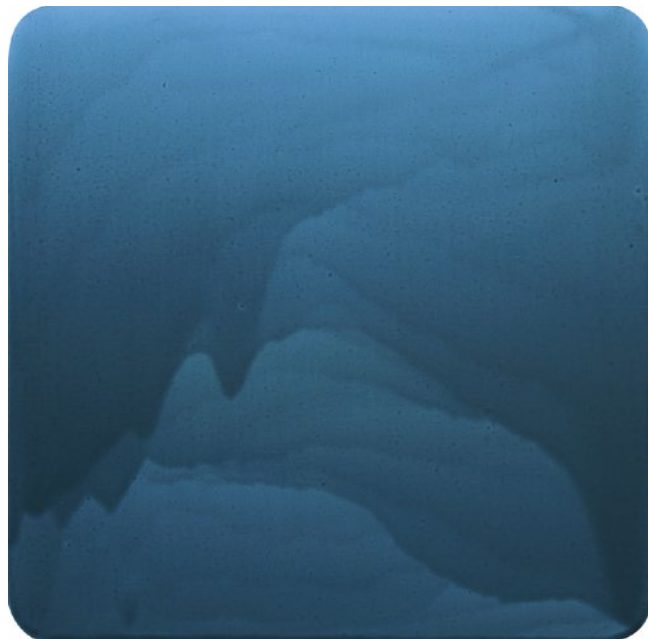
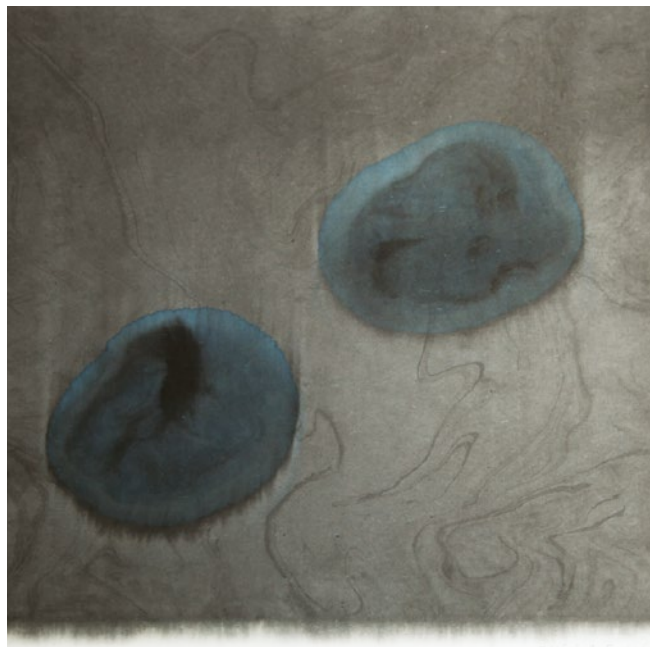


ART REPUBLIK STANDS IN  
WONDERMENT OF CHINESE ARTIST  
LI XIN'S MAGICAL PAINTINGS.  
BY TYEN FONG

# Grey Is The New Black



From left to right: *Untitled* (detailed view), 2015; *Untitled*, 2015, Li Xin.

Born on the banks of the Yellow River, China, in 1973, Li Xin's childhood was heavily influenced by the magnificent and powerful watercourse of the river. In 1996, he graduated from the Central Institute of Arts and Design in Beijing and worked between France and China from 2002 to 2007. A calligrapher at heart, Li Xin came back from his stay in France, returning to the medium of ink for the majority of his practice, with a desire to reposition the age-old tradition in the contemporary art world.

The element of water leads his medium of choice and works. Water is "true magic" to the artist, and he tries to understand its different aspects of beauty and violence. His mental landscape is reflective of his bold compositions of monochrome spaces in creased rice paper. For example, the taupe, cement and greys in his work mirror the dust of the Shaanxi soil.

At the invitation of Pierre-Alexis Dumas, director of luxury fashion house Hermes, Li Xin created a series of paintings for their garden-perfume 'La Jardin de Monsieur Li', one of which was selected to gird its bottle. 'La Jardin de Monsieur Li' is a fragrance inspired by Hermes perfumer Jean-Claude Ellena's walk in the gardens of Suzhou with the artist. The Chinese ink paintings were of gardens, secret landscapes in layers of grey ink.

"Grey is a universal colour. It celebrates the sophisticated cultural heritage of perfume, but without extravagance. Perfume poetically conveys the spirit and earthiness of life," explains Li Xin on creating a unique

pictorial language that combines French influences and Chinese tradition.

To date, Li Xin's works have been showcased in art fairs, solo and group exhibitions in France, China, Turkey and Korea. 'Stillness Is The Move' a two-person exhibition by Li Xin and Korean artist Yeong Gil Kim was showcased in the Shanghai Gallery of Art in 2015. Both artists have shared artistic intentions and a similar interpretation of the natural world. Using the same medium of Chinese ink, 12 waterscape paintings were captured on Xuan paper. Depicted in a velvety tone of grey, water constitutes the genesis of his work, using organic lines to capture the vast space within the movement and flow of the element. This depiction is highly representative of Li Xin's interest in the relationship between human and nature.

Li Xin's paintings are truly "of the spirit and the heart", where one can feel the breath of the wind and the gentle caress of water. His works are a testament to the precision of his hand and his exquisite technical skills, and brilliantly capture the rhythmic movements and delicate quality of water over time and space.

Li Xin's works will be showcased at Galerie Françoise Livinec's booth at Art Stage 2016. 

For more information, please visit [www.francoiselivinec.com](http://www.francoiselivinec.com)