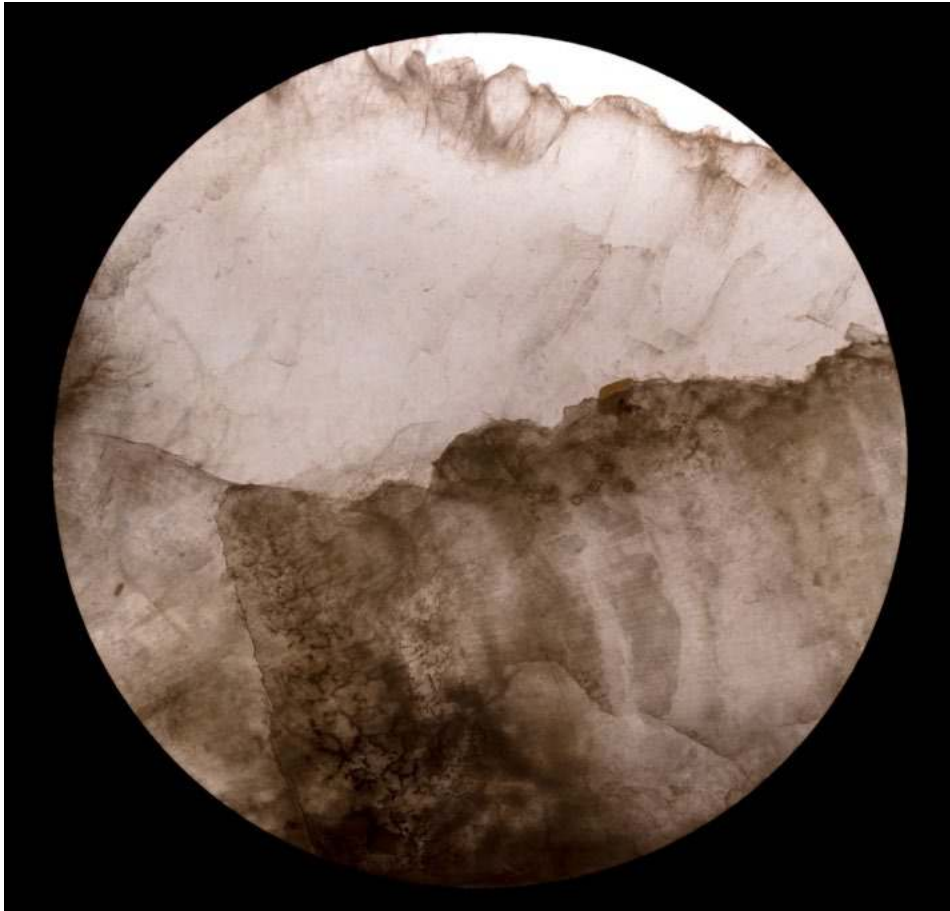


mor
charpentier

AS IT IS

|
Charwei Tsai

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



Charwei Tsai, *Universe of Possibilities*, 2016

*Reality is what we take to be true.
What we take to be true is what we believe.
What we believe is based upon our perceptions.
What we perceive depends on what we look for.
What we look for depends on what we think.
What we think depends on what we perceive.
What we perceive determines what we believe.
What we believe determines what we take to be true.
What we take to be true is our reality.*
David Bohm, 1977

For her second solo show at **mor charpentier**, the artist and traveller **Charwei Tsai** presents a series of new works that transcend the cruelty of reality to reach a spiritual dimension where everyday life is transfigured by the beauty of art and gesture. With extreme elegance, the artist evokes complex political and social realities by distilling Buddhist philosophy out of rubble and rubbish.

In *Songs of Chuchepati Camp* (2017), the artist documents the deplorable living conditions of the survivors in the

Chuchepati camp in Nepal. Two years after the earthquake that shook the country, several Nepalese still live in tents, without any help from the government. By strolling through these makeshift shelters, **Charwei Tsai** gathered the survivors' despair by asking them to sing a melody. Then she selected eight melodies that show the pain and distress of these people who have lost everything except their dignity and their faith.

For the series *Universe of Possibilities* (2016), **Charwei**

Tsai travels on the Vietnamese coast to photograph the fishing waste. These planet-like images are in fact close-ups of small shells that are discarded in mass quantities by commercial fishing boats along the coast. Close observation shows that these shells seem to contain all the components of our natural environment. Each shell is a world in itself, encompassed in a circle and subtitled by a handwritten note. With these photographs, the artist meditates on the ability of the mind to transform the tangible and, apparently, permanent reality of things.

Charwei Tsai deepened the theme of the vacuity of phenomena in his drawings *We Came Whirling from Nothingness (2014-2016)* where calligraphy mixes with India ink creating a whirlwind of shapes and pale colors. By writing on silk paper the "Sūtra of the Heart", one of the pillars of Buddhist wisdom, the artist evokes the evanescence of beings and affirms the non-existence of any fixed and unchanging character. With the lightness of the line and the fragility of the paper, Charwei Tsai traces the outlines of a universe in perennial transformation.

In her exhibition, *As It Is*, **Charwei Tsai** contemplates the roughness of life through words' harmony and writing's delicacy.

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