

HIONAS GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TUN PING WANG

UNDEFINED

October 7 - 28, 2011

Opening reception: Thursday, Oct 6, 6:00-8:00 PM



Tun Ping Wang, *Undefined 3* (2011). Pastel on paper, 40 x 60 in.

New York, NY (September 22, 2011) - Hionas Gallery is pleased to present *Undefined*, an exhibition of new large-scale pastel drawings from **Tun Ping Wang**. This is Wang's first show with Hionas, and is just the gallery's fourth exhibition since opening to wide acclaim in June, 2011. Wang's haunting portraits reflect the artist's fascination with the imperfect beauty of faces, and how the emotions, experiences and mental states of his subjects are imposed by the viewer rather than the artist. In this regard, Wang's exhibition is "undefined" up until the point when his drawings are looked upon and acquire new life through the viewer's response. The gallery will be holding a public opening reception on **Thursday, October 6**, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

Wang's drawings evoke a near photographic quality, in which texture, light and contrast all intermingle for a hazy photorealist effect, and yet, each of his portraits exists at a resolution that no lens could capture. "My work focuses mostly on portraits and facial detailing," says Wang. "I particularly enjoy seeing the way the 'handcrafted' likeness

appears before your eyes, joined by specific unrealistic strokes and dots which become apparent only upon very careful viewing.”

Working on large, expansive surfaces, thus reinforcing the viewer’s focus on subjects’ faces, Wang sets out in his work to identify some form of undiscovered beauty, or at the very least, create one just below the surface, residing within gazes of melancholy, regret, and even madness. “Tun Ping Wang’s work is remarkable,” says David Kratz, President of the New York Academy of Art. “His over-sized portraits are as precise and detailed as they are expressive and compassionate. Most artists are good at one aspect or the other. Tun manages to combine both in a dynamic tension that completely entrances the viewer. I can’t get enough of them.”

To round off its fall 2011 exhibition season, and in keeping with the gallery’s mission of showcasing a diverse range of artistic statements from contemporary and emerging artists, Hionas Gallery will present solo shows from American painter and sculptor **Melanie Vote** (Nov 4 - 25) and South African photographer **Warwick Saint** (December). More details on these shows will be announced shortly.

About the Artist:

Tun Ping Wang (b. 1984) is originally from Taipei, Taiwan. He began his studies at LimKokWing University of Technology in Malaysia, where he earned his AFA in Visual & Digital Arts. Following a move to the U.S. in 2004, Wang earned his BFA from the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, MI, in 2008, and his MFA at the New York Academy of Art in 2011. His work is also included in the esteemed Howard Tullman Collection in Chicago, IL. This is Wang’s first solo exhibition. He lives and works in Long Island City, NY.

About Hionas Gallery:

Hionas Gallery is a 500 sf. exhibition space located at 89 Franklin Street, in a classic TriBeCa storefront. The gallery invites contemporary and emerging artists, working in all variety of media, to participate in monthly solo exhibitions to showcase their latest work and artistic vision. The gallery space doubles as the storefront for the personal fitness studio, Peter Anthony Fitness, owned and operated by Peter Hionas. Over the years, Hionas has personally trained hundreds of celebrities and other high profile figures, including a number of artists and art world luminaries. This list includes the artists Marina Abramović, Terry Winters and Dan Colen, collector Adam Sender, architect David Rockwell, and P.S.1 founder Alanna Heiss, among many others.

Gallery owners Peter and Maria Hionas officially opened the gallery in June 2011. “We have been avid collectors of contemporary art since 1991,” says Peter Hionas. “It’s a modest storefront we have here, but also really spacious and versatile. I see us as operating in the tradition of the old Betty Parsons Gallery in midtown, or the original White Cube in St. James’s; small spaces that just show great art.”

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