

DISPARATE ILLUSION

Text/Liu Huafeng

The world is a chaos – dark, depressed, alienated, and filled with suspension. A young man trapped in the midst of history stands agitatedly, erecting his personal story in a Utopia mapped out by motion pictures, and strides alone in the niche between society and his own mentality. As the softness of his emotions gets challenged by harsh reality, a black substance of considerable size is formed. It attacks childhood dreams over and over again with inexplicable solitary.

DING utilizes monochromic visualization to preserve conventional Chinese aura in his works alongside a narrative frame scattered with personalized vocabulary in his art; he furthermore employs low-pitched background music to invoke subjective estrangement. He captures ideological signs and epical features within secularity to manifest his artist's statement on conflicts found in politics, aesthetics and society. These characteristics constitute DING's tonality, which is staged at the intersection of time and space, where the metanarrative of our time is decomposed into a stanza of black and gold.

For this solo exhibition, two video works, *Double Act* and *Goodbye, Utopia*, will be on display alongside more than one hundred ink-on-paper manuscripts, and drawings specifically created for this occasion. On the second floor of the gallery, a space of mist, haze and aloofness is realized for the spectator to activate all senses in the execution of self identification and reconciliation when viewing DING's works.

Yet, knowledge recedes from experience, and experience is essentially limited. Hence, we might not be able to enter the realm where DING is headed for via the path of pure image, since it is merely a form of self expression intended by the artist. Therefore, decoding and encoding can only be reached by on-site conversations, which, once catalyzed, may spark resonance.

If you encounter a young man beaming shyly at the exhibition, appeal to his dispersed fantasy to withdraw yourself from the hallucination brought forth by darkness. From there, break away to a new land that gleams the unknown.