

# **Hou ChunMing**

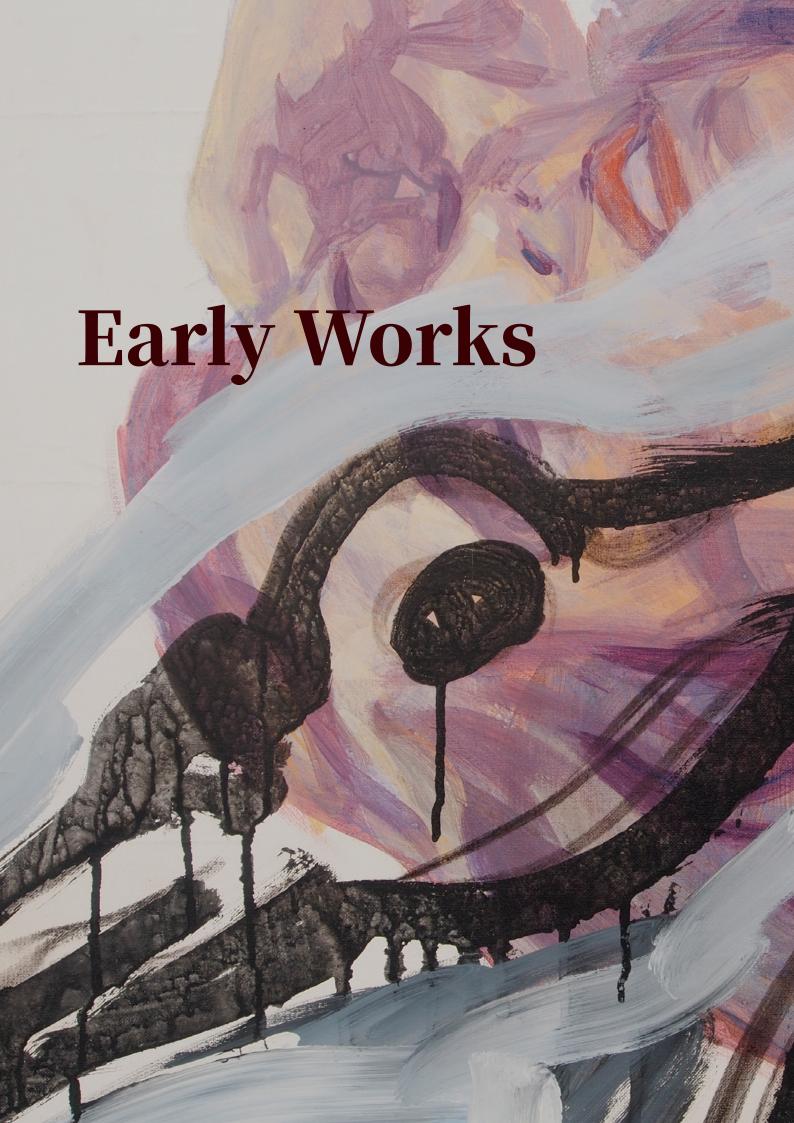


Hou ChunMing in late 1980's

Hou ChunMing (b. 1963, Taiwan) has developed a unique, multidisciplinary practice in career spanning over 30 years. Hou was not only one of the pioneers who were associated with the ending of martial law from the 1980s and 90s Taiwan, but as a highly experimental, innovative and controversial artist - his thesis exhibition in 1987 was shut down by the school.

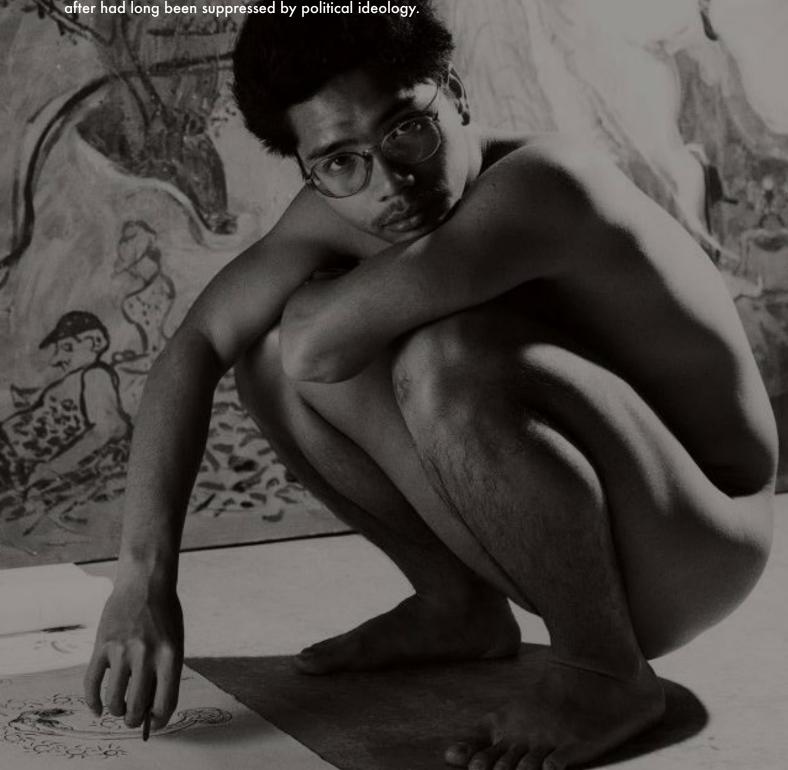
Hou ChunMing 's works are not about clean and gorgeous contemporary expression, nor about the grandiosity of the overwhelming group consciousness, but recordings of private secrets that have been long ignored or hidden and the liberation of the body, which is a carrier of spirit. That also reveals how the next generation should face the rivalry, irony, and sarcasm and look for "true freedom" for human beings. He takes 'body' not only as a way to provoke authoritarianism but also focuses on its character in Eastern folklore religion as psychic media.

Hou Chun Ming was invited twice to attend the Venice Biennale in 1995 and 2013, respectively. His artworks are included in the collections of The Ludwig Forum for International Art, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, M+ in Hong Kong, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Tainan Art Museum, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Dimension Endowment of Art, Wenhsiu Collection, Five Dime, and White Rabbit Gallery.



Hou's early works in the 1980s coincided with the martial law lift, but rather than responding to the emancipation of society and the 'larger self,' Hou's response is a collision of the taboos regards to body, sexuality, and ego in Asian society, as well as a rebellion challenges the traditional academic aesthetics. With his impactful themes and visual expressions, Hou became one of the leading figures in Taiwan's avant-garde artists at the time and the first and most significant one who explored the eroticism of human desire in Taiwanese contemporary art.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Hou created one of his iconic large-scale prints, 'Gods Searching,' which features enigmatic, surreal, and erotic immortal-like characters alongside traditional Chinese monition-like texts. This series serves as a powerful symbol of the 'body liberation' as well as the resurgence of 'Taiwanese people's free will' which begins to reconnect with their innate life force after had long been suppressed by political ideology.



'Swan Laying Eggs' and 'Phallus Horse,' featured in Hou's first solo exhibition, 'Little Women,' which shocked the Taiwanese art world, are two of Hou's rare oil paintings from the 1980s. In 'Swan Laying Eggs,' the Greek mythology story of Zeus and Leda is merged with a landscape of Chinese literati painting. The artist appears as a figure in the lower right corner who seem at a loss, alienated, observing the scene of the East and the West intercourse while the egg represents a new and unknown hybrid life created through the fusion of two cultures.

One the other hand, 'Phallus Horse' is a buzzard creature painted on printed fabric, the fantastical images of genital and animals emerging with repeated patterns conveying the unrestrained imagination of the artist.

In addition, The horse is an image that refers to wealth and power in traditional Chinese paintings; Hou painted it as a huge phallus indicating his rebellion against tradition and blending gender awareness at the same time. 'Swan Laying Eggs' and 'Phallus Horse' are directly from major private collections in Taiwan.





(L) Hou ChunMing, Phallus Horse, 1986, oil on floral cloth, 123 x 123 cm (R) Han Gan, Night-Shining White, 618-907, ink on paper, 35.4 cm x 11.4 m

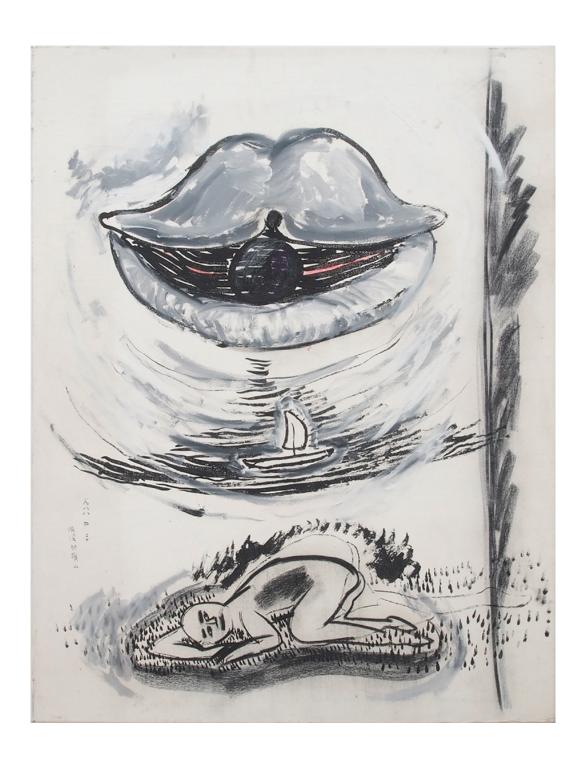




Hou ChunMing Swan Laying Eggs 1988 oil on canvas 150 x 120 cm x 2







Hou ChunMing Bell Sound 1988 charcoal on grey 142.5 x 110.5 cm





Hou ChunMing
Phallus Horse
1986
oil on floral cloth
123 x 123 cm





## Hou ChunMing

Oops
1986
acrylic, ink and pencil on floral cloth
100 x 95 cm

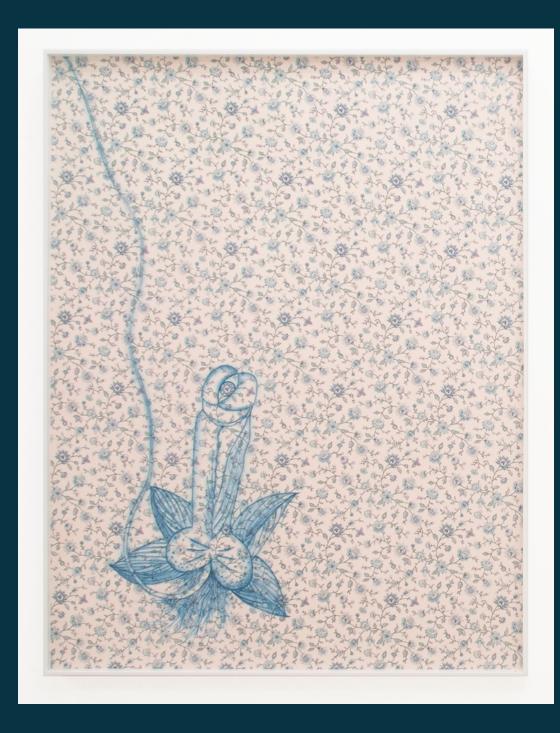


Like 'Phallus Horse,' since the 1980s, Hou started to paint on printed fabric, a common and easily found fabric across Taiwan. Yet, the bed-sheets-like patterns also symbolize desires, also being ironic to the elitism that traditional bird-flower painting represented. Of Hou's deep involvement in Taiwanese avant-garde art during the post-martial-law era, he is also a significant figure in the history of Taiwan's theater culture. His printed fabric paintings were commonly seen in his collaboration with Taiwanese little theatres. His actively involved led him to become the soul of contemporary art and theater in the 1980s. Such transdisciplinary cooperation reflected the valued decentralization spirit of the experimental theater at the time.



On these fabrics, he paints bold and rebellious sexual organs, as well as bizarre figures. However, the sex and violence in Hou's works are no longer his private desire - they are the topics that the public refuses to address. Hou once invited participants to do nude drawings of their own bodies, allowing them to portray their physical and inner conditions in an unabashed state. This exposure of the human body and taboo issues were contained in his studio, but the result of the painting elaborated their psychological states. As one of his most important creative methods, Hou sees this as a way of 'copying.' The process copies the exterior and interior aspects of a human, and also resembles a dialectical relationship between artist and subject.





Hou ChunMing
Blue Flower
2022
acrylic on printed fabric
110 x 85 cm



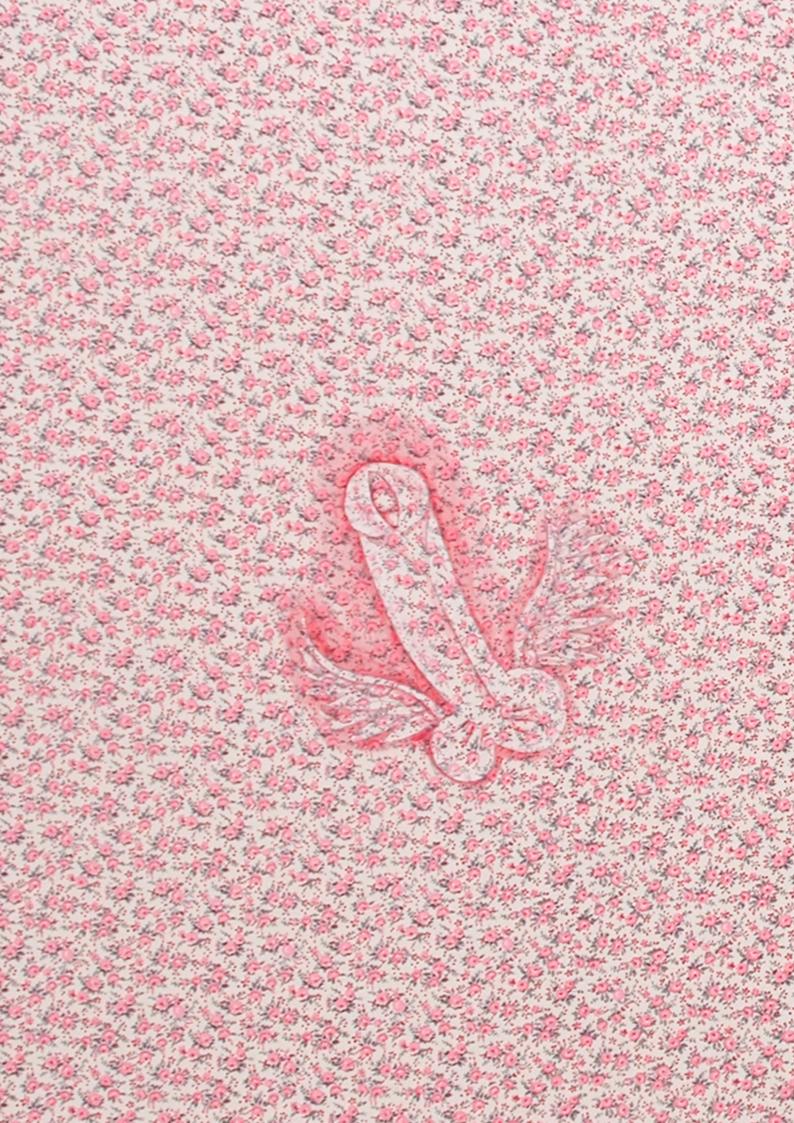


Hou ChunMing
Double Blue
2022
acrylic on printed fabric
110 x 84 cm





Hou ChunMing
Let it Fly
2022
acrylic on printed fabric
86 x 88 cm



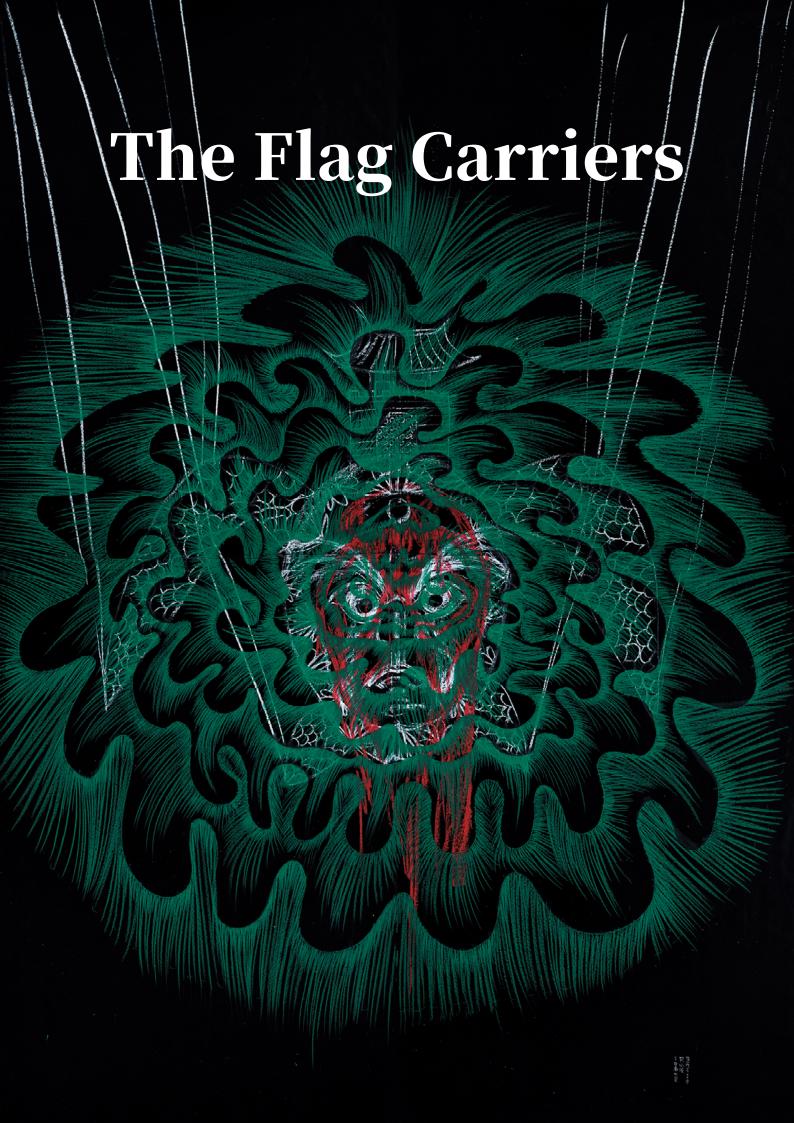


Hou ChunMing

Gathering
2022

oil on printed fabric
87 x 87 cm





'The Flag Carriers' is Hou's recent series regarding spirit medium in Taiwan temples. In Taiwan, religion is a combination of Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism, as well as the folk beliefs of immigrants that is based on the native land, and mediums play an important role in folklore religion, which is close to a psychic. Mediums carry flags that represent the deity, and through which they let the deity possess their body serving as a bridge of communication to answering people's questions.





Interview at Shueimen Temple

Interview at Qingcheng Temple

'The Flag Carriers' is an extension of Hou's long paid attention of 'body.' The body of medium is a portal for conveying deities' messages in order to resolve people's struggling, and after the deity leaves, medium is no different to us. The series is the artist's study/exploration of the psychic body by interviewing the mediums. First, he visits the temple as a worshipper to ask questions, then interviews the medium's thoughts and invites them to draw out their feelings for the deity over his/her full-sized body outline alongside Hou's. In the works, we can see different personalities and auras of each deity interpreted by mediums and the artist and the relationship between the two.

For Hou, the body synonyms desire. The theme is extensions of the body and variants of desire that have run through his work series for 30 years and still counting. But when it comes to the Flag Carriers, the medium is a desexualized existence as the portal of deity. "When we talk about physical desire, it is often self-related; on the contrary, since deities borrow the medium's body, it is desexualized." the artist said. Therefore interestingly, this desexualized body/voice subtly corresponds with Hou's role as an artist in the interviews. "I am like a cultural medium, a receiver and transmitter of messages in a broad sense. I am fascinated by this identity."



**Hou ChunMing** Medium of Jiutian Xuannu - Cihsin Temple - Wu Xiu Lian 2019 ink and colors on paper 312 x 304 cm





Hou ChunMing

Medium of Xuantian God - Xuanthang Temple - Zhang Li Qua 2019 ink and colors on paper 312 x 304 cm





**Hou ChunMing** Medium of Wufu Erjhen - Shueimen Temple - Xu Yi Yun 2019 ink and colors on paper 312 x 304 cm





Hou ChunMing

Medium of Emperor Wuying - Qingcheng Temple - Chen Wei Ting 2019 ink and colors on paper 312 x 304 cm





Hou ChunMing

Medium of Jhunti Fomu - Xuanyin Temple - Zhou Fang Ru 2019 ink and colors on paper 312 x 304 cm





# Hou ChunMing

Medium of Guangze the King - Shengwang Temple - Lin Chong Wei 2019 ink and colors on paper 312 x 304 cm







The Wild Eighties: Dawn of a Transdisciplinary Taiwan 2022, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan

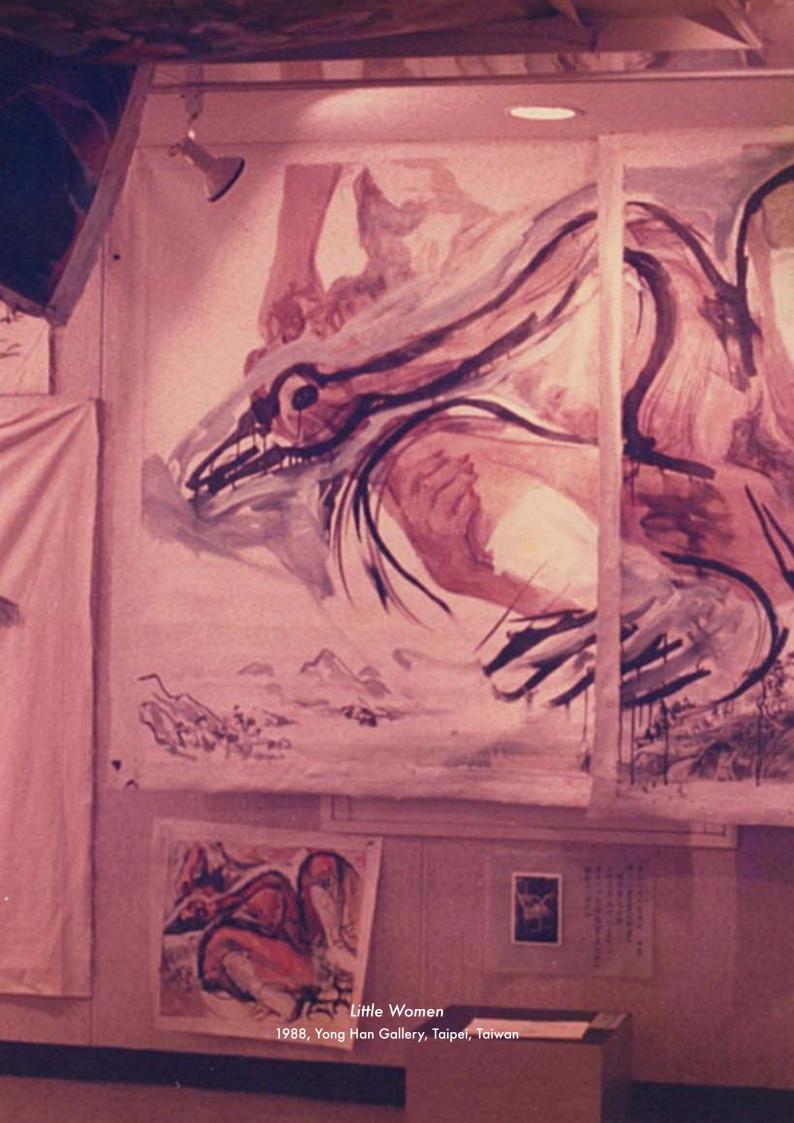
















#### Hou ChunMing

1963	Born in Chiayi, Taiwan
1987	Graduated from National Arts Academy (Now Taipei National University of the Arts)

Solo Ex	<u>xhibition</u>		
2022	Taipei Dangdai, Each Modern,	Taipei.	Taiwan

Hou Chun Ming's Solo Exhibition: the Needle Flesh, the NCCU Art and Culture Center, Taipei, Taiwan

- 2021 Break. Youth Hou Chun Ming, Cans Space, Taipei, Taiwan
- The Flag Carriers A Tainan Residency Interview Project with Taiwanese Shaman, Mizuiro Workshop, Tainan, Taiwan
   Hou Chun Ming Solo Show Be water: Hong Kong queer. Hong Kong body, Hiro Hiro Art Space, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2019 Hou Chun Ming's Solo Exhibition: Body Festival, Mizuiro Workshop, Tainan, Taiwan
- 2018 The Carving Board of Body Map, Art Central, Mizuiro Workshop, Hong Kong
- 2017 Knead and Gain "Body Map" Interview Project, Tunghai University Art Galley, Taichung, Taiwan
- Hemimetabolism: Hou Chun Ming's Art & His Manuscripts, National Central University Art Center,
   Taoyuan, Taiwan
   The Asian Father Interview Project: Fathers of Male Homosexuals in Hong Kong, Hui Gallery of the

Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

You Can't Admit Your Mistakes in Any Case, Zi Space, Taipei, Taiwan

- Hou Chun Ming's Solo Exhibitions: Had to Write, Huwei Salon, Yunlin, Taiwan
  The Asian Father Interview Project: Chiayi Episode, Meiling Fine Art Museum, Chiayi, Taiwan
- 2013 Happy Amulet, Lee Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan Collections of Talisman, Sincewell gallery, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
- 2012 Something Good to Say, Cans Tea & Book House, Taipei, Taiwan Hou Chun Ming's Solo Exhibitions, Mogan 99 art center, Shanghai, China
- 2011 Hou Chun Ming's Solo exhibition: Portrait Chronological Exhibition, InART space, Tainan, Taiwan
- 2010 Mandala of Love, Ai Kowada Gallery, Tokyo, Japan The Asian father interview project: Bangkok Episode, Ver Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand The Eight Immortals Crossing the Sea, INDEXG Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- the Asian father interview project: Taipei and Taichung Episode, L'orangerie Non Gallery, Taipei,
  Taiwan / National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan
  Hou Chun Ming's Solo exhibition: The Multifaceted Prince, Art Stock 20, Taichung, Taiwan
  Collision between Taboo and Desire: Hou Chun Ming's Works of Print 1992-2008, National Taiwan
  Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan / Culture and Tourism Bureau, Miaoli County, Miaoli, Taiwan
  The Announcement of Hou's Resurrection, the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Chiayi City, Chiayi, Taiwan
- 2008 In the Name of God, PYD Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
  The Asian father interview project:Yokohama Episode, Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, Japan
  Confession by Chung-Ming at Age 47, L'orangerie Non Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2007 Lace Whipping, The Grain Rain, Amorous Affair, Art Taipei, L'orangerie Non Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan The Rise of Dragon The Flight of Phoenix, Cans Book Shop, Beijing, China Journal by Pillow, 107 Gallery, Taichung, Taiwan Calm Down at Toufen, Moon Gallery, Taichung, Taiwan
- 2006 Journal by Pillow, Cans Book Shop, Beijing, China
- Going Home:The Reshaping Trilogy of Hou Chun Ming's Life, Lian Ting Living & Art Space / New Taipei City Library:Branch of Wanli/Yannick, Taipei, Taiwan
  Mind Writing, Dadaocheng Museum / China University of Technology / Cao Shan Dong Men Art Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2004 Hometown Plants, Hwataoyao, Miaoli, Taiwan
- 2002 Mido's Father, Wind Mountain Cloud Water, Chiayi, Taiwan
- 2001 Ali Temple, Galerie Pierre, Taichung, Taiwan
- 2000 Crawling on the Belly, Hanart Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
- 1997 Sinner in Paradise, IT Park, Taipei, Taiwan
- 1995 Hou Chun Ming's Print Solo Exhibition, Najota Gallery, Yokohama, Japan

- 1993 Hou Chun Ming's Solo Exhibition: A Myth of Mr. Hou, IT Park, Taipei, Taiwan Anecdotes about Spirits and Immortals, Lion Art Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan / New Vision Gallery, Taichung, Taiwan / Neo-eco Art Environment, Tainan, Taiwan
- 1992 The Resentful Soul, Apartment No.2, Taipei, Taiwan Erotic Paradise, Arp Gallery, Kaohsiung, Taiwan Hou Chun Ming's Three Prints: God of War, IT Park, Taipei, Taiwan
- 1991 The Wedding of Hou's Family: Red on the Ground, Taipei Dignity, Taipei, Taiwan
- 1990 A Myth of Mr. Hou: Detoxication, Auditorium at College of Fine Arts, Lujhou, Taipei, Taiwan Desire Punishment, City Art Gallery, Hong Kong, United Kingdom

#### Group Exhibition

- 2022 The Wild Eighties: Dawn of a Transdisciplinary Taiwan, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan PAPRIKA, Each Modern, Taipei, Taiwan
  - Print Out Times 2022 Taoyuan International Print Exhibition, Taoyuan Arts Center, Taoyuan, Taiwan
- 2021 Since the Prime Meridian Is Met: Commemorating the 20th Year of Moon Gallery, Moon Gallery, Taichung, Taiwan
- 2020 Re-visiting Landscape, Chiayi Art Museum, Chiayi, Taiwan
  Paying Tribute to Gods: The Art of Folk Belief, Tainan Art Museum, Tainan, Taiwan
  The Topography of a Decade: The Fund-raising Exhibition for the 10th Anniversary of The Cube
  Project Space, The Cube 7F, Taipei, Taiwan
  Paying Tribute to Gods: The Art of Folk Belief, Tainan Art Museum, Tainan, Taiwan
  The Topography of a Decade: The Fund-raising Exhibition for the 10th Anniversary of The Cube
  Project Space, The Cube 7F, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2019 YAO-CHI CITY: Taiwanese Paranormal Literature and Contemporary Art Exhibition, Taiwan Contemporary Culture Lab, Taipei, Taiwan Mulan, Make Up! Taiwan Academy in Los Angeles, Los Angeles, USA
- Tomb of Soul, Temple, Machine, and Self, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung, Taiwan A solitary male phoenix dancing in front of a mirror, Cans Space, Taipei, Taiwan Towards Mysterious Realities, Total Museum, Seoul, Korean Diversity Via Nature: Religion, Gender or Art?, Pon Ding, Taipei, Taiwan/Tentacles Art Space, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2017 The Terrain of Taiwan Contemporary Art, Double Square Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan Spectrosynthesis Asian LGBTQ Issues and Art Now, Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2016 Self-cultivation: The Personal Technology of Living Soma, Ying Art Center, Shanghai, China Underground Adventure, the Pier-2 Art Center, Kaohsiung, Taiwan The Possibility of an Island: Taiwan Biennial 2016, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan Towards Mysterious Realities, TKG Plus, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2015 Shoot the Pianist The Noise Scene in Taipei 1990-1995, University of London, London, United Kingdom
- Black Gold Section Art Festival:Inside Out, Art Site of Chiayi Railway Warehouse, Chiayi, Taiwan 2014 Ten Million Rooms of Yearning. Sex in Hong Kong, PARA-SITE, Hong Kong, China
- POST POP: EAST MEETS WEST, Saatchi Gallery, London, United Kingdom
  10th Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai, China
  - The Pioneers of Taiwanese Artists: 1961-1970, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan Hot soul: Joint Exhibition of the Artists in Taiwan, the Exhibition Hall of Chiayi Performing Arts Center, Chiayi, Taiwan
  - Art Taipei, ArtDoor Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2013 Majestic Island: The Development of Modern Art in Taiwan 1911-2011, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China/China Art Museum, Shanghai, China
  - Boundaries on the Move: A Cross-Culture Dialogue, Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Israel Turn Art Taiwan, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
  - 55th Venice Biennale: Voice of the Unseen, Venice, Italy
  - Gazing into Freedom: Taiwan Contemporary Art Exhibition, Museum of Contemporary Art Vojvodina, Republic of Serbia

Day	of Chen	Cheng Po:	Recreate the	Glory	of Art in	Chiayi	City, t	he Cultura	Affairs	Bureau	of (	Chiay
City,	Chiayi, '	Taiwan										

The Delight of Chinese Character Festival, the Pier-2 Art Center, Kaohsiung, Taiwan Art Taipei, ArtDoor Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan

Hui Aggregation:Cross-Strait Contemporary Art Exchange, Shanghai Xuhui Art Museum, Shanghai, China/Cheng Shiu University Art Center, Kaohsiung, Taiwan/Cultural Affairs Bureau of Taoyuan County, Taoyuan, Taiwan/Luodong Cultural Working House of Cultural Affairs Bureau of Yilan County, Yilan, Taiwan

- 2012 Artist in Wonderland: Kuandu Biennale, Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei, Taiwan Time game: Contemporary Appropriations of the Past, Taipei Fine Art Museum, Taipei, Taiwan Death and Life of Fiction: Taipei Biennial 2012, Taipei Fine Art Museum, Taipei, Taiwan Art Taipei, Moon Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2011 International Paper Art Exhibition and Symposium, Taipei, Taiwan Art Taipei, Moon Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2010 14th Festival de l'Imaginaire, St. Germain des Prus, Paris, France Yes, Taiwan: Taiwan Biennale, Taichung, Taiwan
- 2009 Always (as it was), Tang Temporary Art, Bangkok, Thailand
  Paper Symbol Medium Extending, Tang Temporary Art, Hong Kong, China
  Twelve Constellations, Sincewell gallery, Kaohsiung / Taiyu gallery, Chiayi, Taiwan
- 2008 In the Name of God, PYD Gallery, Seoul, South Korea A Kaleidoscopic View: Reinterpretations of Taiwanese Folk Images and Designs, Kaohsiung Fine Art Museum, Kaohsiung, Taiwan Art Taipei, Taipei, Taiwan
- Intimate Trend: Painting from Sichuan and Taiwan, Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei, Taiwan
  The Power of The Universe: The Frontier of Contemporary Chinese Art, Asian Art Center, Beijing,
  China

Dare to Art – The Genealogy of TNUA Fine Arts College, Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei, Taiwan

- 2006 The 15th JAALA Biennale, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan The Contemporary Landscape, MOCA, Taipei, Taiwan Body Love, Feng Chia University, Taichung, Taiwan
- The Mind Picture of Liu-chiao Family, Taoshan Humanity Hall, Chiayi, Taiwan
  The Pebble Land Exhibition, Hwataoyao/ Homer Lee's Art Center / East Gate Museum, Tainan / The
  Cultural Affair Bureau of Miaoli County, Taiwan
  The Fierce Chiayi Artists, Meiling Fine Art Museum, Chiayi, Taiwan
- 2004 Contemporary Taiwanese Art in the Era of Contention, Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, New York, USA
  Art Taipei, Taipei, Taiwan
  - Modern Art Festival, Golden Dragon Kiln, Miaoli, Taiwan
- 2002 I-ness: About Me, Kaohsiung Fine Art Museum, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
- 1999 Contemporary Taiwanese Art, Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan Fin de Siиcle Rituals: Contemporary Taiwanese Art, Taipei Gallery/Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, New York, USA
  - the Installation Exhibition at Mountain 99, Nantou County, Taiwan
- 1998 INSIDE OUT: NEW CHINESE ART, MoMA PS1/the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art / Asia Society Museum / Monterey Museum of Art / Hong Kong Museum of Art / Tacoma Art Museum Taipei Biennale: Site of Desire, Taipei Fine Art Museum, Taipei, Taiwan Fire at Night, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan
- 1997 Tracing Taiwan: Works on Paper, the Drawing Center, New York, USA
  Three Generations of Hong Kong Reading, Museum for 1997 Hang-over, Hong Kong Arts Center,
  Hong Kong, United Kingdom
  Transfigure in Middle Age, Landscape, City and Symphony: Taiwan Installation Art Exhibition in
  Taiwan, Chiayi City Art Center, Chiayi, Taiwan
- 1996 Container 96: Art Across Oceans, Copenhagen, Denmark
  Out of Gallery, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong, United Kingdom
  Art Today at Taiwan, Ludwig International Art Forum Hall, Berlin, Germany
  Biennale: The Question for Identity, Taipei Fine Art Museum, Taipei, Taiwan

1995	the 46th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
	Art Taiwan, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia
1992	Erotic Paradise, Extension vs Breaking, Taipei Fine Art Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
	NTU the February 28 Massacre Community Exhibition, Taipei, Taiwan
1991	the Society Observation Exhibition, Lion Art Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
1990	Busan International Biennale, Busan, South Korea
	Taiwan Document Cell Exhibition, U Theater, Taipei, Taiwan
1988	a Trio Exhibition in October, Yunhan Culture Hall, Taipei, Taiwan
1987	Graduation Exhibition,YFY Building, Taipei, Taiwan

# Selected Public Collections

Ludwig Forum for the International Art, Aachen, Germany

Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan

White Rabbit Gallery, Sydney, Australia

M Plus Museum, Kowloon, Hong Kong

National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung , Taiwan Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan

Tainan Art Museum, Tainan, Taiwan

Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Sunpride Foundation, Kowloon, Hong Kong Dimension Endowment of Art, Taipei, Taiwan

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