

# Brian Rochefort & Liu Shangying

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**MASSIMODECARLO is pleased to announce a dialogue exhibition between Chinese artist Liu Shangying and Los Angeles-based sculptor Brian Rochefort. This exhibition brings together two different artists and their unique perspectives on their surroundings, resulting in a celebration of nature's beauty and abstract spontaneity. While at first glance, their works may appear contrasting, upon closer inspection, one can grasp the shared themes and motifs that run through their creations, imbuing them with a sense of awe and reverence for the world's beauty.**

Liu Shangying's connection to the wilderness is evident in his work, as he often paints in remote and depopulated locations - such as the Tibetan Plateau, Inner Mongolia, and Xinjiang - drawing inspiration from the beauty and cruelty of nature. Shangying's paintings are not just representations of the landscape but are the landscape itself, transcending and eternalising the instantaneous continuum of the universe. He uses the act of painting to completely integrate himself with nature, creating a bridge between the self and the environment.

On the other hand, Brian Rochefort's sculptures are a testament to his mastery of ceramics, created through multiple firings and intricate layering of glaze and texture. His sculptures, resembling craters and vessels, mimic the explosiveness and beauty of the natural world. In this exhibition, Rochefort showcases a continuum from his crater sculptures, inviting the audience on an adventure across the lush, natural marvels of remote places.

Beginning with small cylinders and adding layer upon layer of glaze and colour, Rochefort's final product is chromatically rich and varied in surface volume. He pushes the limits of the medium of ceramics, constantly exploring new techniques and processes. As an avid explorer, Rochefort's solid vibrant chunks of clay pay tribute to the untamed natural beauty of remote locations, from volcanic landscapes to tropical rainforests, from rugged mountains to barrier reefs.

The artists, both focused on portraying and expressing natural beauty through different mediums, display and pair a series of works that

dialogue with each other in different languages. While Shangying's paintings are an outpouring of his emotions and experiences, a harmonious fusion of himself and the environment, Rochefort's craters present us with his reinterpretation of remote, almost otherworldly landscapes.

The works of Shangying and Rochefort on display at MASSIMODECARLO Beijing form a symphony of art and nature, a harmonious blend of two distinct perspectives and two unique voices. They are united by a common thread of inspiration from the world around them, a strong sense of abstract spontaneity, and a deep connection to the beauty of the earth. Their exhibition is a tribute to the power of the creative spirit and the wonder of the natural world, a celebration of the beauty and majesty of the earth.

**Liu Shangying** (b. Kunming, China, 1974) currently lives and works in Beijing. As a professor, he teaches at the Third Studio of the Oil Painting Department at the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA).

Since 2011, Liu has made a number of extended trips to Ngari (Tibet), Ejin Banner (Inner Mongolia), Lop Nor, Altun Mountain, and Tengri Tagh (Xinjiang), in order to paint from life. Inspired by these places, he completed the *Lake Manasarovar* series, *Desert Poplars* and the *Sand* series, *Wilderness Project* series, *Shaziquan* series, *Qimantag* series, *Rainbow* series and *Tengri Tagh* series. The finished paintings are placed in the natural scenes from which he painted, so as to inspect the relations between painting and its site of action.

Solo exhibitions include: TAG Art Museum, Qingdao, China (2022); Star Gallery, Beijing, China (2021); Changshu Art Museum, Changshu, China (2016); National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China (2015); Inside-Out Art Museum, Beijing, China (2013), among others. Important group exhibitions include: Minsheng Art Museum, Beijing, China (2021); Song Art Museum, Beijing, China (2020); Palazzo Doria Pamphilj, Valmontone, Italy (2019); National Gallery of Bulgaria, Bulgaria (2019); Fondation Maeght, Saint Paul de Vence, France (2018); China Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2018); Vittoriano, Rome, Italy (2015); National Museum of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia (2014); New York Academy of Art, New York, United States (2013); National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China (2012); Guan Shanyue Art Museum, Shenzhen, China (2011); CAFA Art Museum, Beijing, China (2010), among others. His work has also been included in the 14th Dak' Art Biennale of African Contemporary Art, Dakar, Senegal (2022), the 2021 Chengdu Biennale, Chengdu, China (2021), the 4th Santiago Biennale, Santiago, Chile (2015) and other Chinese and international biennales and events.

**Brian Rochefort** (b. Rhode Island, 1985) currently lives and works in Los Angeles, California.

Brian Rochefort primarily works with ceramic and glazes as a mixed media sculptor, creating one-of-a-kind vibrant sculptures covered in abstract patterns and fascinating textural features. The process of his work involves breaking apart unfired clay objects and layering them up with more material, then firing between each layer of glaze to produce volcanic masses and craters overflowing with colour. The surfaces of the sculptures are a blend of rough, uneven clumps and smooth, bubbly drips, all suspended in place by the kiln firing.

Solo exhibitions include: Freddie Mercury, MASSIMODECARLO, Hong Kong (2022); Jaguar! Jaguar!, MASSIMODECARLO, London (2019); Absorption by the Sun, Museum of Contemporary Art, Santa Barbara, USA (2019). Group exhibitions include: Contre-Nature, Mo.Co. Montpellier, Montpellier, France (2022); Clay Pop, Jeffrey Deitch, New York (2021); Cool Clay: Recent Acquisitions of Contemporary Ceramics, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento (2019); Melting Point: Movements in Contemporary Clay, Craft Contemporary, Los Angeles (2018); Ceramic Biennial, CAFAM, Los Angeles (2017); From Funk to Punk: Left Coast Ceramics, Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, USA (2017); Regarding George Ohr, Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, USA (2017). Rochefort was awarded the Lillian Fellowship from the Archie Bray Foundation for Ceramic Arts in Montana, 2007-2008.

The artist's work is represented in private and public collections, including NMAC Foundation, Cádiz, Spain; Zabudowicz Collection, London, United Kingdom; Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, California.