

**PRESS RELEASE**

**orbis  
pictus**

Galerie

Paris

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# Yin Xin AND AFTER?

Exhibition

**12 January / 25 February. 23**

Opening cocktail on 12 January from 6 pm



© Yin Xin

D'après Da Vinci, La Belle Ferronnière (1490-97), 2016

Acrylic on canvas / 92 x 73 cm

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At the dawn of a Chinese New Year placed under the elegant sign of the rabbit, galerie Orbis pictus invites you to reimagine classic Western painting through the eyes, palette and brushes of contemporary Chinese artist Yin Xin.

His interpretation, his transformations, his very personal metamorphoses of traditional painting allow us to put into perspective two great artistic and cultural civilisations which nourish each other through the fertile imagination of the artist.

**Yin Xin, a child of the Gobi Desert along the border with Afghanistan, summons and reinterprets some of the major works of Western painting by the likes of da Vinci, Holbein, La Tour, Velazquez, Watteau, Manet, Whistler, Kramskoi, Sargent, Magritte ..., all to enrich his imaginary museum of the Celestial Empire.**

From the Silk Road to the opulent avenues of Paris, from Mao's Cultural Revolution to the Louvre Museum, Yin Xin learned painting in the traditional way, by copying the old Masters, learning all the secrets of painting from scratch in order to then develop his own style. This is no desire for revenge from a conquering China that would reclaim Western traditions. Yin Xin paints his own vision of China, a China from within, from Paris, where he settled in 1994,

So why this East-West marriage that some would call heterogeneous?

Going beyond the codes specific to religions and cultures, Yin Xin invites us to discover what is hidden behind the canvas, to capture the soul of the artist, his intentions beyond the image itself. A careful observation of the combination of Eastern and Western elements enables the viewer to sharpen his perception of the artistic value of the work in his own cultural context. Tenderly and not without a certain irony, he offers unapologetically a new reading of iconic works from the past, enriched with universalism.

Welcome to this museum that has been reinvented and completed with nostalgic and romantic compositions of an elitist colonial China which had adopted the codes of Western art. These paintings which, just as much as *After*..., are executed in the manner of the old masters with particularly care given to the treatment of light that has become substance.

And *After*? You be the judge.

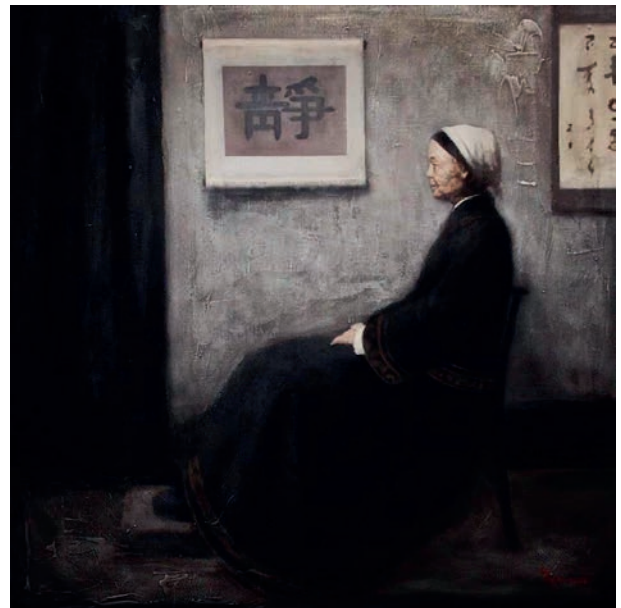
Sitor Senghor  
director



© Yin Xin  
Smoking opium in the dark, 2009  
Acrylic on canvas / 130 x 97 cm



© Yin Xin  
D'après Vélasquez, Innocent X (1650), 2016  
Acrylic on canvas / 100 x 81 cm



© Yin Xin  
D'après Whistler, La mère de l'artiste (1871), 2016  
Acrylic on canvas / 120 x 120 cm

# Biography

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Courtesy Yin Xin

Yin Xin is an independent painter and filmmaker working in Paris. Born in Kashgar (Xinjiang, China) in 1959, he grew up in Chinese occupied Turkestan within a community considered as a minority by Beijing.

**Witness of the Mao revolution, in the years between 1966 and 1968, which murdered millions of people, he fled to Mongolia with his family to live in exile. Against all expectations the political posters he was copying with other children is what led him to love painting.**

Graduating from the Xinjiang Normal University of Fine Arts in 1977, he stayed on for another two years to teach. He then studied etching at the Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts and completed his studies at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Art in 1988. After graduating in 1991, Yin Xin left Australia for Europe and began exhibiting in Paris, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Tokyo, London and New York. He settled permanently in Paris in 1994.

Yin Xin knows how to captivate his audience, and exhibition after exhibition his art gains a growing success, thanks to his knowledge and mastery of the



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techniques of painting traditional western art as it has been done since the Flemish in the 16th century. Subtle and refined, with a keen sense of humor, he radically changes our vision of the subjects, by painting oriental characters in European colonial inspired scenes. In his series “Once upon a time in China”, portraits of high society are juxtaposed with those of Paris’ Belle Époque. In his culturally mixed paintings, Yin Xin introduces and reproduces meticulously, Chinese details associating them with those of his adopted country.

Yin Xin also “Orientalizes” masterpieces of Western painting in his series “Après le Maître». His reinterpretation of Botticelli’s Venus as «Venus of the East,» was featured in the 2015 exhibition «Botticelli 1445-2015» at the National Gallery in Berlin (Staatliche Museen). It was subsequently part of the «Botticelli Reinvented» exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London in 2016.

In 2017, Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris commissioned three works from him in order to place them on permanent display. In 2021, Yin Xin independently produced and directed his first documentary «Portrait d’un Missionnaire” (80 minutes). The film follows the daily life of Father Charbonnier of the Paris Société des Missions Etrangères (Foreign Missionary Society), who has lived in Asia for over 60 years. The documentary won awards and nominations in 20 international independent film festivals.

## Collections

Musée de l'Hôtel-Dieu- Hospices de Beaune, Notre Dame de Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BNF), Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A).

Parmi les collectionneurs privés citons entre autres la Famille De Gaulle, la famille Walton (EU), Sir David Tang (Hong Kong), Arnold Schwarzenegger (EU).

## Expositions

### 2021

Film *Portrait d'un missionnaire*, 4<sup>ème</sup> Salon l'Art Sacré Contemporain, Lyon  
Missions étrangères, Paris

### 2020

Piazza della Cancelleria. Vatican (reporté pour cause de Covid-19)

### 2019

Musée de l'Hôtel-Dieu- Hospices de Beaune.  
3<sup>ème</sup> Salon l'Art Sacré Contemporain (Invité d'honneur), Lyon

### 2018

Galerie Nichido. Paris.

2017

Installation permanente Notre Dame de Paris  
Hôtel Inter Continental Paris

### 2016

V&A Museum Londres (RU) Botticelli Reimagined  
Albemarle Gallery. Londres (RU)  
Galerie Jean Michel Berlin (Allemagne)  
Galerie Nichido. Paris

### 2015

Staatliche Museen. Berlin (Allemagne) Botticelli  
Connoisseur Art Gallery. Hong Kong

### 2014

CIGE China International Gallery. Beijing (Chine)  
Connoisseur Art Gallery. Hong Kong

### 2013

Yin Collection space. Beijing (Chine)

### 2012

Art Monaco. Monte Carlo.  
PAD London, Londres (RU)

### 2011

Galerie Huit, Hong Kong

### 2010

Galerie Huit, Hong Kong

### 2009

Galerie Lipao Huang, Paris

### 2008

Galerie Daniel Besseiche. Genève (Suisse)

### 2007

Musée Courbet, Ornans France  
La Maison de la Chine, Paris

### 2006

China Club, Hong Kong  
Kwai Fung Hin Art Gallery, Hong Kong

### 2005

Shanghai Art Museum (Chine)  
Espace Hennessy, Cognac

### 2004

Galerie Jonas, Paris  
10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Hong Kong

### 2003

Kings Road Gallery, Londres (RU)  
La Maison de la Chine, Paris  
Galerie Cathay, Paris

### 2002

Espace Nesle, Paris

### 2001

Kings Road Gallery, Londres (RU)

### 2000

Fendi Casa. Bologne (Italie)  
The International 20th Art Fair, New York (EU)

### 1999

Tolman Collection. Tokyo (Japon)  
China Club. Hong Kong  
Serge Aboukrat, Paris  
La Maison de la Chine, Paris.

### 1998

Shanghai Tang, New York (EU)

### 1997

China Club, Hong Kong

### 1996

Museo Nacional del Grabado, Buenos Aires  
(Argentine)

Ho Gallery, New York (EU)

### 1995

Ho Gallery, Hong Kong

### 1994

Taiwan Gallery, Taipei (Taiwan)  
Ho Gallery, New York (EU)

**1993**

National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan  
Galerie Scavongelli, Paris

**1992**

National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan

**1989**

Metro Art Gallery, Brisbane (Australie)



## Film “Portrait d’un missionnaire”

Production and direction: Yin Xin

Genre: Documentary

Duration: 80 minutes

Country: France, China

Format: HD black and white

Language: Chinese (with French and English subtitles)

April 2021

### Awards 2021

London Independent Film Awards (RU), Istanbul Film Festival (Turquie), Hollywood International Golden Age Festival (EU), Rome International Movie Awards (Italie), Europe Film Festival (RU), The Vancouver Independent Film Festival (Canada), Accolade Global Film Competition (EU), World Film Carnival (Singapour), Salon Art Sacré II (France), Indo French International film festival (Inde), Indo Malaysia film festival (Malaisie), Mumbai International Film Festival (Inde)

### Finalist

Toronto Independent Festival of CIFT (Canada), Hong Kong Indie Film Festival (Chine), Near Nazareth Festival (Israel)

### Official Selection

New York Independent Cinema Awards (EU), Chicago Indie Film Awards (EU), California Indies (EU), Boston Independent Film Awards (EU)  
ProToPost - Communism International Film Festival (Italie)





© Yin Xin

D'après Watteau, Pierrot (1718-19), 2016

Acrylic on canvas / 130 x 97 cm