

Press Release – for immediate release

RED MOUTH Series
Walasse Ting 1973-1977 Acrylic & Oil Pastel on Western Paper

Sometimes I like to look out of my studio's windows while having tea, and watch people running back and forth like little ants. I put all my troubles aside and retrieve within my peaceful mind. With the sunlight shining on my skin, I place the clouds in the sky into my stomach, and I feel relaxed and at peace; my body is waiting to bloom like a flower while my heart, like a flower, blossoms onto the canvas. Brilliant artwork should have strong powers like these; bring vigor and vivacity to all lifeless creatures.

-Excerpt from Walasse Ting's letter to his family on May 3rd, 1971, New York City

As Shanghai greets the golden autumn in October, Longmen Art Projects, located in Sinan Mansions, will launch the second exhibition of Walasse Ting since its establishment in 2010. *RED MOUTH Series - Walasse Ting 1973-1977 Acrylic & Oil Pastel on Western Paper* will feature the precursor of Walasse's rice-paper paintings. His works on western paper in the 1970s have been sealed in storage for many years.

In his 30s, Walasse left Paris for New York's art scene in 1958. He started to explore abstract expressionism techniques using an intensely bright and contrasting pallet that later became the primary medium during his creative process. In the early 1970s, Walasse had wholeheartedly converted to using acrylic and oil pastels instead of his previously commonly used calligraphic brushstrokes, and began to portray all kinds of fascinating erotic women with an intense and forceful visual effect on Western paper.

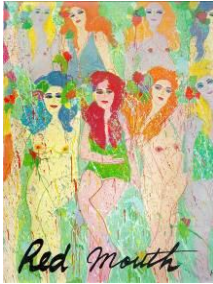


A Kiss, A Kiss, 1974, acrylic & oil pastel on western paper, 56.5x76cm

In contrast to the Asian region's view that Ting's artistic expression falls under the 20th century modern art category, Western observers are more inclined to resolve Ting's artistic language and spirit within the realm of contemporary art.

In 1977, Walasse Ting collected his works featuring western women from 1973-1975 and published entirely on his own, including design and layout, the catalogue raisonné *Red Mouth*.

The book also included poems and black and white ink paintings by Ting. Most notable were the personal letters and poems congratulating Ting by many acclaimed artists in New York and Europe such as Claes Oldenburg, Tom Wesselmann, Karel Appel, Pierre Alechinsky, and Sam Francis.



RED MOUTH, published by Walasse Ting in 1977, New York

This autumn, approximately 30 artworks will be exhibited in a solo exhibition featuring Walasse Ting's works from 40 years ago, when he was in the prime of his life. Through these works, we can understand how he transcended and initiated the new chapter of his career in the 1970s. The series of western paper works *Love Me, Love Me / Kiss Me, Kiss Me / A Kiss, A Kiss* will also be exhibited in public for the first time since they were completed by the artist, and will also mark the first exhibition of this series in a gallery exhibition in Asia.



Untitled, 1977, acrylic & oil pastel on western paper, 107.5x185.5 cm

Walasse Ting left home at a very early age in 1946. It would be 33 years before he could return home again. While he was abroad, his only contact to his family was through letter correspondences, where he often shared his thoughts and feelings about art. *RED MOUTH Series - Walasse Ting 1973-1977 Acrylic & Oil Pastel on Western Paper*, through the generous support of Walasse Ting's nephew Ding Yulin, provides a selection of letters that will be included in the section, *Walasse Ting Family Letters of the 1970s*.

To coincide with this launch, Walasse's beloved daughter Mia and son Jesse will also come to Shanghai from New York and Amsterdam to greet art lovers, family relatives, and friends at Longmen Art Projects.

Longmen Art Projects

Opening Reception: Friday, October 26th, 2012 3:00pm – 6:00pm

Exhibition: October 26th, 2012 – January 13th, 2013 10:00am – 6:30pm

Address: 23 Sinan Mansions, No. 515 Fuxing Middle Road, Luwan Dist., Shanghai

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