



Plum Blossoms (International) Ltd.
G6, 1 Hollywood Rd, Central, HK
Tel: (852) 2521 2189 / Fax: (852) 2868 4398
Email: info@plumblossoms.com
www.plumblossoms.com

Monday – Saturday / 10:30am – 7:00pm
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Zhu Wei- The Red Curtain

Nov 23- Dec 6, 2005

Plum Blossoms Gallery proudly presents Zhu Wei's new works of the Utopia series in Zhu Wei's solo exhibition **The Red Curtain: Zhu Wei** in November 2005. Zhu Wei continues his statement about the illusions of the burgeoning prosperity in contemporary China in response to her continuing economic boom. More precisely, he reflects the concept of utopia, which has long been an internalized mission of the Chinese government and the people.

Not only Zhu Wei, but also the whole Chinese population has a keen interest in the colour red. In Chinese way of thinking, red represents good fortune, luck, prosperity, happiness, and good news. And above all, red symbolizes the legitimacy and the supremacy of the government.

A backdrop of red curtain is often present in Zhu Wei's series of Utopia. Under the red curtain, a crowd of mouth-opened figures neatly dressed in blue and green revolutionary uniform, aligned compactly with their sight focused at the same direction. Occasionally up-rising hands are visible gesturing voting and opinion expressing in the congress.

Is there any suggestion that these people are getting any nearer to what they coined the situation of the utopia? To certain extend, the inattentive and robot-like facial expressions bring forth a sense of concern over the stability-at-stake as well as the least possibility to succeed. In Utopia No, 52, 53, 54 and 56, the composition of many works are dominated by bunches of colourful and vivid blossoming flowers. In Utopia No.53, the heads of the people are so tiny that one can easily overlooked and neglect their presence. These overwhelming flowers symbolize the illusions of prosperity and utopia, which embrace people and keep them from seeing the reality. And in Utopia No.52, 60, 61, and 66, the whole setting is immersed in washes of murky brown pigments; underneath, seals and the other objects of the painting are just vaguely visible.

In Zhu Wei's opinion, the prospect of a utopian state is slim and nothing is absolute. Self-sufficiency may be perceived as a good thing, but does it suffice, does it really make people happy? No one can say. In the face of economic globalization where monetary matters have become people's primary concern, one might want to consider going back to the essentials and discover that which really matters in order to lead a more fulfilling and spiritually satisfying life.