

Wonderment

Anna Glynn



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Wonderment

Chinese ink paintings / video / projection / installation / soundscape

Artist in Residence

September to December 2013

Department of Visual Studies

Lingnan University

Hong Kong 2013

Opening Ceremony

28th November 2013

16:30 to 17:30

Exhibition Date

28th November to 12th December 2013

www.annaglynn.com



Sailing
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
70cm x 132cm

Foreword

Every year the Department of Visual Studies hosts two artists-in-residence, one local and one non-local, one emerging and one established. The aim of the program, funded by the Lingnan Foundation, is to supplement students' theoretical and historical understanding of the visual arts with practical understanding, while acquainting students with a range of media and with artists from different parts of the world.

This year our Department welcomed Ms Anna Glynn, an Australian multimedia artist whose many awards clearly put her at the 'established' end of the spectrum. Besides the (acknowledged) quality of her work and her ability to introduce our students to a range of media, there were at least two other reasons why Anna's profile appealed to us. Firstly, the central theme in Anna's work is nature and our relation with nature, which connects with one of the Department's priority areas in teaching and research, namely, environmental aesthetics. Secondly, Anna is a Western artist actively seeking connections with Chinese art, which is also among our priority areas. For example, Anna has some of her works mounted on scrolls and she practices Chinese ink painting techniques. This connection with Chinese art was recognized by Tsi Ku Chai Gallery in Central, where Anna exhibited as the first foreign artist during her stay at Lingnan. It was also recognized by the Australian government, who selected Anna as a finalist in the Australian Arts in Asia Awards just before she arrived in Hong Kong.

I am happy to report that Anna more than matched the expectations we had formed on the basis of her profile. On behalf of the Department, I would like to thank her for her dedicated teaching and for delivering the first-rate work that is included in this catalogue.

Rafael De Clercq

Associate Professor and Head, Department of Visual Studies



Bird Lovers Meeting
 Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
 46cm x 56cm

Artist's Statement

Wonderment is an exhibition of works created during my time as artist in residence at Lingnan University, Hong Kong.

Wonderment is heavily influenced by my view from the university visitors' quarters, across into the top boughs of a persimmon tree. The tree, gravid with abundant fruit, swelling and ripening day by day, was visited by a bounty of birds... tiny, twittering birds, flitting, full-throated trillers, plump, cooing pigeons and long-tailed branch-leapers, squeaking as they landed. Translucent dragonflies patrolled back and forth, skimming above the trees tops. Similar to my forest home in Australia... the same but somehow different... nature continues along busily.

I created a nest up high, an aerie in the artist's studio. Lined it with paper and cloth, filled it with small, shiny, precious objects: brushes made of the finest long elegant hair and crafted with exotic timbers, coloured inks glistening on the palette, arranging and rearranging.

Wonderment is an expression of my lifetime



fascination with animals and nature. At Lingnan University I have worked with a palette of painting, drawing, photography, sound, installation, video and digital animation. Thus, Wonderment is a composite.

I have continued with my great love of Chinese traditional materials and created a new suite of Wonderment paintings that complement my other

animal works, fusing East and West, traditional and contemporary.

In addition to the paintings and other elements, a major component of Wonderment is the first showing of work done as part of my multimedia MEOAW Project: My Extraordinary Onomatopoeic Animal World. Onomatopoeic words mimic the sounds they represent; the sound of the word imitates the sound the object makes. The words are creations of our human minds and in different cultures and languages the words for the same sounds differ.

The MEOAW Project seeks to find a way to present this material to provide a point of

discussion – the beginning of a fascinating conversation between cultures. The MEOAW Project is an ongoing artwork, under construction, evolving as it develops. For Wonderment, I have focussed on bird sounds, but I am looking forward to many years work exploring the way we humans describe sounds made by all sorts of animals. It is an international project and I have been lucky enough in 2013 to collect material in Norway, Sweden, Australia and now Hong Kong.

The Lingnan University community responded enthusiastically to my call for volunteers to participate in the MEOAW project. I have spent many happy hours collecting and recording sound and video from members of this wonderful, culturally-diverse population.

Like a hunter or naturalist I lured others into my lair... a procession of tall, short, serious, sweet and funny humans wandered, crept and strode into the studio. They generously gave their time to perch and parade, producing some of the animal sounds from their cultures...Bulgarians bleated, Mexicans mooed, Chinese chortled and Netherlanders neighed. Collaboration has been an important part of my time here, with colleagues and with students in the 'Playing with

Multimedia' course.

It has been a privilege and an honour to be artist in residence at Lingnan University. I wish to thank all of the community at Lingnan University for welcoming me and encouraging me with my sometimes strange pursuits. Thank you to you all my new friends, colleagues and students and also to my husband Peter Dalmazzo for his constant help and support. Thank you to Tsi Ku Chai Gallery for organising the traditional mounting of my paintings for this exhibition.

Special thanks to: Joyce Tong (Administrative Assistant), Kaye Wong (Senior Administrative Assistant), Dr Rafael De Clercq (Head and Associate Professor), Dr Carol Archer (Assistant Professor), Dr Sophia Law (Associate Professor), Professor Seade (Vice-President), Professor Mette Hjort (Associate Vice-President (Academic Quality Assurance and Internationalisation) and Chair Professor), Dr Huang Ying-ling, Michelle (Assistant Professor), Zoie So (Senior Teaching Fellow) and my student helper Janice (Li Yuen Lam) .

Anna Glynn
Australia



Shady Marriage Grove
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
56cm x 46cm



Wonderment Sinuous Curve Tree
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
93cm x 171cm

**Wonderment – an exhibition by
Lingnan University's
Visual Studies Department
Artist-in-Residence Anna Glynn**

The very existence of play continually confirms the supralogical nature of the human situation. Animals play, so they must be more than merely mechanical things. We play and know that we play, so we must be more than merely rational beings, for play is irrational.

– Johann Huizinga

Elegant beasts crane their necks skyward, balance on impossibly fragile legs, rabbits somersault beneath moonlit trees. Anna Glynn's animals occupy idiosyncratic landscapes that remind us of traditional Chinese ink paintings, of the Australian bush, of fables and fairy tales. Anna's animals present as human: they strut, they posture, they strike quirky poses. Yet while their silhouettes are sometimes paper-cut sharp, their translucent bodies are marbled by the soft tides of spreading ink that the artist also uses to render their habitat: trees, ground, clouds and sky.

Anna's paintings use two kinds of mark-making and balance two kinds of interaction with materials. One kind of mark-making – that which traces the graceful contours of animals and trees – highlights a deliberate and intentional mode of painterly mastery. The other – evidenced

by the patterns created by spreading ink as it gathers and dries in the folds and hollows of the lightweight Chinese paper – is an instance of 'nondominative' mark-making.¹ Such marks foreground the intrinsic and incidental qualities of artistic materials and methods. They do not play a key role in the project of transforming the matter of painting into a transcendent design. Rather, this kind of mark-making registers the artist's surrender to the nature of her chosen materials and to the embodied experience of painting.

The tiny animals that appear in the 'Wonderment' exhibition dwell in colossal trees. A diminutive red bird appears in the topmost branches of one tree. Miniature deer, cranes, and horses emerge from the ink-clouded bark of others. These creatures inhabit, and are inhabited by, places and worlds that appear every bit as alive, as impermanent and fragile, as they are. Anna's animals remind us of the connections between species, between aspects of nature, and between ways of being, doing and thinking. I sincerely thank Anna for sharing this world and this knowledge with us.

Carol Archer

Assistant Professor, Department of Visual Studies

¹ / The term 'non-dominative' is from an essay by Josephine Donovan entitled 'Everyday Use and Moments of Being: Toward a Nondominative Aesthetic' (in Hilda Hein and Carolyn Korsmeyer (eds), *Aesthetics in a Feminist Perspective*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1993).



Wonderment Tree detail 1
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper



Wonderment Red Bird Tree
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
93cm x 171cm



Wonderment Red Bird Tree
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper detail
93cm x 171cm



Wonderment Lithe Tree
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
93cm x 171cm



Wonderment Tree detail 2
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper detail



Wonderment Ancient Tree
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper detail 1



Wonderment Ancient Tree
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper detail 2
93cm x 171cm



Wonderment Supple Curve Tree
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
93cm x 171cm



Wonderment Tree detail
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper

The MEOAW Project

MEOAW is a multimedia project presented as video, sound and animation. The images here are screen captures from the multimedia work.



Still from Wonderment video work created with Lingnan University staff and student participation. Thank you to Nina Wan Lai Na, Tong Kam Ming and Professor Jesús Seade.



Still from Wonderment video work created with Lingnan University staff and student participation. Thank you to Gregory Whitten and Ada Zhang Beidi.

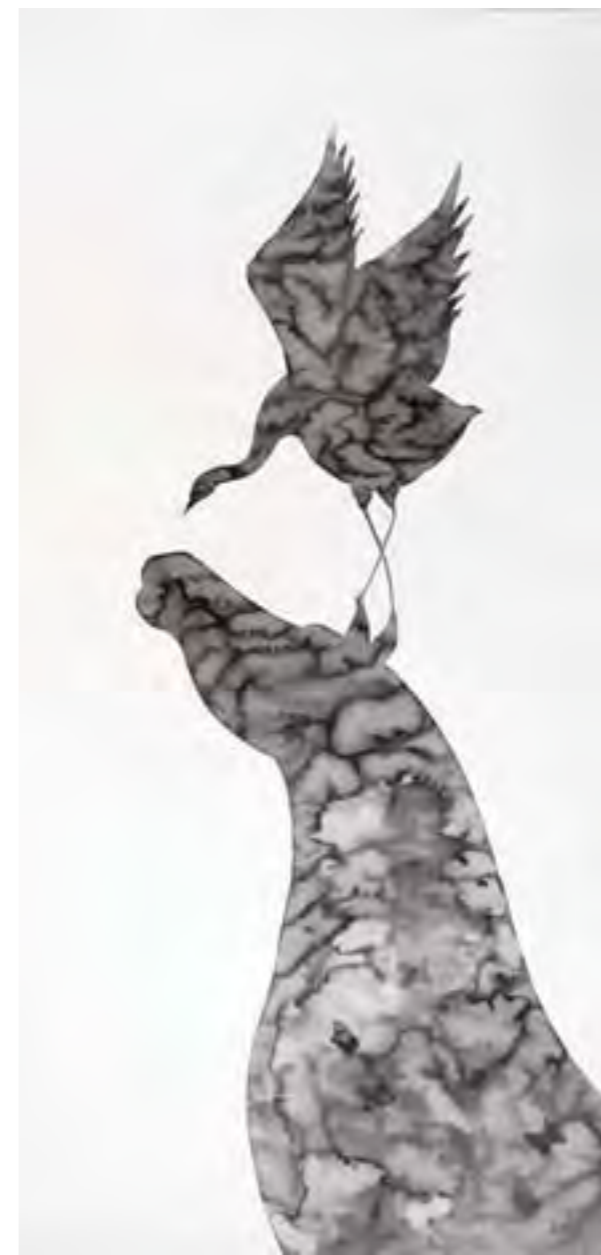
MEOAW Project Anna & Janice Li Lingnan University



Anna collecting sound recordings from her Lingnan student Janice.



Strange Ballet Polonaise
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
65cm x 132cm



Strange Ballet Virtuoso
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
65cm x 132cm



Elegant White Horse Tree
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
25cm x 50cm



Mountain Horses
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
93cm x 171cm



Blue Elegant Horse
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
65cm x 65cm



Blue Forest Horse
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
65cm x 84cm



Forest Horse
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
65cm x 132cm



Marriage in Red
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
132cm x 70cm



Rabbit Guardian 1
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
46cm x 171cm



Rabbit Guardian 2
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
46cm x 171cm



Blue Sailing Horse
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
65cm x 65cm



Guardian
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
93cm x 171cm



Blue Rabbit Lovers
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
58cm x 93cm

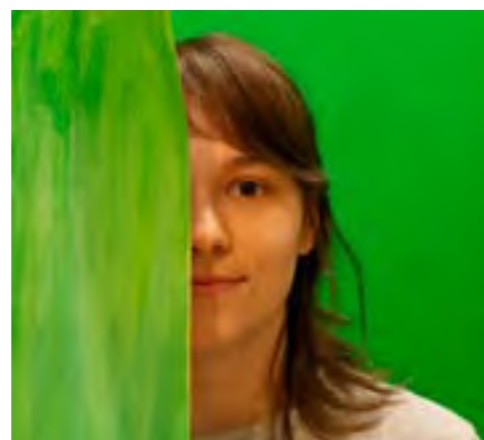
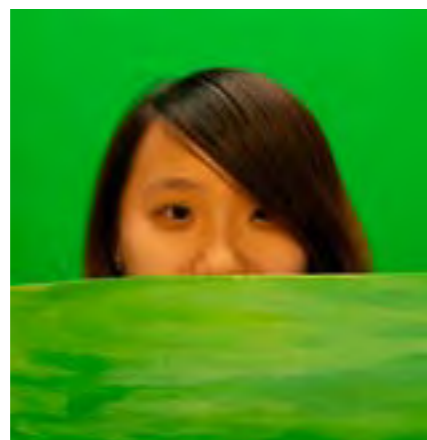


Blue Horse Dreaming
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
65cm x 132cm



multimedia students in class

Multimedia student
Joyce LI Lok See (left) and
Presie Tsvetanova (right)
in greenscreen experiment



“Playing with Multimedia” student exhibition

During the semester students were able to play with a variety of media and learnt some basic skills with creative software. Their final project was to make a multimedia artwork to present in this exhibition.

Please enjoy these works created by a group of very talented students.

CHAN Chui Ling

Javiera ERGAS LÓPEZ

FUNG Ka Yiu

HO Ching Man

LEE Pak Ho

LEUNG Ka Pui

LI Lok See

LI Shuk Ping

LI Yuen Lam

LIN Cheuk Ling Ariel

LO Yuk Chun

NG Lee Lee

QIAN Rona

TAM Pui Ling

TONG Kam Ming

Preslava TSVETANOVA

Neval TURHALLI



Horse Bird Tree
Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
46cm x 46cm





Gathering / Chinese ink on treated xuan paper
93cm x 93cm