

Katrine Levin Galleries
presents:
YUNNAN VISIONARIES
Chen Li and Gao Xiang

Coningsby Gallery, London ([moved to online](#))

8th -29th March 2021

Two Childhood Friends, Two Different Paths

The Yunnan Province of China – with its 40 million population is a hidden jewel of creativity. Since the time of the Emperors and throughout the [Cultural Revolution](#) (1966–76) its remote location became home to many exiled artists and intellectuals, creating a centre of artistic endeavor in the most unlikely of places.

For gallerist Katrine Levin – visiting the area was a life-changing moment: *“A cherished mentor suggested I visit the artists’ studios in Kunming, the capital of China’s Yunnan Province. He had been raised there. I was stunned by the calibre of art and inventiveness there. On returning to London, the concept of representing and showcasing talented artists from places ‘less explored’ was born. I set up Katrine Levin Galleries to give a voice in the West to these extraordinary artists both in and outside of China.”*

Yunnan Visionaries is the first time two extraordinary artists from Yunnan, Chen Li and Gao Xiang – two childhood friends having taken very different chosen paths in life – come together in a powerful exhibition of works that explore harmony and balance from their very different perspectives.

Chen Li: A dual master of woodblock printmaking and oil painting. He developed his artistic path in conscious isolation from the influences of academia - his work is intuitive, full of emotion. Deeply knowledgeable, he believes in knowing all the rules and then breaking them all. Chen Li makes his woodblock prints using a special “suicide” technique that leaves no room for error and allows single editions only. The British Museum recently acquired (2019) and exhibited Li’s woodblock print (Human Buddha, 2009) as an exceptional example of modern Chinese art.

Gao Xiang: A master of ink and oil painting. He is a graduate of CAFA and a Professor at the Yunnan Arts University – his work is conceptual and is meant to be read. He often references mythology, contrasting between past and present, dreams and reality. His installations, paintings and works on paper have been commissioned for public spaces in China and Europe, collected and exhibited by leading museums in China, France and Norway; and commissioned by the Grand Palais in Paris.

In **Yunnan Visionaries**, see how their works complement each other to create a visual treat for the heart and mind. Don’t miss this opportunity to review their exceptional talents.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

1. *Yunnan Visionaries* featuring the works of Chen Li and Gao Xiang, exclusively online, will run from 8th – 27th March 2021.

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2. High-res images of the works are available – please contact laura@laurawhitepr.com for further details.