of forces both ancient and timeless.

Xu Longsen was born in Shanghai in 1956, and graduated from the Shanghai Arts and Crafts College in 1976. He currently lives and works in Beijing, China and Princeton, New Jersey, USA. Xu's works are in major public and private collections internationally, including those of the **Art Institute of Chicago, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Oxford University Art Museum, Brunei Gallery, SOAS, University of London, the Thomas Pritzker Collection and the Department of Culture and Tourism, Abu Dhabi.**



Xu Longsen at his studio in Beijing

徐龍森對山水畫的貢獻在於其雄偉巨幅山水。徐龍森浸淫於中國的博大繪畫傳統，在當代繪畫的語境中，試圖糅合傳統和當代法式，由是從根本處改變筆墨的形態與意蘊。他的巨幅山水氣勢恢宏，大者高達九米，昂然以新時代的姿態走出傳統水墨伏案創作的空間局限，挑戰展館的建築空間，以開拓者的眼界刷新山水畫的界限。

二零一八年，美國芝加哥藝術博物館舉辦《天境之光：徐龍森作品展》，這是美國當代藝術館水墨個展的重要例案。徐龍森對應博物館的建築空間創作巨型山水裝置，靈感來自富於神話典故的崑崙山。

中國藝術自古罕見這等宏偉尺度的創作和展示方式，徐龍森建構「山水」這個精神家園的雄心無法不令觀者讚歎。他曾在多家重要美術館展示其巨幅山水，包括比利時布魯塞爾皇家法院（二零零九年）和意大利羅馬古文明博物館（二零一一年）等。二零一三年，徐龍森受美國納爾遜·阿特金斯藝術博物館邀請，以其長達二十六米的巨幅山水和博物館聞名的宋元典藏一起展出，進行跨越時空的對話。

徐龍森 1956 年出生於中國上海，1976 年畢業於上海工藝美術學校，現居北京創作。

廣東美術館展覽現場節選

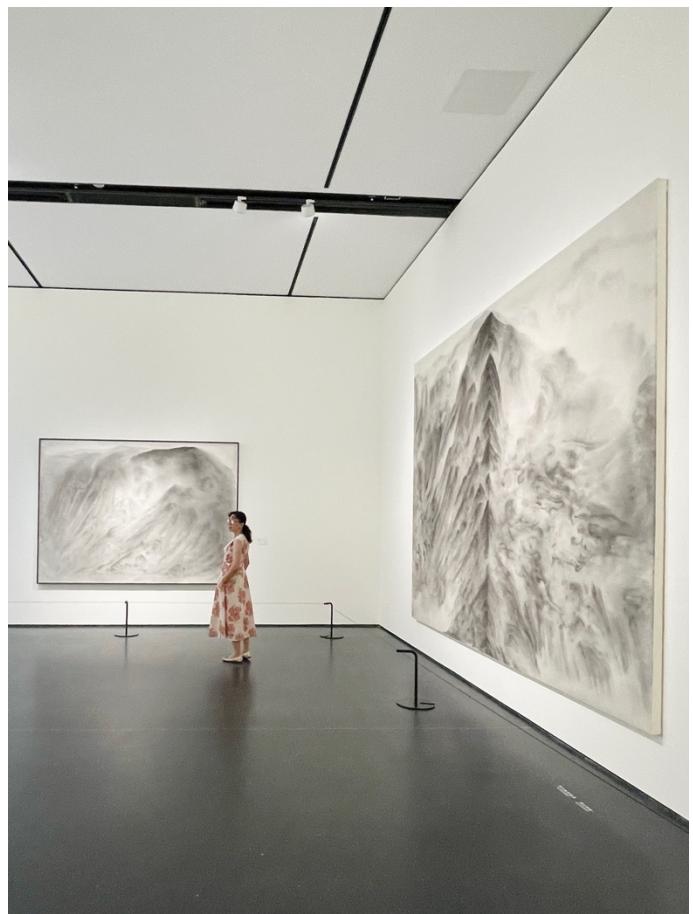
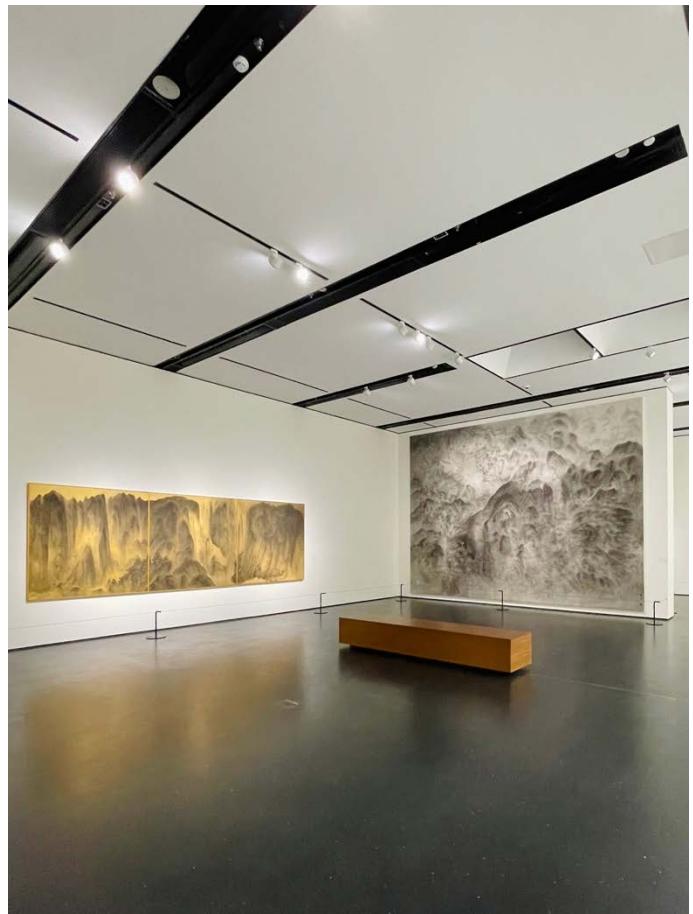
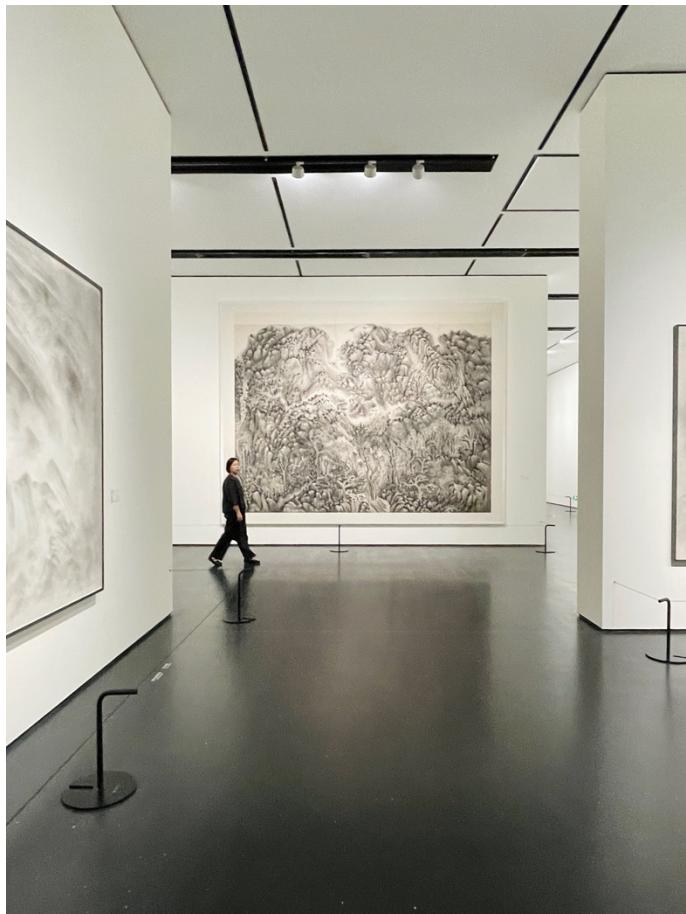
**Selected Installation View
Guangdong Museum of Art**

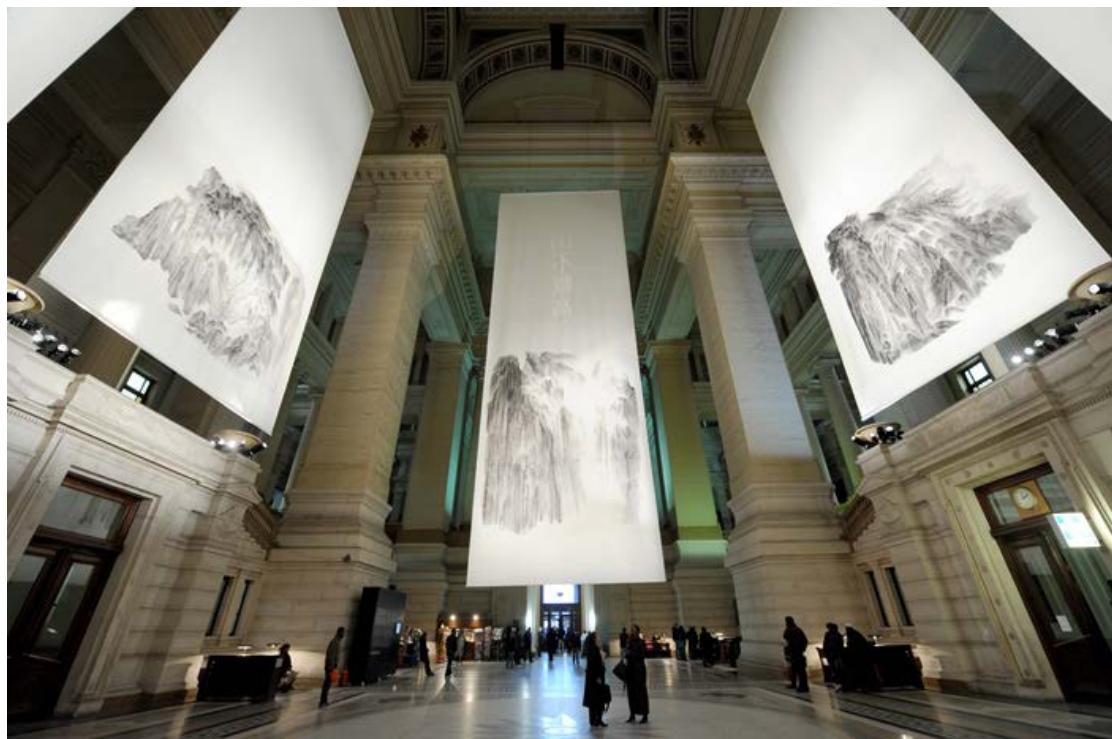
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Xu Longsen, *On Top of a Thousand Mountains*, Palace of Justice, Brussels, Belgium, 2009



Journey through Mountains & Rivers: Chinese Landscapes Ancient & Modern,
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO, USA, 2013



Xu Longsen, *On top of Two Empires*, Museum of Roman Civilization, Rome, Italy, 2011



Xu Longsen: *Light of Heaven*, The Art Institute of Chicago, 2018



Installation View

Art Institute of Chicago, 2018



Xu Longsen: *Light of Heaven*, The Art Institute of Chicago, 2018