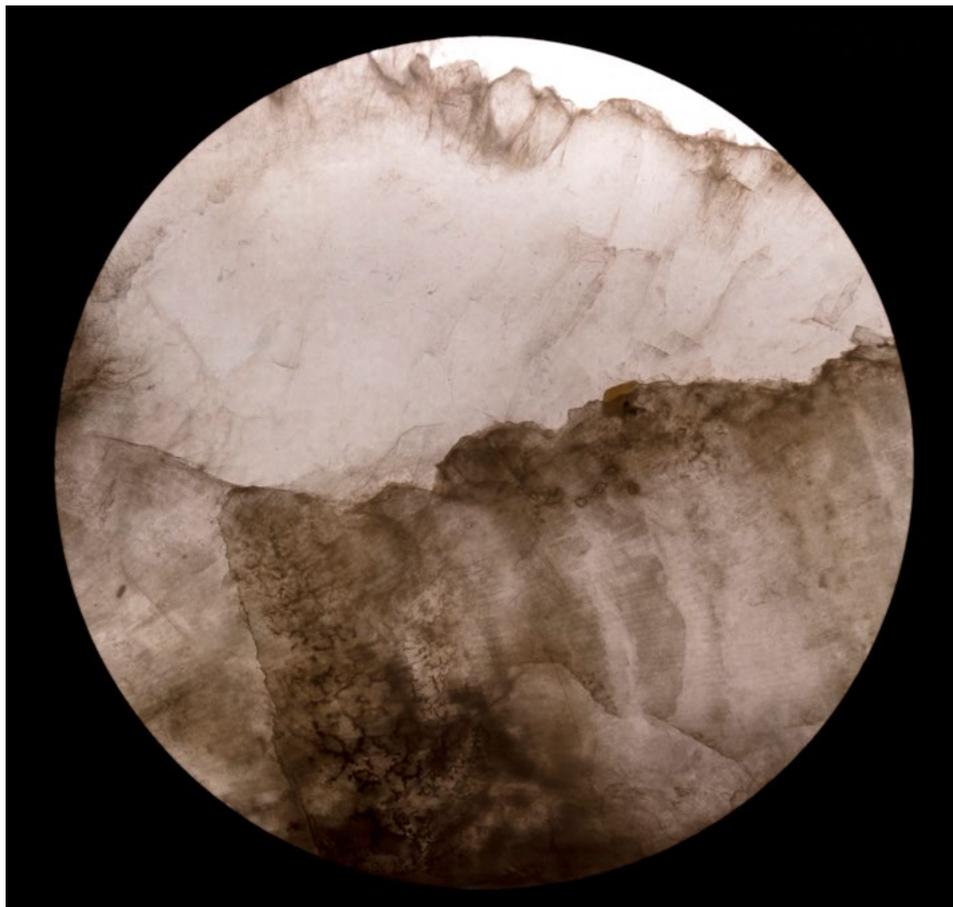


mor
charpentier

AS IT IS

|
Charwei Tsai

January 28 - March 18 2017
Opening
Saturday, January 28 — 6pm-8pm



Charwei Tsai, *Universe of Possibilities*, 2016

For her second solo show at mor charpentier, **Charwei Tsai** presents a series of new works that contemplates the immense capability of one's mind to transform perceptions of an accepted reality.

In *Songs of Chuchepati Camp* (2017), the artist and Tibetan filmmaker Tsering Tashi Gyalthang take on the universal nature of song and poetry and look to create a platform for the earthquake victims currently living in makeshift camps in Nepal by asking them to simply sing a song that expresses their state of mind. The project looks to connect people with one another on the basis of humanity, and transcend social, economic, cultural and religious differences. Emphasizing on common values and the simplest of human desires – to be free from suffering – the project eschews political rhetoric to share and give visibility to the personal experiences of those seeking refuge.

For the series *Universe of Possibilities* (2017), **Charwei Tsai** travels on the Vietnamese coast to photograph the wastes

dumped by commercial fishing boats. “I find it fascinating how, when observed closely, the little shells look like striking images of all the components in our natural environment. Some of the growth patterns reveal earthy textures found in mountains or marble, while others contain water elements like waves or body tissues; some reflect lustres present in metal, or display airiness like clouds or fog, or appear like black smoke as if burned by fire. Each image is a world in itself and is framed in a circle to symbolize that world. On the photographs I wrote simple phrases such as “quietude,” “childish laughter,” and “awakening” as reflections upon the specific imagery.” As described by the artist.

Tsai further explored the theme of the emptiness of phenomena through her drawings *We Came Whirling from Nothingness* (2014-2017) inspired by Sufi poetry and the whirling dervishes. Various forms of spiral were created by watercolor on rice paper and inscribed with Heart Sutra in traditional Chinese calligraphy. The texts gradually disperse in the outer sphere into the void in contemplation of the essence of emptiness.

Highly personal yet universal concerns spur **Tsai's** multi-medium practice. Geographical, social, and spiritual motifs inform her body of work, which encourages viewer participation outside the confines of complacent contemplation. Preoccupied with the human-nature relationship, Tsai meditates on the complexities among cultural beliefs, spirituality, and transience.

Tsai has had solo exhibitions internationally, and has participated in exhibitions and biennials including Biennale of Sydney and Sharjah Calligraphy Biennale, (2016), Simple Shapes at Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2015) and Centre Pompidou-Metz, France (2014); Sharjah Biennial (2013), Phantoms of Asia at Asian Art Museum of San Francisco (2012), Yokohama Triennial (2011), 6th Asia Pacific Triennial (2009), *Traces of the Sacred*, Centre Pompidou, Paris (2008), Thermocline of Art: New Asian Waves at ZKM Center of Art and Media, Karlsruhe (2007), and the inaugural Singapore Biennale (2006). Tsai's works are in public and private collections including those held at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, FRAC Lorraine, Fauschou Foundation, Copenhagen, Kadist Foundation, Paris, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Sigg Collection, Zurich, and Yokohama Museum of Art.

List of works

Charwei Tsai

We Came Whirling Out of Nothingness VIII-II, 2017

Ink and watercolor on rice paper
100 x 158cm
Unique piece

We Came Whirling Out of Nothingness VIII-III, 2017

Ink and watercolor on rice paper
100 x 180cm
Unique piece

We Came Whirling Out of Nothingness VIII-V, 2017

Ink and watercolor on rice paper
100 x 247cm
Unique piece

Solitude, 2017

Hand-Inscribed Photograph
129 x 129cm
Series of 3 + 1 AP

Quietude, 2017

Hand-Inscribed Photograph
69 x 69cm
Series of 3 + 1 AP

Meditation, 2017

Hand-Inscribed Photograph
73 x 73cm
Series of 3 + 1 AP

Awakening, 2017

Hand-Inscribed Photograph
91 x 91cm
Series of 3 + 1 AP

Childlike Laughters, 2017

Hand-Inscribed Photograph
78 x 78cm
Series of 3 + 1 AP

Songs of Chuchepati Camp, 2017

Video, color, sound
13:36 min