

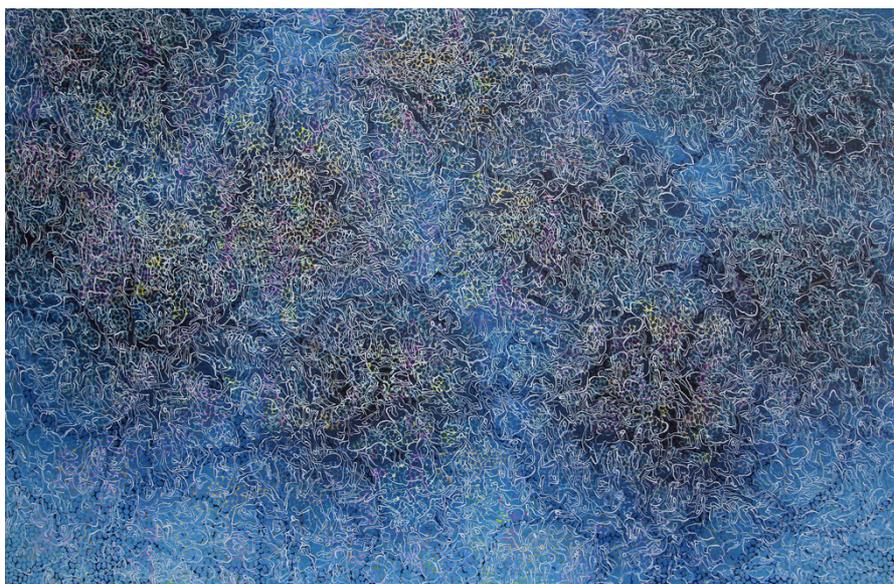
PRESSETEXT, January 2018

«ZURAG» – Solo Exhibition with OTGO Otgonbayar Ershuu
AB43 CONTEMPORARY, Orangerie, Im Park 2, Thalwil/Zürich

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 10, 2018, 13h00 – 16h00 Uhr
(the artist will be in attendance)

Exhibition: February 10 – March 24, 2018

OTGO is the most important contemporary painter of present-day Mongolia. His works enchant the onlooker through the unique ease and freshness it exudes. We encounter humans and animals, which fill the often wide spaces of his paintings in small formatted roundelay. An almost impenetrable web presents itself on canvas; thickets of figuration and pictorial space, which invite the onlooker to study the painting in detail. The eye can hardly capture all which may be discovered and ever new scenes guide the eye across the canvas. AB43 CONTEMPORARY is pleased to present the latest artworks of the Mongolian artist OTGO Otgonbayar Ershuu in an exclusive solo exhibition, titled «ZURAG». The Mongolian word ZURAG means image, painting, drawing, photograph and depiction – in short, it encourages diversity of expression.



Artwork by OTGO Otgonbayar Ershuu – ZURAG -2, 2017, Acrylic on Canvas, 150 x 230 cm

After having studied painting, OTGO entered into an extensive period of self-study, acquiring knowledge of traditional painting techniques and Mongolian iconographic miniature painting, which then led him to transform this tradition into his very own, contemporary adaptation. The artist described the meditative act of painting Thangkas, in which a depiction of a divinity is completed in one stroke as follows: “Thangka painting means that the mind is painting, not the hands – like meditation it bestows new strength and energy.”

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The movement of the picture, which flows from the mind into the painting hand, is in the end the everlasting movement of life itself, but also the deliverance from a material world onto the path of a spiritual world.

«Living in Berlin since 2005, the Mongolian artist's creations may rightfully be considered world-art, encompassing all cultures. Not only has he led the artwork of his Mongolian home-country into the present consistently and has become a cultural ambassador of his people to the world, but he also embodies a young, global generation which respects regional traditions and operates internationally. He blends western and eastern traditions together in a very careful and well-received manner and thereby creates a type of art which has become an integral part of globalization.» (Martin Stather, Kunsthistoriker)

OTGO was born in 1981 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. He studied traditional Mongolian painting in Ulaanbaatar (1996 -1998). After studying, he became a painter and restorer on several research trips to historical sites in Mongolia. In the Buddhist-Lamaist monasteries, he studied various techniques and the iconography of miniature painting as well as their spiritual background (1998-2004). From 2007-2010 he studied at the Institute of Art in Context of the University of the Arts Berlin, which he completed with the Master of Arts. After studying, OTGO opened the Mongolia Cultural Center in Berlin in 2010. He lives and works in Berlin and Ulaanbaatar.

For his work, OTGO has received various prizes and awards, including the gold medal "Knowledge" from the cultural palace of the Mongolian Children institution in 1996 and the "Best Mongolian National Talent" by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia in 2004. In 2015 OTGO was awarded the "GRAND PRIX" of the International Biennial of Painting, Chisinau, Moldova.

OTGO exhibited his artworks in Japan, Sweden, France, the Netherlands, India, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Germany and Mongolia.

His works are in various museums, institutions and private collections, among others in the National Art Museum, Moldova; Mongolia Museum of Art in Ulaanbaatar/Mongolia, Seeheim Castle, Constance/Germany, Museum Old Castle Baruth, HSBC (Honkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation), Mongolian Embassy in Germany and a very big artwork (720 x 420 cm) in the lobby of the Best Western Premier Tuushin Hotel in Ulaanbaatar/Mongolia.

It's no coincidence that OTGO has a deep relation to his culture and the Mongolian Nature. It is common practice that children in Mongolia learn to ride a horse before they learn to walk. This creates a deep familiarity with these animals, which is reflected and felt in Otgonbayar's paintings. Painting for him became sort of meditation without any concrete religious intention.

More information to be found under the following link on our website:

<http://www.ab43contemporary.com/exhibitions/11308/zurag/documents/>

- Press Release short version
- Press Release long version (see this one)
- Images in high-resolution quality (Portraits, artworks and artwork details from OTGO)
- E-Card Invitation to the Public Opening

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