

陳張莉

Jenny CHEN

1944-

蕭麗虹 捐贈
Donated by Margaret Shiu

陳張莉1944年生於中國重慶，幼年隨父母遷居臺灣，1968年畢業於國立政治大學文學院，年過30投身藝術創作，42歲隻身赴美國紐約普拉特學院研讀藝術，並於1990年取得碩士學位，旅居紐約數十年，直到2020年返臺定居。陳張莉以抽象繪畫為主要創作形式，畫作瀟灑流暢、層次豐富且個性鮮明，在在流露陳張莉對藝術創作乃至於對生命的狂熱與好奇心。

經由蕭麗虹捐贈的兩件作品〈雲與山的對話〉與〈束無縛〉分別來自陳張莉藝術生涯的不同階段。〈雲與山的對話〉完成於1995年，屬於藝術家移居紐約前10年，富於實驗性的作品。當年來到紐約的陳張莉懷抱著創作熱情，極力從學院裡外吸收養分，積極嘗試各種不同的繪畫媒材與作畫方式，油彩之外，蠟彩、鐵鏽、高溫熱風槍等等都用上了，對她而言，創作的目的不僅僅是完成一件作品，更重要的是過程，當中有很多的學習、挫折，也令人享受。〈雲與山的對話〉以流動清透的黃褐色料為底，鮮紅與粉白的色塊上，再堆疊厚重沉鬱的灰色筆觸，質地各異的色料壁壘分明而在造型上彼此呼應，有粗厚的筆觸亦有充滿速度感的刮痕，精緻小巧而深具實驗精神。2012年，陳張莉位於關渡的工作室兼倉庫遭遇祝融之災，累積二十多年的作品付之一炬，完成於早期的〈雲與山的對話〉因蕭麗虹的收藏而逃過一劫，彌足珍貴。

當年那場大火中失去了大批作品讓陳張莉深感痛心，她返回紐約沉寂一段時日之後重拾畫筆，一改此前已經持續七、八年以黑白為主要色調的風格，重新帶入鮮豔的色彩，旋及在2013年發表名為「束無縛」的系列，其中包含近2公尺高的大尺幅畫作，以及多件小幅作品，此次納入典藏的〈束無縛〉即屬於後者。陳張莉長期透過藝術創作追求一種無拘無束，非常個人的自由性，她在創作過程中傾向於不預設立場，而是透過對於身體與媒材的高度掌握，藉由色彩的流動、堆疊，形成富有韻律的肌理層次，將自身的情感及生命經驗映照在畫布上。此件〈束無縛〉以亮麗的黃綠為主色調，從畫面左側亮眼奔放的渲染，往右側轉為內斂深邃，流露一股既炙熱卻也內斂的情感，顯現藝術家將無常所帶來的創傷，轉化為向上激勵的創作能量。（郭怡孜）

Born in Chongqing, China, in 1944, Jenny Chen came to Taiwan as a child with her parents and then graduated from the College of Liberal Arts at National Chengchi University. Her more than thirty years of devotion to the creation of art started at the age of 42 when she traveled to New York City to study art at Pratt Institute. She received her master's degree in 1990 and continued on in New York until returning to Taiwan in 2020. Chen mostly focuses on abstract painting, the style of which is distinctive for its rich layering and unique natural and unrestrained character. She is passionate and curious about all aspects of artistic creation and life.

The two works *Dialogue Between Clouds and Mountains* and *Unfettered Mind* from different periods of Chen's career were donated to the Museum by Margaret Shiu. The former was completed in 1995 and belongs to Chen's experimental period during her first ten years in New York. She energetically nourished her love for art in those years both at the Institute and through experiences in the wider environment. In addition to oil painting, she experimented with a wide variety of media and techniques, such as encaustic, rust, and a heat gun, as she believes that the objective of the artistic process is not only to finish a work, but more importantly, to learn from the setbacks and enjoyment encountered during the process. For *Dialogue Between Clouds and Mountains*, Chen used yellowish brown paint that she thinned until fluid and translucent for the background, and overlaid this with an area of scarlet and whitewash paint, and rhythmically applied heavy gray brushstrokes echoing other shapes and with borders made more distinct by contrasting colors. To add variety to these textures, she also scratched through the heavy brushstrokes to create a staccato tempo and exquisite, deeply experimental spirit. In 2012, Chen's studio and storage room in Kuandu burned down, and more than twenty years of her work went up in smoke. This precious early work *Dialogue Between Clouds and Mountains* was spared this fate because Margaret Shiu had collected it.

After suffering such a distressing loss due to the fire, Chen picked up her brush again within just a few days of her return to New York. After using only black and white for the previous seven to eight years, she reintroduced color into her work with the series *Unfettered Mind* in 2013. The series included a large, almost two-meter tall work and several small canvases including this painting collected in 2021. Chen has sought liberation and extreme personal freedom through her work for many years, and in her creative process, tends to avoid any predisposition, but rather through a fluid layering of colors, and by mastering materials and her own body, forms rhythmic textures that reflect her emotions and life experience. In *Unfettered Mind*, Chen used bright and beautiful yellow and green shades that are rendered as dazzling and unrestrained at the left side, and become progressively more subdued and profound toward the right, revealing both the artist's passion and inner strength to transform trauma caused by impermanence into uplifting creative energy. (Isabelle Kuo)

典藏
目錄

2021

COLLECTION
CATALOGUE

雲與山的對話 Dialouge Between Clouds and Mountains

1995

油彩、畫布 Oil on canvas

30 x 30 cm

捐贈 Donation 2021.0006.001



束無縛 Unfettered Mind

2013

油彩、畫布 Oil on canvas

30 x 30 cm

捐贈 Donation 2021.0006.002

