

September 2014

**Singapore
For Immediate Release**

iPRECATION	Gallery Opening Hours:
50 Cuscaden Road	Mon – Fri: 10am – 7pm
HPL House #01-01	Sat: 11am – 6pm
Singapore 249724	Sundays and Public Holiday by appointment only

“斧劈皴 *Cleavages Fractures Folds*” – A solo exhibition by Tay Bak Chiang

VIP Preview: Wednesday, 1st October 2014, 6pm – 8pm

Exhibition period: 2nd – 25th October 2014 (open to public)

Singapore – iPRECATION is pleased to stage a solo exhibition of Singapore artist Tay Bak Chiang from 1 – 25 October 2014. A strong champion for Singapore artists, iPRECATION is proud to collaborate with the artist to kick off his eighth solo exhibition – a breakthrough from Bak Chiang’s previous works on paper. This show will reflect the artist’s spirit of consistently reflecting, questioning and experimenting with new ideas within the traditional Chinese painting medium in today’s contemporary art world. It will begin new dialogues in this art genre amongst local artists.

“斧劈皴 *Cleavages Fractures Folds*” debuts Tay Bak Chiang’s first-ever solo exhibition featuring pigment and acrylic works on canvas instead of Chinese ink on the traditional rice paper. Merging the spirit of historical Chinese ink painting on canvases creates a significant exploration and breakthrough, and not many contemporary Singapore artists have done this. Bak Chiang has experimented and contemporized this genre of painting through the use of acrylic and pigments on canvas to produce distinct textures and visuals. This set of works also marks his progressive attempts to move away from representational forms and introduce new perspectives in the portrayal of nature with minimalistic simplicity.

Although he may not be using the traditional medium of ink and paper, what is significant is the Chinese ink spirit behind Bak Chiang’s paintings. The subject matter of rocks and stones respects Chinese paintings’ emphasis on nature; but more significantly, his rocks incorporate the ink spirit in Chinese paintings that emphasizes the inner spirit of their subject instead of merely describing their outward appearance. Stones, to him, are not lifeless objects, but are bestowed with worldly experiences and personal expressions. Bak Chiang skilfully expresses this through his unique visual language that is relevant in today’s contemporary art scene. These are also interestingly reflected in his artwork titles such as “Recluse”, “Unmasked”, “Black Warrior” and ‘Azure Dragon’. Undeniably they embody the roots, value and spirit of traditional Chinese ink art, and hence these works must be seen as part of the continuum of this Chinese tradition/culture. This show seeks to investigate modern literati ideas involving contemporary ‘ink aesthetic’, with references to traditional pictorial and the fluidity of textures.

“斧劈皴 Cleavages Fractures Folds” presents a catalogue of Bak Chiang’s work, including an incisive essay on this set of works written by industry veteran Kian Chow who has in-depth knowledge of art and the Chinese culture. It discusses the works of Bak Chiang in their significance within the art historical context of Chinese ink works. The exhibition is a significant representation which includes 26 new works of acrylic and pigments on canvas, out of a total of 31 pieces. Each art piece has been carefully named with well thought-through names to create an interesting story or discourse.

Besides showcasing the art works, iPRECIATION also wanted to create an educational aspect to promote the understanding of art and inculcate a passion of art appreciation. Tay Bak Chiang will conduct a walk-and-talk session at iPRECIATION on Saturday, 11th October 2014, at 11.30 a.m. to engage the audience on his style of art and the inspirations behind this collection.

About the artist

A graduate from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in Singapore in 1995, Tay Bak Chiang (b. 1973) also studied at the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou, China, in 1997. In 2002, he received the Young Artist Award from the National Arts Council of Singapore. He was awarded the First Prize in the Chinese Painting category in the 19th and 22nd United Overseas Bank Painting of the Year Competitions (2000 and 2003 respectively). He has since been prolific in creating new ideas and works, developing a new visual language, and boldly pushing boundaries of Chinese ink painting from working on rice paper to canvases. Bak Chiang is the first Singapore artist to experiment and successfully present a contemporised style of the traditional 3000-year-old Chinese ink painting through a clever manipulation of ink, pigments, canvases and raw linens – a fine balance between Western contemporary art and Chinese ink paintings.

Collections

The Istana, official residence and office of the President of Singapore
 Mandarin Oriental, Singapore
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore
 Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore
 National Arts Council, Singapore
 National Gallery Singapore
 OCBC Bank
 Shangri-La Hotel at The Shard, London
 Simmons & Simmons Contemporary Art Collection
 Singapore Turf Club
 SingTel
 SC Global Developments
 United Overseas Bank
 Private collectors

About iPRECIATION

Established in Singapore since 1999, iPRECIATION is a fine art company that embodies an exquisite showcase of Modern and Contemporary Asian Art with an exhibition space of 5,300 square feet. In 2009, the gallery iPRECIATION Hong Kong was set up with a space of 3,427 square feet, marking its incisive presence within Asia's foremost metropolis. Heralded as an ardent supporter of the Arts, iPRECIATION constantly propels the best of Modern and Contemporary Asian Art to the forefront. Since its inception, iPRECIATION has successfully created a legion of avenues for artistic exposure. The galleries provide a well-recognised platform for promising artists, meticulously cultivating and introducing them and their works to the most discerning art enthusiasts and collectors.

Equipped with significant, in-depth knowledge and specialty expertise in giving prominence to contemporary Chinese and South-East Asian art, iPRECIATION is a provider of professional art consultancy services to both individual and corporate entities. Public art showcases of iPreciation include Azia Centre in Pudong Shanghai, The Exchange in Tienjing, Gandaria City in South Jakarta, Menara Standard Chartered in Kuala Lumpur and Keppel Harbourfront, One-North, United Square in Singapore. Managing Director of iPRECIATION, Helina Chan, was the recipient of the coveted New Tourism Entrepreneur of 2005 by the Singapore Tourism Board, acknowledging the entrepreneur whose company has made major contributions to the tourism industry in Singapore.

For more information visit www.ipreciation.com.

For more information, please contact:

iPRECIATION

June Ong

T: 6339 0678

E: june.ong@ipreciation.com

Directions Group Inc for iPRECIATION

Torie Frances Lee

M: 9688 9594

E: torie@directionsgroupinc.com