

Shandong Art Museum Held Torbjorn Kvasbo & Yuan Hailong Works Exhibition

The Dialogue Across Cultural Boundaries: A Joint Exhibition of Ceramic Works by Torbjorn Kvasbo and Yuan Hailong opened at the Shandong Art Museum on the afternoon of December 19th, 2023. The exhibition, which will run until January 7, 2024, features 21 ceramic artworks by Norwegian artist and President of the International Academy of Ceramics (IAC) Torbjorn Kvasbo, along with 51 ceramic pieces by Chinese artist Yuan Hailong, a council member of the Shandong Artists Association and vice-chairman of the Jinan Artists Association. This event has set off a grand symphony of cross-cultural and trans-regional artistic dialogue on the land of Qilu. Yang Xiaogang, director of the Shandong Art Museum and vice-chairman of the Shandong Artists Association, stated that this exhibition is the concluding event for the museum in 2023 and a carefully prepared 'year-end exhibition' by the Shandong Art Museum and the Shandong Artists Association. The exhibited works are ingeniously conceived, rich in artistic language, and unique in perspective, showcasing strong sculptural tension and visual impact, with distinct personalities and recognizably. Zhang Wang, honorary chairman of the Shandong Artists Association and chairman of the Jinan Federation of Literary and Art Circles, addressed the theme of 'crossing' and 'dialogue'. He pointed out that this exhibition differs from previous international exhibitions held by the Shandong Art Museum, as it represents a dialogue between two artists from different countries transcending cultural backgrounds. This dialogue discards exclusion and prejudice, filled with respect and appreciation, profoundly reflecting the significance of cultural exchange, promoting art communication, broadening horizons, stimulating innovative thinking, and driving the diversification of the Shandong art ecosystem. Li Chao, curator of the exhibition and director of the Center for International Cultural Exchange at Jingdezhen Ceramic University, detailed the artistic careers and styles of the two artists and shared the story behind the joint exhibition. It turns out that Tore has visited Jingdezhen multiple times for events, while Yuan has been deeply engaged in Jingdezhen for many years. An accidental opportunity led the curatorial team to discover the potential for a stylistic collision between the two artists, resulting in this joint exhibition. Notably, the two artists did not communicate during the creation process, relying solely on their own perception and expression of art, making this dialogue even more precious. As a key figure in contemporary Norwegian ceramic art, Torbjorn's large-scale sculptures, often made of ceramics, have gained international acclaim through his distinctive artistic language, winning numerous awards in major international ceramic art exhibitions and competitions. On the other hand, Yuan, mentored by Huang Yongyu, lived in Germany for

over a decade, and his early works were heavily influenced by German Expressionism. In his paintings, emotions are intense and bold, yet they lack the typical gloom and tension found in German Expressionist works. This exhibition serves as a bridge connecting different cultures through exquisite ceramic artworks, providing a platform for communication and exchange, exemplifying the practice of civilization mutual learning on the land of Qilu. It offers audiences a visual feast to appreciate the charm of diverse ceramic arts and injects new vitality into promoting cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries and advancing artistic innovation.



Yuan Hailong & Torbjorn Kvasbo Exhibition site-viewing





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