

Hong Chun Zhang

- Chinese American, b. 1971 in Shenyang, Liaoning province
- 2004 MFA University of California, Davis; 2002 MA from CSU Sacramento; BFA Chinese Ink Painting, Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing
- Lives and works in Lawrence, KS
- www.hongchunzhang.com



Body of Work

Hong Chun Zhang's larger-than-life size drawings of disembodied images of long, straight, black hair reference aspects of the artist's own identity. She has used black hair to explore her identity as a woman, a mother, and a Chinese person. The exaggerated scale of the scrolls transforms this very personal exploration into a universal theme, examining a woman's life cycle and women's relationships to one another. Having lived and studied in China and the US, Zhang discovered a balance between the two cultures and artistic styles. Zhang stated "According to Eastern culture, a young woman's long hair is associated with life force...like a portrait, the image of hair can express personal feelings and emotions."

During the recent pandemic, she focused her energy on creating work that demonstrates her concerns and desires for equity, cultural diversity and unity during this difficult time. Her work comments on experiences associated with the global pandemic, such as growing one's hair long and the need to socially distance, but also addresses the importance of connections and the relationships between lovers or families. Fashioning a drawing of an upraised fist out of hair, Zhang expresses her support for the Black Lives Matter movement, but also alludes to solidarity during China's Cultural Revolution.

She has exhibited her work at different venues such as the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC; Asia Society Texas Center in Houston, TX; Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles; and the Lawrence Arts Center. She has exhibited internationally at the White Rabbit Gallery in Sydney, Australia; the Museum of Contemporary Art Norway in Oslo; the 3rd Chengdu Biennale, and the 9th Shanghai Biennale in China. Zhang's work is selected in many public and private collections including Sylvain Levy/ DSL Collection (Paris), The White Rabbit Collection of Contemporary Chinese Art (Sydney), The Ministry of Culture of China (Beijing), The Origo Family Collection of Chinese Ink Paintings (Zurich), Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, the Ulrich Art Museum at Wichita State University, and The Kansas City Collection. She is represented by Haw Contemporary.

Fall, 2013, charcoal on paper, 5 x 13"



Extensions: New Work by Hong Chun Zhang

Hong Chun Zhang

Pandemic Hairdos, 2021

Charcoal on paper



Reset, 2021

Chinese ink on Alcantara (Italian fabric)



Solidarity, 2020

Chinese ink on Alcantara (Italian fabric)



New Hairdos (diptych), 2020

Chinese ink on Alcantara (Italian fabric)



Safe Kiss, 2020

Charcoal on paper



Double Take, 2020

Charcoal on paper



Veiled, 2021

Charcoal on paper



Twisted, 2021

Charcoal on paper

All LOANS courtesy the Artist

