

EXHIBITION OF CHINESE CONTEMPORARY PRINTS DOCUMENTS

## 中国当代版画文献展 其主持 THE POWER OF PRACTICE

**. 办** 南京博物院

Nanjing Museum 中国当代版画研究协会

♥ China Contemporary Engravings Research Association

策展人 刘春杰

展出场地 南京博物院

Nanjing Museum

展出时间 2007年4月23日——4月30日

#### 图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

实践的力量:中国当代版画文献展/刘春杰等编著.哈尔滨:黑龙江美术出版社,2007.8 ISBN 978-7-5318-1913-4

Ⅰ.实... Ⅱ.刘... Ⅲ.①版画—作品集—中国—现代
②版画—艺术评论—中国—现代 Ⅳ.J227 J217
中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2007)第119131号

# EXHIBITION OF CHINESE CONTEMPORARY PRINTS DOCUMENTS 中国当代版画文献展

编	著	刘春杰
出	版	黑龙江美术出版社
地	址	哈尔滨市道里区安定街 225号
邮政编码		150016
经	销	全国新华书店
主	编	李 兵
出品	占人	周孝勇
图书	策划	徐晓丽 陈 超
责任	编辑	黄国楹 李佳雪
特约	编辑	武 迪
装帧	设计	武 迪 刘春杰
版式	制作	孔平平
发行	电话	(0451) 84270514 84270525
网	址	WWW.HLJMSS.COM
制	版	南京新华丰制版有限公司
印	刷	南京凯德印刷有限公司
开	本	1/16
印	张	19
字	数	14万字
版	次	2007年8月第1版
印	次	2007年8月第1次印刷
书	号	ISBN 978-7-5318-1913-4
定	价	218.00 元

本书如发现印装质量问题,请直接与印刷厂联系调换。

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### 展示新时期版画实践的样本

刘春杰



袁庆禄作品



袁庆禄作品

"实践的力量•中国当代版画文献展"最显著的特征是,入 展作品均为国际知名版画双年展、历届全国美展、版展、高校 版画年会展的获奖作品(出品人旧藏除外)。此展汇聚了当代最活 跃最优秀的版画家的百余幅代表作,如此之多的当代优秀版画 作品集中展示在我国尚不多见。展览从多角度呈现了我国新时 期版画的面貌, 记录了当代版画的发展历程。同时, 这批作品 还可以让观者回望过去,再次品评,提出疑问,并给出自己的 答案。

1980年以后,当代版画已不再是单一图解政治的工具,而 是在多元化理念的指导下,进行各种媒材的实验探索,追求艺 术本真的形式语言的载体。与上世纪三四十年代诞生的我国新 兴版画,包括"文革"期间的版画形态完全不同。此展的举办 基于对这一过程的梳理、研究、展示;基于在当代艺术形态多 样化框架下,在艺术市场趋于理智的大背景下,版画在风起云 涌的当代艺术夹缝中逐渐走出低谷的事实;基于探讨是什么力 量促使众多当代版画家们以前所未有的热情回归版画艺术实践: 追问在以卡通、装置、影像为主导的多媒体图像时代中, 版画 这一古老的艺术门类如何生存,如何接近大众和被大众接受, 如何获得新的发展。

今天我们深深感到, 西方人的金钱与文化似乎要颠覆中华 传统文化阵营, 瓦解我们五千余年的精神堡垒。部分前卫艺术 家游戏政治、游戏文化、游戏人生、游戏灵魂,甚至游戏人类, 这些"前卫"游戏实则多是舶来品。面对眼花缭乱的新艺术及 其市场,一部分人无所适从,不知所云,麻木自己,麻木别人。 其作品必然缺乏想象力和个人独到的感受, 缺乏批判, 甚至缺 乏真正的歌唱。

然而,我们版画家中确有一部分人观念陈旧,不思进取,抱 残守缺,一味地描山摹水,在空洞、乏味的陈调中机械简单几 乎千篇一律地生产平庸之作,还要生硬地赋予这些"风景"— 个宏大深奥的主题。这样的画家多了,这样的作品多了,版画 自然落伍了。其实,多数国人面对西方、面对资本、面对"游 戏"并没有集体失忆。架上绘画的回归,包括版画艺术实践的 回归说明了这一点。

今天仍在从事创作的年过七旬的老一代版画家,他们的人 生经历及教育背景,与现在的青年画家有很大不同。如晁楣先 生当年在北大荒屯垦戍边,"一手拿枪一手拿镐",生活条件艰 苦,却洋溢着强烈的革命乐观主义精神,在改造天地的同时也 创造着富有强烈时代特色的版画作品, 那是怎样的一种境界! 在这种条件下创作出的作品能不感人吗? 但是, 就是这些前辈 艺术家却从未固步自封,从未放弃学习与创造。观晁楣、李忠 翔、夏碧泉(香港)等前辈艺术家的新作,既意境深远、技法 独到,又具有吐故纳新的理念,正所谓艺术当随时代。他们的 作品皆能脱出"文革"前创作的巢臼,焕发出新的活力。因此, 在同辈艺术家中,他们的艺术实践堪称样本。吴长江、苏新平、 张敏杰、王华祥等中青年画家在艺术追求上呈现的是多样化状 态,他们的版画制作考究、手法新颖、寓意深刻。他们多广为 涉猎油画、国画、水彩、装置等多门类艺术领域,而且颇有建 树,这不仅影响了他们的版画创作,同时也丰富了版画家的文 化身份。这个年龄段的艺术家较前辈要幸运得多,他们受到良 好的教育,有稳定和良好的创作环境。改革开放,国门刚打开, 他们便去领略世界艺术的风采。可贵的是,传统文化的滋养让 他们清醒地认识到, 其艺术舞蹈要在民族舞台上进行。艺术追 求与使命感贯穿其艺术旅程,这批人的创作提升了版画家在社 会的广泛影响。无论是否意识到或者是否愿意,他们都承担了 当代版画家承前启后的角色,并极富启示作用。伴随中国社会 的进一步开放,在物质丰富、精神自由的新时期,70年代甚至 80年代以后出生的艺术青年,他们行为激进、优越感增强,由 于环境使然,一部分人拈轻怕重,好高骛远。这批人中仍有能 吃大苦耐大劳, 聪慧好学、多才多艺的青年艺术家, 韦嘉、陶 加祥、安海峰等年轻一代画家更是"声东击西",极尽各种可能, 广种博收,这批人的版画无论从形式语言到内容,均颠覆了传 统版画的面貌。韦嘉的艺术追求尤为鲜明, 其版画、油画作品 的图式逾越传统形态,寻求个性拓展,在中国当代艺术格局中 占有一席之地,在同辈艺术家中亦甚为罕见。观看这些青年艺 术家的版画,让人真正感受到版画样式的多姿多彩,版画发展 的无限可能, 版画界的后生可畏, 进而对中国版画未来充满信



邵常毅作品



郭鉴文作品



王兵作品

心与希望。曹琼德的综合材料作品图像神秘,纵横分割,重重 叠叠, 赋色厚重, 变化万千。当代艺术家郑学武在美国四所大 学和一家艺术中心做访问学者,教学、创作之余,他还在中美 韩等国策划展览。他以综合材料版画成名,但其装置艺术风格 独特,奇思妙想,引人注目,这也是选择其作品入展的重要意 图所在。这些艺术家的版画样式,为传统版画的发展注入新鲜 血液。

技术有高低,语言无优劣,综观优秀版画家的优秀作品,无 论老中青哪一代的哪一位画家, 唯有艺术修养全面, 而不仅仅 拘于版画技术: 涉猎门类多样而不仅仅拘于版画; 求新求异而 不是墨守陈规,才能创造出真正意义的版画艺术精品,这才是 专业与业余,优秀与一般画家真正的分水岭。

盛世中国,包容万象。呈现在我们面前的版画精品作为当 代版画的实践样本,无论从媒材、语言方式、观念上都呈现多 元态势, 为我们研究、探索在全球化艺术网络和文化冲击的境 遇中寻找富有自身文化的切点提供了样本,从而使我们的艺术 实践不失去文化传统的命脉,不失去我们的根。因文化命脉的 存在,我们才有自我、有发展。版画家们在今天广阔的求知空 间里,在大艺术宏观背景下,智慧才能得以挖掘,心机才能得 以灵动,从而再造新意识、再造新能量,不断吸收新元素,开 辟新思路, 使版画艺术获得再生。

此次展于南京博物院的中国当代版画文献展,燃薪于四海, 也必将传播于五湖。唯如此,才不负艺术家的辛勤劳作,不负 出品人的力掷千金,不负其承担的文化使命。

感谢版画家们的大力支持, 感谢南京博物院同志们的辛劳 工作,感谢黑龙江美术出版社的关照,感谢一切为中国当代版 画事业添砖加瓦的人们。

### Samples of the Practice of Engraving in the New Era

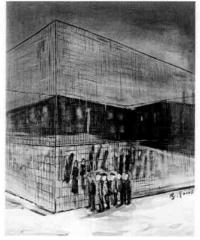
Liu Chunjie

The most significant feature of "The Power of Practice: The Document Exhibition of Chinese Contemporary Engravings" is that all the selected works are prize—winning engravings (except the old collections of the producer) of those well—known International Engravings Biennales, previous National Art/Engraving Exhibitions, Annual Exhibition of University and College Engravings. The present exhibition selects over 100 representative engravings from works of the most active and excellent contemporary engravers. It is rather rare in China to exhibit so many brilliant contemporary engravings in one exhibition. "The Power of Practice" presents the development of Chinese engravings in the new era from multiple perspectives. These works can remind viewers to look back upon the history, make their seond judgement, raise questions and seek their own answers.

Contemporary engraving after the 1980s is no longer a tool used exclusively to illustrate and interpret politics, but a carrier in both the experiments of various media and the pursuit of the fundamental and authentic formal language of art under the guidance of the theory of diversification. It has an entirely different form, compared with the engravings born in the 1930s and the 1940s as well as those during the Cultural Revolution. This exhibition results from the collation of and the research on engravings after the 1980s. It is based on the fact that due to the diversification of contemporary artistic forms and the rationalization of art market engraving has stepped out of its predicament This document exhibition is held to argue what force brings so many contemporary engravers back to the creation of engravings with unprecedentedly high enthusiasm. It questions how this ancient form of art should survive, get close to and accepted by the mass and thus find a new way of development in an era of multimedia, which is dominated by cartoons, installations and videos.

Today we deeply sense that it seems western mammonism and culture tend to replace Chinese traditional culture and corrupt Chinese people. Some avant—garde artists treat politics, culture, life, soul and even human beings frivolously. This kind of attitude is mainly a foreign thing. In the face of dazzling new arts and their corresponding markets, a group of people get lost and are unconscious of what they have said. They numb themselves as well as others. Their works are bound to be short of imagination, personal understanding and criticism.

Indeed, there are a part of engravers who stick to dated notions and make no progress. Their works invariably copy mountains and



王家增作品



王家增作品



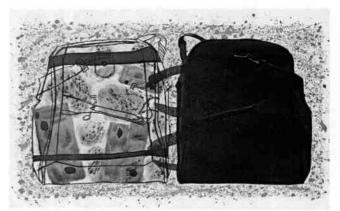
杨春华水墨作品

waters, rigid, stereotypical and mediocre. What's more, they often attempt to impose a magnificent and profound theme upon the scenery. With so many engravers of this kind and so many mediocre works, the art of engraving is sure to drop back. However, as a matter of fact, confronting with the West, the capitalism and foreign frivolity. most Chinese people never truly lose their consciousness. This can be proved by the return of traditional easel painting as well as engraving.

Some engravers of the older generation who have already been over seventy years old are still engaged in engraving creation. Their experience and education differ a lot from those of the present young engravers. Take Mr. Cao Mei as an example. In those days he was in the troop in the Great Northern Wildness, opening up uncultivated land and guarding the frontier. "One hand with a gun and the other with a pickaxe" is his own words. The life there was difficult but Cao always held an intensive positive attitude. He kept creating engravings that strongly reflected the traits of the times. What a noble state of mind! And how can those works created under such circumstances fail to touch people? However, it is these engravers of the older generation who never choose to stay in the old rut and give up learning and creation. Their new paintings, such as those of Cao Mei, Li Zhongxiang and Xia Biquan (HK), are magnificently conceived in original ways and possess totally fresh concepts. That is what we mean by saying that art should always keep pace with the times. Their works have managed to get rid of stereotypes and thus can glow with vigor. Therefore, among artists of their generation, their artistic practices can be taken as samples. Mid-aged and young engravers, such as Wu Changjiang, Su Xinping, Zhang Minjie, Wang Huaxiang, pursue more diverse artistic forms. Their engravings are made exquisite with novel techniques and often imply profound meanings. Apart from engraving, they also practice oil painting, traditional Chinese painting, watercolor, installation art and have made considerable achievements in these areas. This not only influences their creation of engravings but also enriches their cultural identity. Engravers of this generation are much luckier than the older generation. They are well-educated and enjoy a stable and excellent environment for creation. As soon as the implementation of the reform and opening up policy, they went aboard to appreciate international arts. These artists should be praised because nourished by the

traditional culture, they are fully aware that their artistic practice should be carried out on our native stage. Their artistic journey is closely related to their pursuit of art and sense of mission and thus they are able to enhance the engravers' influence upon society. No matter whether they have realized or whether they are willing to, they serve as a link between past and future. Due to a new era featuring abundance of materials and free spirit, young artists born in the 1970s and the 1980s are quite radical and their sense of superiority is reinforced. Because of the environment, some of them are apt to shirk hard jobs and aim too high. But still there are talented and versatile young engravers who bear hardship and demanding work. Engravers of the young generation, like Wei Jia, Tao Jiaxiang and An Haifeng, tend to make a diversification. They try all possibilities and make extensive cultivation, and their achievements are abundant. The engravings by these young artists have changed the traditional engraving art entirely in both form and content. The achievement of Wei Jia is especially obvious. The patterns he uses in his engravings and oil paintings go beyond the tradition and display individual personality. Therefore, he is able to occupy a seat in the contemporary art circle. This is not common among engravers of his generation. Looking at the works of young engravers, people can really discover the diversity and infinite possibilities of engravings, sense the ambition and gift of the young generation and thus be full of confidence toward Chinese engravings. Cao Qiongde's works of mixed material are full of change. They are mysterious images and crisscross patterns painted in dense colors. Contemporary artist Zheng Xuewu is now a visiting scholar in four American universities and an art center. Besides teaching and artistic creation, he also plans exhibitions in China, the USA and Korea. He gained his fame via engravings of mixed material, but his works of installation art are also quite spectacular, showing unique styles and wonderful concepts. That is why we also choose his works for our exhibition. The forms used by these engravers in their works become the lifeblood of the traditional engraving. There should be no good or bad between techniques and between formal languages. An engraver can really produce a fine engraving only if he/she has an all-round study of art and dares to break dated conventions. This is truly a distinction between the professional and the amateur.

China is now stepping into a flourish age with great tolerance



姜陆作品



向思楼和他的木刻作品

toward different cultures. All the delicate engravings presented before us as examples of practice show variety of media, languages and concepts. They serve as samples to study how to keep the cultural tradition alive and preserve our roots in artistic practice when facing the global network of art and cultural shock. Without the cultural tradition, we will lose ourselves and cease making progress. Given a macro artistic background and vast space for learning, the engravers can tap their talent power, think creatively and therefore, produce new concepts and energy. We should constantly absorb new elements and open up our minds to revive engraving.

The Document Exhibition of Chinese Contemporary Engravings in Nanjing Museum is sure to live up to all the efforts of engravers and the generosity of the producer via exerting great influence upon Chinese contemporary artistic practice. It will shoulder its responsibility and fulfill its cultural mission.

无论从哪个角度讲,新时期以来20余年的版画在中国创作 版画发展史上都占有重要地位。其对传统的承继与超越, 使版 画由粗糙趋于精良,由肤浅走向深刻:而在转型中的裂变,又 使版画由单一趋于多元,由附属走向自主。虽然在西方现代艺 术与商品大潮的冲击下也有过困惑与迷惘,在80年代高峰期过 后曾经一度沉潜与失落,但谁都无法否认,在自省与反思中画 家们愈益成熟,在对异域资源的吸纳、融汇与扬弃中多维并进, 把中国版画推向了日趋现代的新阶段。

如果说三四十年代版画的主体形态属于功利型, 建国后 17年为审美型,那么当下版画则是一种多维的复合形态。横向 比照,这复合形态中包容着功利与审美类型,是多种形态的并 存与互补: 而纵向审视, 这转型裂变之中也蕴含着对传统类型 或新兴版画主体精神的继承,起码一部分作品是如此。再把20 余年的版画分成三个阶段,则第一个阶段尤为明显。

一、70年代末至80年代中期是中国创作版画史上的第三 次高峰(第一次是40年代,第二次为50年代后期至60年代初 期),其表征一个是群体蜂起,展览频繁;一个是创作上承继中 的超越。当拨乱反正、思想解放运动使人们突破了禁区之后,当 海禁太开, 西方现代文艺思潮大量涌入之时, 画家们的主体意 识被唤醒了,极大地激发了其创作热情。就画家队伍而言可谓 三世同堂,三四十年代起步的某些老画家仍放射着夕阳的余晖, 不断推出新作;五六十年代起步的一些中年画家进入创作盛期, 风格形成,个性显现:新时期成长起来的版坛新秀也已崭露头 角,有的起步便高,既体现出新学院训练的扎实功底,又蕴含 着新观念及新知识结构给版画带来的生机。从版画的区域格局 来看,打破了原来的以北京为中心,四川、黑龙江、江苏三足 鼎立的局势,浙江、云贵、内蒙、安徽、广东、江西等地的版 画均呈上升的趋势, 而形成辐射、扩张的多角形。尤其各地版 画群体的崛起,不仅壮大了版画的声势,而且使版画空前的普 及。据统计,至1981年,全国成立版画组织近40个,而至80 年代中期已达百余(包括各省美协的版画艺委会),他们往往一 起搞创作,集体办展览(仅1983年全国就举办各种版画展86 个),以群体结构轰动画坛。这种群体现象虽因追风互仿存有趋



王家增作品



王文明作品



徐宝中作品

同弊端,而且后来因难以适应市场经济而渐次解体,但无论对 当时版画的繁荣,还是对版画家的培养、成长都具有积极的意 义。

此时期版画创作的超越主要体现在专业画家与院校教师的 作品上。在题材内蕴的层面,摆脱历史重负而走进现实风情,由 "文革"中版画对政治的亲和而趋向轻松愉悦的风情表现,这是 一个重要的历史性转折,它标示着版画再次由附属状态转向自 主。风情版画也消解了五六十年代版画对社会主义建设再现的 热情,虽然也有些作品以表现改革开放给人们带来的生活变化 为主旨,但多是在风情描绘中对人的精神面貌的抒写与现代科 技符号在风情中的展现。如北大荒、江苏、云南、内蒙以及其 他一些以少数民族为表现对象的版画尤重风情。而一些院校教 师的作品或表现平常人的沉重乃至欢娱,或在历史题材中寻求 切入点,有的也钟情乡土,但后来则较早地走出风情,进入观 念理性的表现。

在本体层面的超越表现在诸多方面。就图式结构而言虽是 "文革"前的延续,但却是"文革"版画的逆反,摆脱"高、大、 全"的模式,而回归到传统轨迹上进行提升创造。新材料新工 艺的发掘, 使版种、版材空前拓展, 打破以往木版为主, 铜版、 石版为辅的单一格局,丝网版画在80年代初起步并飞速发展, 还有纸版、石膏版、塑料版、吹塑版、浇铸版等不下几十种,虽 大多为试验、探索而未形成成熟的版种,但有些已被推广采用, 并产生一定影响。此时期的重工艺制作使版画由粗糙趋于精良, 印制的考究、技艺的提高,包括签字的规范,不仅提高了版画 质量,而且为版画进入国际的循环网络提供了前提条件。这种 制作性甚至在某些人后来的强化中走向极端,而使作品缺乏精 神内涵与文化品格,以至在90年代末的版画界发出了"制作性 应到此为止!"的呼声。但在技艺上超越以往的正面效应是应 该肯定的。

二、80年代中期至90年代初是中国版画裂变、转型的躁 动阶段。由于环境宽松,束缚减少,创作自由,美术界如经封 闭压抑之后开闸的河水奔腾、激荡, 尤以油画、国画为最, 青 年艺术群体涌现, 前卫美展不断, 伴随着激烈的论争, 形成一