**Zhai Liang: Imaginary Comedy**

Duration: May 16, 2020 - June 28, 2020

Opening: May 16, 2020 (Saturday）15：00-18：00

Organizer: A Thousand Plateaus Art Space

Artists: Zhai Liang

Media: Painting

Venue: A Thousand Plateaus Art Space

South Square, Tiexiang Temple Riverfront, Shengbang Street, High-tech Development Zone, Chengdu, China

A Thousand Plateaus Art Space is pleased to launch Zhai Liang’s solo exhibition “Imaginary Comedy” on May 16, 2020, as the first exhibition of this year. Zhai Liang has been cooperating with A Thousand Plateaus Art Space for about ten years and has always maintained the avant-garde spirit of exploration and unique personal style, through which he gradually grows into a high-profile cutting-edge artist.

Zhai Liang’s work is famous for its fusion of pictorial representation and literalization. His early series “The Garden of Forking Paths” regarded the novel of Jorge Luis Borges’ novels as the breakthrough point, transforming the stories and characters into visualized “hypertext” and extending the observation of painting to the spatial narrative itself. Later, he entered a new progress of thinking and accumulation. In solo exhibition “Slow”, he simplified the narrative structures and strengthened the experiments of brush strokes and picture’s textures, unfolding his own “literature” in his unique way.

This solo exhibition will present Zhai Liang’s latest works created since 2019. “Imaginary Comedy” maintains the creative style as that of exhibition “The Garden of Forking Paths” in which the literalization and visualization are fused. Starting with the surreal depiction of famous comedian Charlie Chaplin, the artist penetrates the comedy itself and the tragic core behind that, as well as the relationship among different actors, artists, philosophers and their historical backgrounds. Meanwhile, Zhai Liang keeps exploring into methodologies of painting and visual structures, thus the insightful painting language and speculative themes can be integrated. This makes his work visually pleasant while not lose its critical foundation.

Special Tips: The epidemic hasn’t finished yet, and life still goes on; A Thousand Plateaus Art Space suggests that the audience avoids to travel in rush days and takes protective measures. Health First.

The exhibition will last until June 28th,2020.

# ZHAI LIANG was born in Shanxi, China，1983.

# Graduated from the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute, Chongqing in 2006，Graduated from the Central Academy of Fine Art，Beijing in 2009.

# He currently lives and works in Beijing

Knowledge serves as a nutrient for painting, flashing before us spontaneously, or acting as a suitable background that can incite the imagination of the artist. Whether it's a story or a word: eventually they all take on this role of incentive. Within his bulky, diversified knowledge system, Zhai Liang takes a hopping/dipping approach to his selection of themes. Based on a previous painting he then further infers how a new piece should be done, which results in a visual logic. Hence, every work is brimming with freshness and life, reflecting the clumsiness and modesty of the artist with respect to any new painting. As for the works among themselves, some are large and some are small, but all of them share a similar orientation of interest. By means of gradual, substantial and personal experience of the artist himself, his paintings contribute to the forging of an unbridled visual system.

In the works of Zhai Liang, pictures merely serve as a preface or gateway: through traditionally made sketches, they are transformed again into the material/stuff out of which his paintings are made. Some of the works are even devoid of photo materials, and were directly created based on a pictorial logic. The artist renounces the restrictions imposed on his paintings by images (often overflowing with information and jumbled), thereby conferring a liberty onto the act of painting. He often takes lessons from "pre-modernist" artists such as Brueghel or Manet. The conciseness and simplicity of those painters have had a profound influence on him. Hence, Zhai Liang's artworks are most concerned with the power of painting itself, the various styles at work within the painting, be it portraits, abstract painting, written script, etc. All of these essentially come down to the same thing, since they all operate according to the logic of painting itself. They all relate to the same question: "How can a world be fabricated from scratch?"