

Press release

Exhibition

February 12–May 18, 2009

Salon Denon, Denon Wing

Curator: Marie-Laure Bernadac,
Special Advisor on Contemporary Art,
Musée du Louvre

Publication: *Yan Pei-Ming*

64 pages, co-published by Musée du Louvre Editions and Beaux-Arts de Paris les éditions

Texts by Henri Loyrette, Bernard Marcadé and Marie-Laure Bernadac.

Recent exhibitions in France

2006: *Exécution*, Museum of Modern Art, Saint-Etienne

2007/08: *Portraits d'artistes*,

Fondation Maeght, Saint-Paul-de-Vence

Notable exhibitions outside France

2008: *Life souvenir*, Des Moines Art Center, Iowa (USA)

2009: Solo exhibition, San Francisco Art Institute, California (USA)

With France Culture, Télérama and Paris Première as media partners

Visitor information

Place

The works are presented in the galleries of the Department of Paintings (French School), Denon Wing.

Hours

Open every day except Tuesdays, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Evening hours on Wednesdays and Fridays until 10 p.m.

Admission fees

Access to the exhibition is included in the purchase of an admission to the museum's permanent collections: €9; €6 after 6 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Further information

www.louvre.fr

Yan Pei-Ming

Monna Lisa's Funeral

décembre 2008, polyptyques,
Oil on canvas

Mao on Tien An Men Balcony,

Photo : André Morin

© Yan Pei-Ming, ADAGP, 2008, France.

Communications

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Yan Pei-Ming *Monna Lisa's Funeral*

Following upon the exhibition *Picasso/Delacroix*, and with a view to delving once again into the rich mine of confrontations between contemporary artists and earlier masters, the Louvre extends an invitation to the Franco-Chinese painter Yan Pei-Ming. The artist will present several monumental paintings at the very heart of the museum: in the galleries devoted to the largest French nineteenth-century canvases and opposite the Salle des Etats, home to a number of masterpieces of Italian Renaissance painting. In so doing Yan Pei-Ming will seek to convey his singular perspective on the most famous work of art in the Louvre's collections: Leonardo da Vinci's *Monna Lisa*.

This young, immensely talented painter was born into the Cultural Revolution and served as a propaganda artist under the Maoist regime before emigrating to France in 1980, at the age of 19. Throughout his career in exile, his unique artistic style has contained echoes of totalitarian aesthetics, at the same time eluding their grasp. He often executes series of paintings, imposing in their dimensions, their use of aggressive and violent gesture, and the hieratic attitude of the figures depicted in portraits, chief among them Chinese political and cultural icons. His works explore traditional genres—still life, landscape, figurative and history painting—making austere use of a signature black-white-and-gray palette (with the occasional addition of a deep, saturated red) and a scale of representation that resist simple interpretations. Yan Pei-Ming employs confident, muscular brushstrokes, applying the paint in broad, fast sweeps, allowing the excess to run along the surface of the canvas.

Since the early years of the current decade, Yan Pei-Ming's work has taken on a decidedly political focus (Mao, Obama/McCain, Jean Paul II, Buddha). At the Louvre, he engages directly with a number of iconic masterpieces in the museum's collections.

In the Auditorium du Louvre: Event in the *Face to Face* series, March 27 at 8 p.m. Stolen Images: Yan Pei-Ming, in conversation with Xavier Douroux, Consortium de Dijon.



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