

Artwork Information - Shi Zhiying

Ocean

- After graduating, Shi visited her husband, who was studying in California. They visited a lighthouse in Point Reyes. When she looked out at the water, Shi felt an overwhelming experience as if she had “vanished from the world.” The ocean was so vast that she felt very small in its presence. This moment inspired her to study Buddhist scriptures and to seek the essential truths of the world.
- Shi recreates ocean’s large and nature by creating an endless horizon line. The dark colors meld into the white canvas to suggest a sense of infinity.

Marni Stones (2012)

- *Marni Stones* is part of Shi’s *Palomar* series, which was based on a book called *Mr. Palomar* by Italo Calvino
 - The main character, Mr. Palomar, goes on a quest to travel the world. During his journey he questions the nature of Being and what does it mean to be human.
- Each work in the series corresponds with a single chapter in the book.

Beads (2015)

- *Beads* was inspired by Herman Hesses’ novel, *The Glass Bead Game*. The book follows a man named Joseph, who joins an intellectual order that explores the arts and sciences.

Rock Carving of Thousand Buddhas (2014-2015)

- Inspired by ancient stele stones at the Shanghai Museum, which is possibly called the *Thousand Buddha Stele: Northern Zhao Dynasty (552-581)*
- The Thousand Buddha motif evokes a sense of transcendence beyond the mortal world

The Temple of Heaven (2014)

- Inspired by an actual site called the *Temple of Heaven* in Tiantan Park, Beijing, which was built in the first half of the 15th century.
- The site and its complex buildings symbolize the relationship between earth and heaven, which is at the heart of Chinese cosmogony.
- Interesting enough however, Shi does not include the actual temple in her painting.

White Marble Figure of Buddha (2014)

- Inspired by her visit to the Shaanxi Province, where she viewed ancient sculptures and relics in tombs.
- This piece reflects Shi’s belief of transforming an image through repetitive practice. She layers her brushstrokes carefully to give the figure a sense of weightlessness.