



Song Kun 宋琨

Having grown up with fast economic developments and rapid urbanisation in China, Song Kun's nostalgic obsession with objects and scenarios in everyday life have set her apart from other artists of her time. Her femininity casts a substantial effect on her works, as Philip Tinari, the director of UCCA comments, "As a female artist, Song Kun is being herself. Her art stems from her daily life experience." Using her artistic skills to speak for the current generation, Song Kun portrays the range of their daily emotions in her works. As much as recalling emotions of others, her works are also personal. *It's My Life* (2005) is an auto-biographical series in which the artist produced diminutive paintings of the world through her observations everyday for a year, and exhibited all 366 of them in her Beijing solo exhibition in 2006. These works provided glimpses into the narrative of her life by focusing on small romances of the ordinary, and also an exploration of the world from a woman's unique psychological and physiological perspective.

In her most recent series, *A Thousand Kisses Deep* (2012), a new cycle of 28 shimmering paintings, technical studies and a video installation are featured. The works explore dual themes of carnality and spirituality. They demonstrate an exploration of abstract qualities that are divided roughly between images of bodies and static organic forms and dominated by shifts in light and dark. Despite Song Kun's choice of an increasingly luscious colour palette, her works evoke emotional distance with the viewers. Whilst *A Thousand Kisses Deep* explores on the quiet properties of natural materials (carnality), the works carry allegories of social changes and extreme emotions such as fear, desire and disillusion that are evoked. In general, Song Kun has portrayed people from different walks of life yet one distinctive characteristic they all share is a pair of big and round eyes. As windows to one's soul, these eyes invite the spectator to ponder upon the stories behind each character. When asked about whom the artist creates for, Song Kun said for the whole world: the rich, the poor, the optimistic and the pessimistic. Song Kun believes in the healing power of her work, and hopes that there is a time when art can melt the divisions that have drawn us humans apart.

Born in Baotou, Inner Mongolia in 1977, Song Kun lives and works in Beijing. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) in 2002 and subsequently obtained a Master's Degree from the Oil Painting Department in 2006. During her studies in the CAFA, Song Kun co-founded the N12 Group, a group of ambitious young graduates of the CAFA including artists such as Qiu Xiaofei, Hu Xiaoyuan and Wang Guangle. Hailed as the most promising young female artist during the *2005 Triennial of Chinese Art*, Song Kun's work has been widely exhibited in museums and galleries, notably in Shanghai, Taipei, Singapore, Bangkok, New York, Brussels and Paris, as well as Beijing and Los Angeles.