

MARCUS CHAN STUDIO





MARCUS CHAN

VISUAL ARTIST

I am a visual artist working out of Toronto, Canada. As a foundation, my work is informed by my classical training in music (Royal Conservatory of Music) and fine art (Ontario College of Art and Design).

My practice, however, is based on an exploration and exploitation of line, with colourism being of secondary importance. I often work only in black and white.

The emphasis is on line, both as a structure and as rhythm; and in its application to text, language and legibility. In this respect, I'm situated somewhat in the realm of writing and type, with a particular affinity for East Asian calligraphy - and also for painting in brush and ink.

My work isn't illusionistic: I try to evoke rather than represent. It is the painted cipher that's at issue, and not the creation of a pictorial space. Thus, I tend to leave my "backgrounds" empty and unpainted as a rule.

I guess it's painting in a second degree - bypassing representation and invoking a thoughtful "reading" of my artistic space: a choreographed performance in brushwork.



"Spirit Horse"
(2015) 45cm x 60cm
Mixed Media on Canvas

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Marcus Chan was born in Hong Kong and grew up in Canada. His gift in the arts became evident when, at the age of three, he began producing accurate and scaled pastel sketches of race cars. His artistic talents extended also to piano performance. As a 14 year old he won the prestigious Kiwanis scholarship for piano concerto in the open class category. While his success at piano performance later also won him the honor of performing as a soloist with the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra, ultimately he returned to his early interest in the visual arts attending the world-renowned Ontario College of Art and Design in Toronto. There he was described as having "stood out as exceptional and exciting among [his] peers," and having been a "strong contributor to raising the standards of quality in [his] classes".

Marcus' works have been selected to appear in the "Contemporary Art Exhibitions" at the Cedar Ridge Gallery, Toronto; "Being Scene", the 11th Annual Juried Exhibition of the Workman Arts collective in Toronto; the North York General Hospital Annual Art Shows; "Variations" in Bologna, Italy; and twice at the prestigious Toronto Art Expo.

In 2021 Marcus Chan was selected to exhibit at the Tokyo International Art Fair but will present his works at the 2022 exhibit.



“Young Prince Philip”
(2021) 36cm x 54cm
Acrylic on Canvas

ARTIST STATEMENT

I am a visual artist embedded in the vast multicultural landscape that is Canada. I learned and developed my craft at OCAD in Toronto (now OCAD University), participating in exhibitions in Toronto; Bologna, Italy and Hong Kong.

In a pluralistic, data-driven culture, I believe creativity must be an alchemical amalgam of everything within an artist’s ambit, including ideological and religious forms. Only then can I engender something uniquely meaningful. I also try not to limit my language to one style; working in several styles, I believe that a natural, organic unity will assert itself.

Implicit in my adventure is an informing conviction about the primacy of “language”. A language may be visual, musical, danced or worn, etc. For me, language always recurs to the written condition. The Ariadne thread in my exploration of style and communication is the avatar of language as a text.

The condition of text – on paper, computer screen etc. – is an aesthetic which obsesses me. Though I don’t always work in calligraphy, the muscularity of painterly technique is important. The way I compose passages on the picture plane is predicated on the idea of reading, and is more flexible than the conventional method of making a picture a harmonized unity of parts all working together at once. As in calligraphy, my forms are apprehended in a serial, linguistic fashion.



"Blue Girl"

(2021) 20cm x 25cm

Oil on Canvas, featured in *The World of Interiors*, October 2021 issue

LIST OF EXHIBITS

2017

- XI Florence Biennale, Florence, Italy
- Awarded the 'Lorenzo il Magnifico' International Award (5th Award, Drawing, Calligraphy & Print category)

2016

- Asia Contemporary Art Show, Hong Kong

2015

- Asia Contemporary Art Show, Hong Kong

2014

- Toronto Art Expo, Toronto

2013

- *Variations*, Trivisan International Art, Bolgna, Italy.
- North York General Hospital Annual Art Show, Toronto.
- Toronto Art Expo, Toronto

2012

- North York General Hospital Annual Art Show, Toronto

2010

- *Calligraphe*, Cedar Ridge Gallery, Toronto



PRESS COVERAGE

Featured as an artist in *The World of Interiors* magazine, August to November 2021 issues.

"Canadian artist MARCUS CHAN weaves a delicate tissue of evocation in his portrait studies. He is inspired above all by the procedure of Asian brush painting, where brushstrokes transform alchemically into a breath of life."

"Happy Mommy"
(2020) 45cm x 60cm
Mixed Media on Canvas,
featured in *The World of Interiors*, August 2021 issue.



COMMISSIONS

- Private clients from Canada, USA, Hong Kong SAR
- North York General Hospital, Toronto, Canada (2015 & 2016)

CONTACT

www.marcuschanstudio.com

To purchase an original or print, or to inquire about commissions please send an e-mail to marcuschanstudio@gmail.com.

"Dragon"
(2016) 45cm x 60cm
Watercolour on Paper