

For immediate release

November 11th, 2011



WANG XIEDA 王燮达
Sages' Sayings 子E006, 2006
Bronze 铜
31 1/2 x 36 5/8 x 20 7/8 inches; 80 x 93 x 53 cm

SAGES' SAYINGS:

Wang Xieda Solo Exhibition

Nov. 26, 2011 through Jan. 19, 2012

Opening Reception:

Nov. 26th, 2011, Saturday, 6 to 8 pm

Venue: James Cohan Gallery Shanghai

Address: 1F, Building 1, No.170 Yueyang Road

James Cohan Gallery Shanghai is pleased to present a solo exhibition, *Sages' Sayings* by the Shanghai-based sculptor **Wang Xieda**.

Sages' Sayings, the title of the exhibition, refers to the artist's rigorous study of ancient Chinese pictograms or ideograms and, in particular, fourth century Chinese calligraphy. On view will be Wang Xieda's cast bronze sculptures, ink drawings, and his recent sculptural works made of rattan that are suspended from the ceiling and evoke drawing in space. This is the artist's debut exhibition at the gallery.

Cultural traditions and values of every country strive to find new contemporary language to keep pace with the transformation of artistic expression. Wang Xieda's *Sages' Sayings* sculpture series, begun in 2002, embodies this fusion and conflation of cultural history. While the structure and spirit of these works share essential similarities with Chinese calligraphy, they also focus on the material presence of bronze lines in which to create minimal, elegant forms rendering space and atmosphere. Western viewers might be immediately reminded of the attenuated or 'drawn forms in space' of sculptors such as Giacometti and David Smith when in fact Wang Xieda has been pursuing the realization of common human experience through the origin of language. His works do not simply reiterate the past but are reinterpretations of ancient expression, making them simultaneously contemporary and timeless.



WANG XIEDA 王燮达
Sages' Sayings 子E040, 2004-2006
Bronze 铜
17 5/16 x 17 5/16 x 7 7/8 inches;
44 x 44 x 20 cm

Also on view are two sculptural works made from rattan and paper pulp that hang in mid air. These works are a further extension of the bronze *Sages' Sayings* sculptures, but the rattan sculptures also consist of intangible elements in which to complete them: the use of light and shadow. To emphasize what might be considered a fourth-dimensional way of seeing, the shadows of the hanging sculptures are cast on a fine white sand in a defined area below, refining their stark contrast of positive and negative, dark and light, inside and outside, illusion and reality.

JAMES COHAN GALLERY SHANGHAI

A selection of works on paper from 2000 and 2005 are also included in this exhibition. The works from 2005 are directly related to the sculptures, consisting of rice paper, rubbings, paper pulp, ink wash and silica gel mounted to canvas. The *Ran* series from 2000 (ink paintings on rice paper) are being exhibited for the very first time. In Chinese *ran* conveys the adverbial clause or syntax, such as *so, hence, therefore, thus*. The artist considers these ink paintings as primary works, executed simply and with an economy of means that would later lead him to the lyrical, visualized language of his sculptural works.

Wang Xieda, born in Fushun, Liaoning Province in 1968, and graduated from the Sculpture Department, China Academy of Art in 1996. He has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions both home and abroad, such as 2010 *Arte Chino, Wang Xieda Solo Exhibition*, Cuba Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba; 2010 "*Wang Xieda*": *Solo Exhibition*, Institut Valencià d'Art Modern (IVAM), Spain; *Sages' Sayings: Wang Xieda's Art* in Z-Art Center in Shanghai in 2009, and at the Shanghai Sculpture Space in 2008. During the past 10 years, Xieda's work has been included in group exhibitions, such as 2011 *SH Contemporary*, Shanghai Exhibition Center, Shanghai, 2011; *Korea-China Contemporary Art Exchange*, Zaha Museum, Seoul, Korea, 2010; *ARTOUR-O the MUST*, Museo Nazionale Alinari della Fotografia, Museo Archeologico, Museo di Santa Maria Novella, Firenze, Italy. He lives and works in Shanghai.

For further information or additional images, please contact Ms. Ivy Zhou at izhou@jamescohan.com or +86 - 21 - 54660825. Gallery hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10-6 p.m., Sunday 12-6 p.m., and Monday by appointment.



WANG XIEDA 王燮达
Sages' Sayings 子E0932, 2009
Paper pulp, ink, silica gel, rubbing,
and rice paper on canvas
布面纸浆、拓、水墨、硅胶、宣纸
21 11/16 x 19 11/16 inches;
55 x 50 cm