Hou ChunMing
Hou ChunMing (b. 1963, Taiwan) has developed a unique, multidisciplinary practice in career spanning over 30 years. Hou was not only one of the pioneers who were associated with the ending of martial law from the 1980s and 90s Taiwan, but as a highly experimental, innovative and controversial artist - his thesis exhibition in 1987 was shut down by the school.

Hou ChunMing’s works are not about clean and gorgeous contemporary expression, nor about the grandiosity of the overwhelming group consciousness, but recordings of private secrets that have been long ignored or hidden and the liberation of the body, which is a carrier of spirit. That also reveals how the next generation should face the rivalry, irony, and sarcasm and look for "true freedom" for human beings. He takes 'body' not only as a way to provoke authoritarianism but also focuses on its character in Eastern folklore religion as psychic media.

Hou Chun Ming was invited twice to attend the Venice Biennale in 1995 and 2013, respectively. His artworks are included in the collections of The Ludwig Forum for International Art, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, M+ in Hong Kong, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Tainan Art Museum, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Dimension Endowment of Art, Wenhsiu Collection, Five Dime, and White Rabbit Gallery.
Early Works
Hou’s early works in the 1980s coincided with the martial law lift, but rather than responding to the emancipation of society and the 'larger self,' Hou’s response is a collision of the taboos regards to body, sexuality, and ego in Asian society, as well as a rebellion challenges the traditional academic aesthetics. With his impactful themes and visual expressions, Hou became one of the leading figures in Taiwan's avant-garde artists at the time and the first and most significant one who explored the eroticism of human desire in Taiwanese contemporary art.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Hou created one of his iconic large-scale prints, 'Gods Searching,' which features enigmatic, surreal, and erotic immortal-like characters alongside traditional Chinese monition-like texts. This series serves as a powerful symbol of the ‘body liberation’ as well as the resurgence of ‘Taiwanese people's free will’ which begins to reconnect with their innate life force after had long been suppressed by political ideology.
'Swan Laying Eggs' and 'Phallus Horse,' featured in Hou's first solo exhibition, 'Little Women,' which shocked the Taiwanese art world, are two of Hou's rare oil paintings from the 1980s. In 'Swan Laying Eggs,' the Greek mythology story of Zeus and Leda is merged with a landscape of Chinese literati painting. The artist appears as a figure in the lower right corner who seem at a loss, alienated, observing the scene of the East and the West intercourse while the egg represents a new and unknown hybrid life created through the fusion of two cultures.

On the other hand, 'Phallus Horse' is a buzzard creature painted on printed fabric, the fantastical images of genital and animals emerging with repeated patterns conveying the unrestrained imagination of the artist.

In addition, the horse is an image that refers to wealth and power in traditional Chinese paintings; Hou painted it as a huge phallus indicating his rebellion against tradition and blending gender awareness at the same time. 'Swan Laying Eggs' and 'Phallus Horse' are directly from major private collections in Taiwan.
Hou ChunMing
Swan Laying Eggs
1988
oil on canvas
150 x 120 cm x 2
Hou ChunMing

Bell Sound
1988
charcoal on grey
142.5 x 110.5 cm
Hou ChunMing

Phallus Horse

1986

oil on floral cloth

123 x 123 cm
Hou ChunMing

_Oops_

1986

acrylic, ink and pencil on floral cloth

100 x 95 cm
Printed Fabric Paintings
Like ‘Phallus Horse,’ since the 1980s, Hou started to paint on printed fabric, a common and easily found fabric across Taiwan. Yet, the bed-sheets-like patterns also symbolize desires, also being ironic to the elitism that traditional bird-flower painting represented. Of Hou’s deep involvement in Taiwanese avant-garde art during the post-martial-law era, he is also a significant figure in the history of Taiwan’s theater culture. His printed fabric paintings were commonly seen in his collaboration with Taiwanese little theatres. His actively involved led him to become the soul of contemporary art and theater in the 1980s. Such transdisciplinary cooperation reflected the valued decentralization spirit of the experimental theater at the time.

On these fabrics, he paints bold and rebellious sexual organs, as well as bizarre figures. However, the sex and violence in Hou’s works are no longer his private desire - they are the topics that the public refuses to address. Hou once invited participants to do nude drawings of their own bodies, allowing them to portray their physical and inner conditions in an unabashed state. This exposure of the human body and taboo issues were contained in his studio, but the result of the painting elaborated their psychological states. As one of his most important creative methods, Hou sees this as a way of ‘copying.’ The process copies the exterior and interior aspects of a human, and also resembles a dialectical relationship between artist and subject.
After 35 years of making art, Hou inspired by his early works and reflected on his career, he created “Jinn-son Bang,” a series of floral cloth paintings he made with elements he had developed previously in 2021 and 2022. Through combining the present international context with local floral cloth, Hou also created a series of brand-new images.

The choice of the floral cloth could be seen as his recent focus on desire and childhood. In the series, many works are made with embroidery, recalling the lines of his prints series since the 1990s. What these “Hou-styled” images bring to light is not only a future reference of opposing, satirizing, and teasing, they also express the status of an artist who is nearly 60 years old.
Hou ChunMing
Blue Flower
2022
acrylic on printed fabric
110 x 85 cm
Hou ChunMing

*Double Blue*

2022

acrylic on printed fabric

110 x 84 cm
Hou ChunMing

*Let it Fly*

2022

acrylic on printed fabric

86 x 88 cm
Hou ChunMing
Gathering
2022
oil on printed fabric
87 x 87 cm
The Flag Carriers
‘The Flag Carriers’ is Hou’s recent series regarding spirit medium in Taiwan temples. In Taiwan, religion is a combination of Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism, as well as the folk beliefs of immigrants that is based on the native land, and mediums play an important role in folklore religion, which is close to a psychic. Mediums carry flags that represent the deity, and through which they let the deity possess their body serving as a bridge of communication to answering people’s questions.

“The Flag Carriers’ is an extension of Hou’s long paid attention of ‘body.’ The body of medium is a portal for conveying deities’ messages in order to resolve people’s struggling, and after the deity leaves, medium is no different to us. The series is the artist’s study/exploration of the psychic body by interviewing the mediums. First, he visits the temple as a worshipper to ask questions, then interviews the medium’s thoughts and invites them to draw out their feelings for the deity over his/her full-sized body outline alongside Hou’s. In the works, we can see different personalities and auras of each deity interpreted by mediums and the artist and the relationship between the two.

For Hou, the body synonyms desire. The theme is extensions of the body and variants of desire that have run through his work series for 30 years and still counting. But when it comes to the Flag Carriers, the medium is a desexualized existence as the portal of deity. "When we talk about physical desire, it is often self-related; on the contrary, since deities borrow the medium’s body, it is desexualized." the artist said. Therefore interestingly, this desexualized body/voice subtly corresponds with Hou’s role as an artist in the interviews. "I am like a cultural medium, a receiver and transmitter of messages in a broad sense. I am fascinated by this identity."
Hou ChunMing
Medium of Jiutian Xuannu - Cihsin Temple - Wu Xiu Lian
2019
ink and colors on paper
312 x 304 cm
Hou ChunMing
Medium of Xuantian God - Xuanthang Temple - Zhang Li Qua
2019
ink and colors on paper
312 x 304 cm
Hou ChunMing
Medium of Wufu Erjhen - Shueimen Temple - Xu Yi Yun
2019
ink and colors on paper
312 x 304 cm
Hou ChunMing
Medium of Emperor Wuying - Qingcheng Temple - Chen Wei Ting
2019
ink and colors on paper
312 x 304 cm
Hou ChunMing
Medium of Jhunti Fomu - Xuanyn Temple - Zhou Fang Ru
2019
ink and colors on paper
312 x 304 cm
Hou ChunMing
*Medium of Guangze the King - Shengwang Temple - Lin Chong Wei*
2019
ink and colors on paper
312 x 304 cm
Relevant Archive
The Wild Eighties: Dawn of a Transdisciplinary Taiwan
2022. Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
The Wild Eighties: Dawn of a Transdisciplinary Taiwan
2022, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
Sin and Punishment
1996, Taipei, Taiwan
Sin and Punishment
1996, Hong Kong
Sin and Punishment
1996, Hong Kong
Little Women
1988, Yong Han Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
Little Women
1988, Yong Han Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
Hou Chun Ming

1963 Born in Chiayi, Taiwan
1987 Graduated from National Arts Academy (Now Taipei National University of the Arts)

Solo Exhibition

2022  
Taipei Dangdai, Each Modern, Taipei, Taiwan
Hou Chun Ming's Solo Exhibition: the Needle Flesh, the NCCU Art and Culture Center, Taipei, Taiwan

2021  
Break. Youth Hou Chun Ming, Cans Space, Taipei, Taiwan

2020  
The Flag Carriers – A Tainan Residency Interview Project with Taiwanese Shaman, Mizuiro Workshop, Tainan, Taiwan
Hou Chun Ming Solo Show – Be water: Hong Kong queer, Hong Kong body, Hiro Hiro Art Space, Taipei, Taiwan

2019  
Hou Chun Ming's Solo Exhibition : Body Festival, Mizuiro Workshop, Tainan, Taiwan

2018  
The Carving Board of Solo Exhibitions, Mogan 99 art center, Shanghai, China

2017  
Knead and Gain “Body Map” Interview Project, Tunghai University Art Galley, Taichung, Taiwan

2016  
Hemimetabolism: Hou Chun Ming's Art & His Manuscripts, National Central University Art Center, Taoyuan, Taiwan
The Asian Father Interview Project: Fathers of Male Homosexuals in Hong Kong, Hui Gallery of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
You Can't Admit Your Mistakes in Any Case, Zi Space, Taipei, Taiwan

2014  
Hou Chun Ming's Solo Exhibitions: Had to Write, Huwei Salon, Yunlin, Taiwan
The Asian Father Interview Project: Chiayi Episode, Meiling Fine Art Museum, Chiayi, Taiwan

2013  
Happy Amulet, Lee Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
Collections of Talisman, Sincewell gallery, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

2012  
Something Good to Say, Cans Tea & Book House, Taipei, Taiwan
Hou Chun Ming's Solo Exhibition, 99 art center, Shanghai, China

2011  
Hou Chun Ming's Solo exhibition: Portrait Chronological Exhibition, InART space, Tainan, Taiwan

2010  
Mandala of Love, AI Kowada Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
The Asian father interview project: Bangkok Episode, Ver Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand

2009  
The Asian father interview project: Taipei and Taichung Episode, Lorangerie Non Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan / National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan
Hou Chun Ming's Solo exhibition: The Multifaceted Prince, Art Stock 20, Taichung, Taiwan
Collision between Taboo and Desire: Hou Chun Ming's Works of Print 1992-2008, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan / Culture and Tourism Bureau, Miaoli County, Miaoli, Taiwan
The Announcement of Hou's Resurrection, the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Chiayi City, Chiayi, Taiwan

2008  
In the Name of God, PYD Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
The Asian father interview project: Yokohama Episode, Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, Japan
Confession by Chung-Ming at Age 47, L'orangerie Non Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan

2007  
Lace Whipping, The Grain Rain, Amorous Affair, Art Taipei, Lorangerie Non Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
The Rise of Dragon • The Flight of Phoenix, Cans Book Shop, Beijing, China

2006  
Journal by Pillow, 107 Gallery, Taichung, Taiwan
Calm Down at Toufen, Moon Gallery, Taichung, Taiwan

2005  
Going Home: The Reshaping Trilogy of Hou Chun Ming's Life, Lian Ting Living & Art Space / New Taipei City Library: Branch of Wanli/Yannick, Taipei, Taiwan
Mind Writing, Dadaocheng Museum / China University of Technology / Cao Shan Dong Men Art Museum, Taipei, Taiwan

2004  
Hometown Plants, Hwataoyao, Miaoli, Taiwan

2002  
Mido's Father, Wind Mountain Cloud Water, Chiayi, Taiwan

2001  
Ali Temple, Galerie Pierre, Taichung, Taiwan

2000  
Crawling on the Belly, Hanart Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan

1997  
Sinner in Paradise, IT Park, Taipei, Taiwan

1995  
Hou Chun Ming's Print Solo Exhibition, Najota Gallery, Yokohama, Japan
1993 Hou Chun Ming's Solo Exhibition: A Myth of Mr. Hou, IT Park, Taipei, Taiwan
Anecdotes about Spirits and Immortals, Lion Art Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan / New Vision Gallery, Taichung, Taiwan / Neo-eco Art Environment, Tainan, Taiwan

1992 The Resentful Soul, Apartment No.2, Taipei, Taiwan
Erotic Paradise, Arp Gallery, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Hou Chun Ming's Three Prints: God of War, IT Park, Taipei, Taiwan

1991 The Wedding of Hou's Family: Red on the Ground, Taipei Dignity, Taipei, Taiwan

1990 A Myth of Mr. Hou: Detoxication, Auditorium at College of Fine Arts, Lujhou, Taipei, Taiwan

Group Exhibition

2022 The Wild Eighties: Dawn of a Transdisciplinary Taiwan, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
PAPRIKA, Each Modern, Taipei, Taiwan
Print Out Times – 2022 Taoyuan International Print Exhibition, Taoyuan Arts Center, Taoyuan, Taiwan

2021 Since the Prime Meridian Is Met: Commemorating the 20th Year of Moon Gallery, Moon Gallery, Taichung, Taiwan

2020 Re-visiting Landscape, Chiayi Art Museum, Chiayi, Taiwan
Paying Tribute to Gods: The Art of Folk Belief, Tainan Art Museum, Tainan, Taiwan
The Topography of a Decade: The Fund-raising Exhibition for the 10th Anniversary of The Cube Project Space, The Cube 7F, Taipei, Taiwan
Paying Tribute to Gods: The Art of Folk Belief, Tainan Art Museum, Tainan, Taiwan
The Topography of a Decade: The Fund-raising Exhibition for the 10th Anniversary of The Cube Project Space, The Cube 7F, Taipei, Taiwan

2019 YAO-CHI CITY: Taiwanese Paranormal Literature and Contemporary Art Exhibition, Taiwan Contemporary Culture Lab, Taipei, Taiwan
Mulan, Make Up! Taiwan Academy in Los Angeles, Los Angeles, USA

2018 Tomb of Soul, Temple, Machine, and Self, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
A solitary male phoenix dancing in front of a mirror, Cans Space, Taipei, Taiwan
Towards Mysterious Realities, Total Museum, Seoul, Korean
Diversity Via Nature: Religion, Gender or Art?, Pon Ding, Taipei, Taiwan/Tentacles Art Space, Bangkok, Thailand

2017 The Terrain of Taiwan Contemporary Art, Double Square Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
Spectrosynthesis – Asian LGBTQ Issues and Art Now, Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei, Taiwan

2016 Self-cultivation: The Personal Technology of Living Soma, Ying Art Center, Shanghai, China
Underground Adventure, the Pier-2 Art Center, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
The Possibility of an Island: Taiwan Biennial 2016, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan
Towards Mysterious Realities, TKG Plus, Taipei, Taiwan

Black Gold Section Art Festival:Inside Out, Art Site of Chiayi Railway Warehouse, Chiayi, Taiwan

2014 Ten Million Rooms of Yearning: Sex in Hong Kong, PARA-SITE, Hong Kong, China
POST POP: EAST MEETS WEST, Saatchi Gallery, London, United Kingdom
10th Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai, China
The Pioneers of Taiwanese Artists: 1961-1970, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan
Hot soul: Joint Exhibition of the Artists in Taiwan, the Exhibition Hall of Chiayi Performing Arts Center, Chiayi, Taiwan

2013 Majestic Island: The Development of Modern Art in Taiwan 1911-2011, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China/China Art Museum, Shanghai, China
Boundaries on the Move: A Cross-Culture Dialogue, Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Israel
Turn Art Taiwan, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
55th Venice Biennale: Voice of the Unseen, Venice, Italy
Gazing into Freedom: Taiwan Contemporary Art Exhibition, Museum of Contemporary Art Vojvodina, Republic of Serbia
Day of Chen Cheng Po: Recreate the Glory of Art in Chiayi City, the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Chiayi City, Chiayi, Taiwan
The Delight of Chinese Character Festival, the Pier-2 Art Center, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Art Taipei, ArtDoor Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
Hui Aggregation: Cross-Strait Contemporary Art Exchange, Shanghai Xuhui Art Museum, Shanghai, China/Cheng Shiu University Art Center, Kaohsiung, Taiwan/Cultural Affairs Bureau of Taoyuan County, Taoyuan, Taiwan/Luodong Cultural Working House of Cultural Affairs Bureau of Yilan County, Yilan, Taiwan
2012 Artist in Wonderland: Kuandu Biennale, Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei, Taiwan
Time game: Contemporary Appropriations of the Past, Taipei Fine Art Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
Death and Life of Fiction: Taipei Biennal 2012, Taipei Fine Art Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
Art Taipei, Moon Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
2011 International Paper Art Exhibition and Symposium, Taipei, Taiwan
Art Taipei, Moon Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
2010 14th Festival de l'Imaginaire, St. Germain des Prés, Paris, France
Yes, Taiwan: Taiwan Biennale, Taichung, Taiwan
2009 Always (as it was), Tang Temporary Art, Bangkok, Thailand
Paper Symbol – Medium Extending, Tang Temporary Art, Hong Kong, China
Twelve Constellations, Sincewell gallery, Kaohsiung / Taiyu gallery, Chiayi, Taiwan
In the Name of God, PVD Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
A Kaleidoscopic View: Reinterpretations of Taiwanese Folk Images and Designs, Kaohsiung Fine Art Museum, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Art Taipei, Taipei, Taiwan
Intimate Trend: Painting from Sichuan and Taiwan, Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei, Taiwan
2007 The Power of The Universe: The Frontier of Contemporary Chinese Art, Asian Art Center, Beijing, China
Dare to Art – The Genealogy of TNUA Fine Arts College, Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei, Taiwan
2006 The 15th JAALA Biennale, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
The Contemporary Landscape, MOCA, Taipei, Taiwan
Body Love, Feng Chia University, Taichung, Taiwan
2005 The Mind Picture of Liu-chiao Family, Taoshan Humanity Hall, Chiayi, Taiwan
The Pebble Land Exhibition, Hwataoyao/ Homer Lee's Art Center / East Gate Museum, Tainan / The Cultural Affair Bureau of Miaoli County, Taiwan
The Fierce Chiayi Artists, Meiling Fine Art Museum, Chiayi, Taiwan
2004 Contemporary Taiwanese Art in the Era of Contention, Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, New York, USA
Art Taipei , Taipei, Taiwan
Modern Art Festival, Golden Dragon Kiln, Miaoli, Taiwan
2002 I-ness: About Me, Kaohsiung Fine Art Museum, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
1999 Contemporary Taiwanese Art, Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan
Fin de Siècle Rituals: Contemporary Taiwanese Art, Taipei Gallery/Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, New York, USA
the Installation Exhibition at Mountain 99, Nantou County, Taiwan
Taipei Biennale: Site of Desire, Taipei Fine Art Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
Fire at Night, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan
1997 Tracing Taiwan: Works on Paper, the Drawing Center, New York, USA
Three Generations of Hong Kong Reading, Museum for 1997 Hang-over, Hong Kong Arts Center, Hong Kong, United Kingdom
Transfigure in Middle Age, Landscape, City and Symphony: Taiwan Installation Art Exhibition in Taiwan, Chiayi City Art Center, Chiayi, Taiwan
1996 Container 96: Art Across Oceans, Copenhagen, Denmark
Out of Gallery, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong, United Kingdom
Art Today at Taiwan, Ludwig International Art Forum Hall, Berlin, Germany
Biennale: The Question for Identity, Taipei Fine Art Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
1995  the 46th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
       Art Taiwan, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia
1992  Erotic Paradise, Extension vs Breaking, Taipei Fine Art Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
       NTU the February 28 Massacre Community Exhibition, Taipei, Taiwan
1991  the Society Observation Exhibition, Lion Art Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
1990  Busan International Biennale, Busan, South Korea
       Taiwan Document Cell Exhibition, U Theater, Taipei, Taiwan
1988  a Trio Exhibition in October, Yunhan Culture Hall, Taipei, Taiwan
1987  Graduation Exhibition, YFY Building, Taipei, Taiwan

Selected Public Collections
Ludwig Forum for the International Art, Aachen, Germany
Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan
White Rabbit Gallery, Sydney, Australia
M Plus Museum, Kowloon, Hong Kong
National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan
Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
Tainan Art Museum, Tainan, Taiwan
Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Sunpride Foundation, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Dimension Endowment of Art, Taipei, Taiwan
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