

# Synthesis of Traditional Chinese Techniques with Contemporary styles

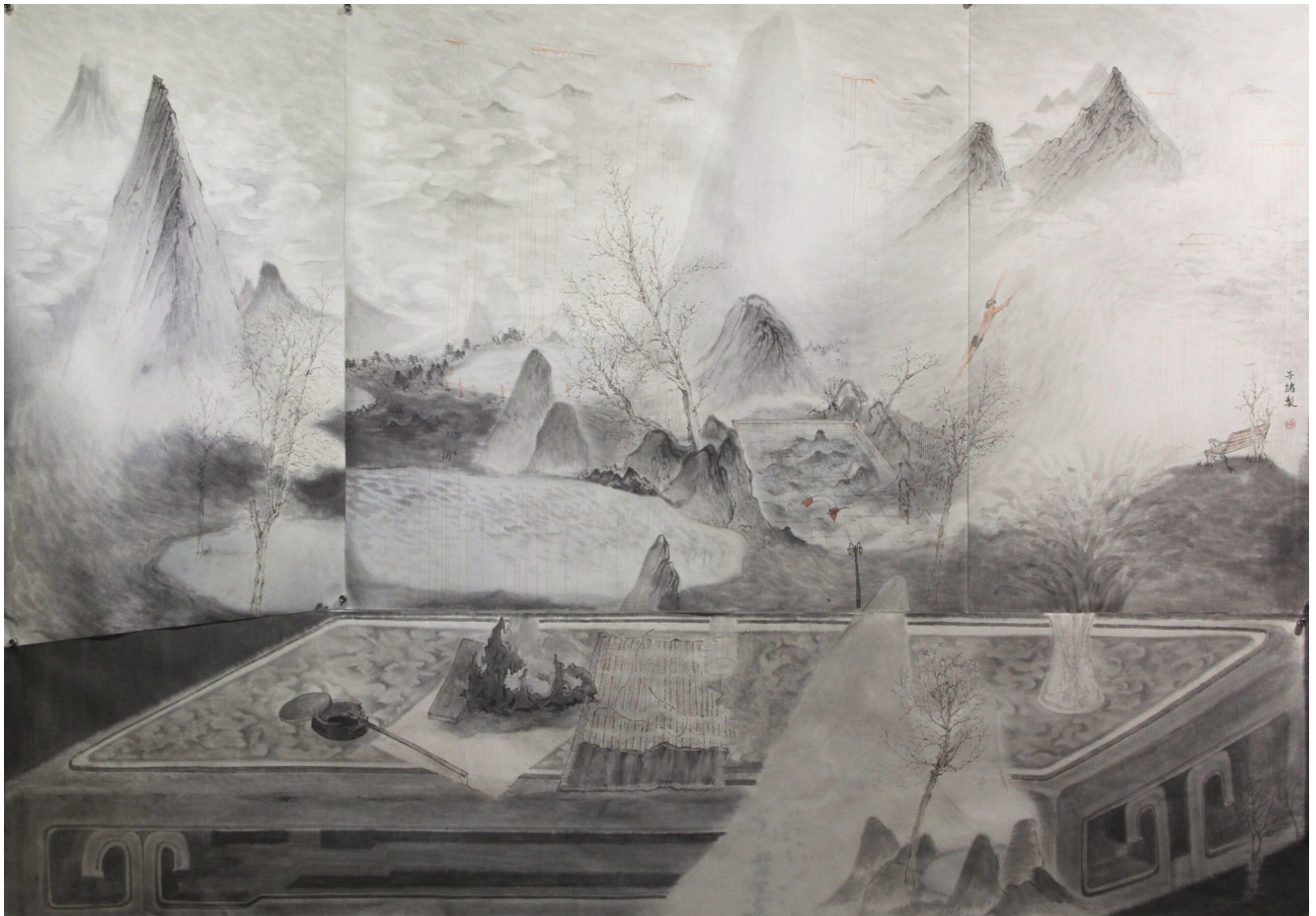
**Qian ZHAO & Pengyu ZHU , Zixu CHEN** 曹 & 彭 , 齐

After experiencing the pandemic, they have changed from focussing on the ideal to reality in their daily lives. In terms of their artworks, they have all changed from reality to the ideal. Qian ZHAO, Pengyu ZHU and Zixu CHEN were from the same Chinese university but majored in completely different fields—landscape architecture and Chinese painting, but their creations during 2020 all tend to combine Chinese Tradition and Contemporary art techniques and ideas.

曹 — 彭 齐



Make A Dream 梦作, Qian Zhao 子庚 & Pengyu Zhu 仲年, 2020



子序 116×166cm 纸本，Zixu Chen 画，2020



子序-六 48×15cm×6 纸本，Zixu Chen 画，2020



图1 69×138cm 纸本，Zixu Chen 画，2020



图2 69×138cm 纸本，Zixu Chen 画，2020



子緒的房間 69×138cm 水彩畫, Zixu Chen 子緒, 2020



子緒-子緒 49×74.5 水彩畫, Zixu Chen 子緒, 2020



00-000 48×49.5 纸本墨彩, Zixu Chen 000, 2020



子惜-子惜 97×70cm 纸本水墨，Zixu Chen 子惜，2020



00-00 82×67cm 纸本水墨, Zixu Chen 设计, 2020

## Biography

Qian ZHAO, Pengyu ZHU: Students of Landscape Architecture at Renmin University of China



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Zixu CHEN: Young Artist – MFA Chinese Painting in Chinese National Academy of Arts

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## Interview with Zhao & Zhu

The names would be abbreviated as “Cleo” (Cleo CHEN), “ZHAO” (Qian ZHAO) and “ZHU” (Pengyu ZHU).

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**Cleo:** Can you tell us how you organised your life and work during this time? What has been changed?

**ZHAO:** Before the pandemic, we were in the same class and dormitory at school, so it was easy for us to communicate with each other. The outbreak occurred during our winter vacation, so we could only talk online and at home. My schedule was mostly involved writing papers or graduation projects during the day and then busying myself with other things at night.

**ZHU:** At that time, the pandemic was serious and the virus was spreading, so I tried not to go outside, and I also felt a little panicky. I seemed to repeat the same routine every day—like searching for materials or creating my artworks at home. The most significant change in this time that I noticed was that everyone around me was now wearing masks.

**ZHAO:** Now our vaccine programme has been administered widely, and with this, our life has basically returned to normal. Except for we need to report upon entering or leaving our school but there are really not too many restrictions at all.

**ZHU:** Our lives had returned to normal last summer, but it resurged again last winter.

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at home which caused by the pandemic this year. As for my Art creating, I've changed my material from colourful ink to wash painting. I have experienced a hard time doing this because my colourful ink paintings were based on sketching, so I could only create wash paintings due to there was no way for me to sketch with the condition of lockdown. I was used to painting with colourful ink, so at first, I felt particularly dull when painting washes painting which only had one colour of black, which actually just in line with my mood at the time. As a result, my later paintings had some elements of the swimming person or lifebuoys.

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**Cleo:** When did you start to conceive the work of *Settled to Look on the Emerging Clouds*□□□□□□, *Growing Freely-Mountains and Seas* □□□□□□ – □□□, and the *Scenic Spot* series artwork□□□□?

**CHEN:** The “Growing Freely” series artworks have started long before, I think it has represented the status of my art creation—some of my paintings were conceived previously while some totally weren’t. I always painted by following my vague feeling, I’d like to pile up elements in my mind, so each element was like a USB flash drive of my memory. “Growing Freely” means that I would start with a tree or a mountain, and then gradually growing out of them with significance.

*Settled to Look On the Emerging Clouds* was the work I created after graduating. Chinese ancient painting was very different from the West which emphasized forms and colours of paintings. Chinese painting focused on the vivid quality flowing inside the painting. Talking about this, I’d like to emphasize the feature of “vivid quality flowing inside”. Aiming of performing that, I try the painting technique of arranging







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**Cleo: Has your perception of art been changed now since the pandemic, and can you talk about these changes?**

**CHEN:** At first, I did not think too much about art, it was just something aesthetic. This thought shifted changed during my second year of high school, though, when I went to the Chinese Academy of Fine Art High School. During my studies, I discovered that Art has a huge impact on our society and does so in a lot of amazing ways, for example, in Western Art history, there is the impact of the Renaissance, Romanticism, etc. To my surprise, Chinese Art had a period of realism, similar to this, which also left behind a positive legacy. I also came to feel the Religious power involved in art when I took up my studies. As for contemporary art, I am developing a technique whereby I try to make my work reflect society from an artistic, aesthetic point of view.

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**Cleo: Do you think art will be predominantly online after this period? What is the relationship between technology and art in your opinion?**

**CHEN:** There are many more online exhibitions and each one keeps getting better than the last. And also, the maturity of online art courses is helpful for art's dissemination.

On the relationship between art and technology, the development of photography has helped art's development rather

