

WIDEWALLS

CHAMBERS FINE ART PRESENTS FU XIAOTONG SERIES OF SERENE
ABSTRACT WORKS

Art Exhibitions • Jan Arsen

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Chambers Fine Art in New York is hosting a solo show of Fu Xiaotong. This exhibition will showcase traditional Chinese landscapes with a modern twist. Fu Xiaotong paints with needles on traditional rice paper that has been used for centuries. This labour-intensive practice creates stunning results. It takes up to several million pinpricks to create a large-scale artwork and the precision has to be high.

The resulting network of textures depicts nature and rethinks several traditional Chinese artistic practices in order to give them a new life and meaning while taking the viewers to a *Land of Serenity*.



Left: Fu Xiaotong – Mountain – 587,800 Pinpricks / Right: Fu Xiaotong – Pupil – 380,000 Pinpricks

Xuan Paper: Rice Paper That Has Been Used for Art for Centuries

Xuan paper (or Shuen paper) is a kind of rice paper originating in ancient China. Its texture is soft and fine, so the paper was suitable for painting as well as Chinese calligraphy. A vast number of books and paintings from ancient China that have survived until today, managed to resist the ravages of time only because they were made with Xuan paper. This kind of paper is something essentially Chinese, and Fu Xiaotong uses it to create art that offers a contemporary twist on ancient Chinese artistic practices. Using the same kind of paper that's been around since the time of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), Fu *paints* with needles. The concept, precision and devotion should probably put her among the contemporary artists from China we should know more about.

A Different Take on Chinese Visual Culture

Fu Xiaotong's chooses subjects that have a long history in Chinese visual culture. She mainly depicts mountains, rocks and water, but does that in a really unconventional manner. Fu creates images by piercing Xuan paper with needles. Her works are large in size, and images are made by stabbing

needles into paper for hundreds of thousands of times. The artist has discovered a *language of a needle*. There are five different ways you can approach a piece of paper with a needle, and every approach results with marks of a different quality. By combining different ways one can stab Xuan paper, Fu Xiaotong manages to create realistic renderings of different features of a landscape. The subjects, therefore, have to be broken down to complex grids of interlocking stabs.

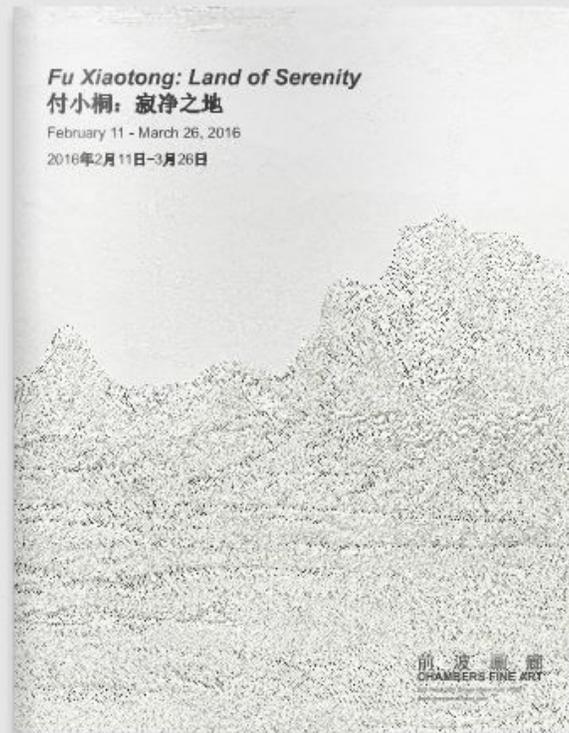


Fu Xiaotong - Water - 322,000 Pinpricks, detail

Fu Xiaotong Exhibition: Millions of Pinpricks at Chambers Fine Art, New York

When piercing through paper, you can approach it from the front or from the back, or at an angle from the front or from the back. To create a large-scale landscape using only this technique, Fu Xiaotong conducts detailed preliminary studies. That way, the artist is capable of representing textures such as the ones of rocks and water as faithful as possible. Seen from close up, the texture of her works resemble the texture of tapestries. The high precision of her technique is to be admired, as well as her patience, and New Yorkers now have perfect opportunity for that. *Land of Serenity* by Fu Xiaotong is on display from February 11, 2016 to March 26, 2016, at [Chambers Fine Art](#) in New York.

Land of Serenity – Exhibition Catalog



ISSUU

Featured image: Fu Xiaotong – 208,500 Pinpricks; Fu Xiaotong – Land of Serenity, details from the exhibition; Fu Xiaotong – 300,800 Pinpricks. All images courtesy of Chambers Fine Art