Strokes and Expressions:
Works on Paper by
Deng Guoyuan and Rosalyn Richards

Curated by Dan Mills. Organized by the Samek Art Gallery, Bucknell University, and Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts Museum

Exhibition Proposal
“Strokes and Expressions” pairs highly regarded artists from opposite sides of the world: Deng Guoyuan (Tianjin, China) and Rosalyn Richards (Pennsylvania, USA). Both are accomplished in several media. Deng works in ink and wash on paper, oils, and installation, and Richards works in graphite on paper, intaglio, and acrylics. This exhibition focuses on their works on paper.

Deng Guoyuan and Rosalyn Richards investigate how we see and understand the world. Both make ambitious large-scale works on paper that are abstractions and representations of the natural world. They share a profound & intensive focus on a subject, media and technique. In their hands, these elements fuse to become the singular works we see in this exhibition.
Deng’s ink and brush on paper work are characterized by expressive flourishes of brushstrokes that both represent and capture the energy of the images he paints, which are often cropped and close-up views of gardens. His brushstrokes are both luscious and stark: variations of grey brushstrokes on off-white paper that create and deconstruct images, and form and break down patterns of marks. Julian Lohmann writes, "'In the Garden' is the theme of a series of sheets on which lines, dots, and dabs group together in a lively rhythm which, in endless shades of grey, allow the viewer to see a summer garden in every possible colour." ¹

Richards' graphite drawings are filled with meticulous marks and shading that, like Deng's work, often fill the paper. Much of her work references shapes and forms that also explain the natural world. However, Richards investigates systems that provide forms of information—charts, imagery derived from science such as seismology and microscopy among others—to create works that represent and abstract our world. According to Philadelphia Museum of Art curator Shelley R. Langdale, "She creates conceptual landscapes using signs, symbols, and marks that suggest non-specific texts, codes, charts, maps, and other means of classification and systemization." ²

While based on elements of representation, the viewer will instead recognize that for both, the subject is the marks and fields of marks, be it Richards' drawn lines, dots and shading in graphite, or Deng's brushstrokes, blots and bleeding ink. These are the embodiment and fusion of imagery derived from our world and its abstraction.

¹ Beate Reifenscheid, Gong Yun-Biao, Shao Liang, and Julia Lohmann, Deng Guo Yuan: In the Garden (Koblenz: Ludwig Museum, 2007), 26.
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Rosalyn Richards, Interlocking Circles, 2007, graphite on paper, 20 x 17

Deng Guoyuan, In the Garden No. 62, 2006, ink and wash on paper, 182.5 x 143.5 cm.

Biographies

**Deng Guoyuan** was born in Tianjin, China in 1957. He is Chancellor of the University for Contemporary Visual Arts, an honorary professor at the University of South Dakota (USA) and a visiting professor of the University for Art and Design Hale (Germany). Deng is Dean of the School of Contemporary Art, Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts.

Deng has exhibited extensively in China and Germany, including solo exhibitions at the Ludwig Museum in Koblenz, Ralf Plein Gallery in Dusseldorf, Museum Villa Erckins in Grevenbroich, Paul Pozozza Museum in Berlin, and Dusseldorf Kunstlerverein Malkasten. He has been included in group exhibitions at Luebeck Museum, China National Art Gallery in Beijing, Shanghai Art Museum, and Leipzig Art Center.

**Rosalyn Richards** was born in Palo Alto, California in 1947. She received her BFA from Rhode Island School of Design and her MFA from Yale University. Richards has attended many artist residencies including Virginia Center for Creative Arts, and Ragdale (IL), and has been visiting artist at institutions including Cornell University and Colby College. Richards is Professor of Art at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA.

Richards has exhibited extensively, including solo exhibitions at Anchor Graphics in Chicago, Artemisia Gallery in Chicago, Print Center in Philadelphia, Anita Shapolsky Gallery in New York, and Village Gallery, Hauz Khas Village in New Delhi, India. She has been included in many group exhibitions at institutions including Susan Teller Gallery in New York, Davidson Galleries in Seattle, Boston University, University of Minnesota, Chiaroscuro Gallery – Auckland, New Zealand, and Prince Street Gallery in New York.
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Itinerary

12.15.09 - 1.10.10  Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts Museum, Tianjin, China

3.15 - 5.15.10  available
6.1 - 7.30.10  available
8.15 - 9.30.10  available

10.11 - 11.21.10  Samek Art Gallery, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA