

Statement

Mingchen Tang

Nowadays many people has confusion and misunderstanding about martial arts and combat sports.

“Why would you suffer unnecessary pain and injury?”

“How can you enjoy watching people hurting each other?”

“What are you trying to achieve from practicing martial arts?”

... ..

I have been travelling in the world of martial arts for last 7 years. I’ve practiced many different martial arts and combat sports, I’ve seen many people, heard many stories, witnessed many moments.

Now I want to depict them and share with others, the special moments in everyday life, the intense of athletics, the harsh environment, the violence, and behind them, the sportsmanship, the spirit of martial artist, the dreams, desires.

To complete my expression, I’m going to create around 30 A3 size abstract illusionism illustration.

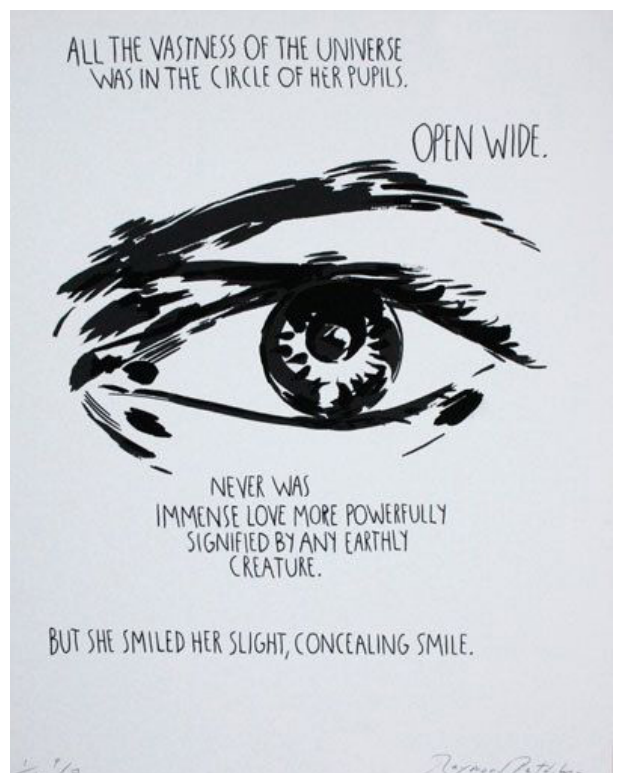
I’ve read a manga. It’s called ‘Garōden, and it’s a Japanese manga which told a story about a group of martial artists. Lots of stories and characters in this manga are created based on real person and events, the story were written by a Japanese novelist Baku Yumemakura, and illustrated by Keisuke Itagaki who is a Japanese manga artist. Baku Yumemakura really confirmed my idea of creating a series of drawing to record my journey in martial arts world.

To me, Keisuke is a master of violence aesthetics, his exaggerated visual language in his manga shocked and influenced me ever since I read ‘Garōden’, I think he did an excellent job on giving electrifying experience to readers though reading his manga.





During my process, Kristy and Gina introduced William Kentridge and Raymond Pettibon to me, their work formally influenced me, from viewing their work I discovered ink pen, which I've never tried before.



Then I found an ink painter while I doing research on Pinterest whos name is Mariusz Szmerdt, his Chinese calligraphy and Ink painting skill amazed me, and his ink painting greatly influenced the overall style of my drawing.



At the end, I hope my work can give both viewer and myself an opportunity to view and think about the appearance and inherent of this special and complicated world of martial arts.