A city has many ways of taking your attention; the busy streets, the unavoidable calls to your materialistic wants, the crowds of people that distract you from even your own thoughts- the blend of developmental thirst that melds with the hustle and bustle to either draw you into its pacing run, or feel lost among those being tided away. When I first met Xie Ai Ge in Shanghai, I was pleasantly taken aback by the calm and poise that emanated from the gifted artist. Surrounded by a city rushing to its own means, she stood before me simple, composed and meditative, untouched by all that surrounded her. It is therefore no surprise that her incredible creative pursuits emanate the same tranquil and spiritual connect that are rooted in the artist herself, inspiring mental trails of introspection, and reflections of freedom and quiet contentment.

Constructed from the purity of being and the harmonious communes of nature and man, Ode to Art is delighted to present to you, ‘Tree’, the newest series of works by the celebrated and accomplished Chinese artist Xie Ai Ge.

A composite of natural harmonies and spiritual pursuits, Xie Ai Ge’s ‘Tree’ series focuses on the harmony between nature and man, and the happiness that lies in simple pursuit. Skilfully combining representation and metaphor, the artist reveals images of indistinct, unadorned figures cavorting in the company of trees, birds, clouds, mountains, and each other, or resting meditatively, free of all external agitation in silent convene. The artist’s works consist of many significant symbols, such as the bird- an inspiration of freedom to the artist, who had a striking personal experience with nursing one back to health before letting it go to fly unattached- or the mountains, that signifies not only the artist’s hometown that first seeded the happiness of simplicity in her, but the unmovable resolution of being larger than life- unchangeable by all around it. The trees themselves often symbolize the spiritual journey upwards, with the characters placed in various stages of ascending- be it reaching out to grasp freedom, or meditating on clouds at the enlightened top.
Foreword continued...

Being a strong female figure in the field of Chinese Art, Xie Ai Ge has often admitted to her feminist tendencies and her pride in being a woman of freedom and independence. Her non-commitance to divides is further showcased by her abhorrence of superficial gains, and society’s obsession with the outward and materialistic. In ‘Tree’, we see her characters purposefully and endearingly faceless, identified only by the smoothness of their skin, the simplicity of their clothing and the unbridled happiness, contentment or peace in their expressions. Thus, they move beyond divide to represent humanity itself, and the universal pursuit for joy and internal composure. Thus the works of Xie Ai Ge encapsulate simplicity and introspections both universal and of the artist herself, commenting on states of being, both internally and externally, in the face of the undulating modern age.

A celebrated Chinese artist and one of the few female sculptures of her time to have made a name and presence internationally, Xie Ai Ge has numerous awards, exhibitions and accolades under her belt. Creatively unrelenting, the artist continues to explore both medium and concept, surging forward into new artistic challenges- a process that Ode to Art is humbled to be a part of. I invite all of you- whether you are a city dweller or humble country man, man or woman, adult or child- to come celebrate with us the universality of humanity, and the tranquil coalescence of nature and man- rooted in the intrinsic desires of our spiritual freedom.

Jazz Chong
Director of Ode To Art.

Come
Bronze, 66 x 19 x 53cm
Firstly, let’s start by taking a look at my childhood background. Living an impoverished life on the mountain, I often had to take up the responsibilities as a child to support my family. As such, I would only be able to finish my daily homework after returning home from completing my work outside. A child is often naïve and innocent with simple thoughts; sometimes as simple as the relationship of just a horizontal or vertical line. We didn’t really pursue a lot of things and of course, at such a young age, we had nothing much that needed us to pursue. It was all about enjoying the fun and joyful moments we had as a child.

So apart from going to school, we would spend most of our time playing with our play mates and friends. What we would often find in the midst of the mountains are abundance of trees, stones and rocks, birds and animals. We would often engrave our names on our favourite trees as we wait for the years pass in order to witness the changes in our lives. We would also build our own tree houses so that it will be the ‘secret-hideout’ with our friends. In addition, sometimes we will save lost baby birds and bring them back to their homes. During those times, we felt truly satisfied coming from our inner souls, never encountering a sign of dullness or lifelessness.

Life in the mountains often presented us with joyful surprises which still linger in our memory till today. Sometimes we witness how a wild rabbit can outrun a domestic rabbit; we would appreciate the beauty of wild birds’ feathers; we would discover the sweetness of small peaches and witness the lives of blossoming lilies.

Despite all those discoveries, the trees in the mountains are still the main source of entertainment and toys for us. The children would dash through the mountains and the trees were the marks which would signal to us how far we have gone. These memories often provoked indescribable feelings in me and till today, whenever I see the forest, I would often quiet down and a wave of comfort would wash over me. I want to search for the hidden secrets and power of these mysterious forests.

The taste of happiness is ineffable for us, namely the people who live in the mountains and to us, happiness is simple concept. The relationship between one person and another is straightforward and frank. However, in our society today, this simplistic lifestyle is fading away and it includes each one of us. Today, more and more people living in the mountains are moving to the city, adapting to new lives and as for the people living in the cities, the daily
encounters they come across often makes them forget about who they really are.

Our own interests are frequently turning into business-like matters and this is evident in the big cities we now live in as a source of survival. It doesn’t matter whether it’s New York or Shanghai, everyone is rushing in the bustling city. It seems as though we never have the time to stop even take a break. I am tired of this kind of life; I am tired of this kind of living environment. Whenever I feel this way, the nostalgic childhood memories of mine would often refresh my soul, reminding me of those joyful carefree times in the mountains. These kinds of moment are especially great for an artist as it releases us from the environment and brings us beyond what is in this current world.

The Bird is a symbol of freedom, but the Bird is also a symbol of pursuit. With the different styles and shapes that are used to create different personalities of the bird, I hope that it will create a sense of beauty and balance for our inner selves.

The Apple is often one of the prominent subjects in my works. The Apple is more than just a source of food so in my sculptures, the Apple is a representation of thoughts which helps to create a more positive and balanced energy for the overall piece.

So from this new series, we can see how the artist’s free and pure attitude in her works from the observations of our lives encourages our human hearts and minds to open up, thus arriving at the title of this series, “Tree Top Memories”.
Find
Bronze, 96 x 30 x 49cm
Lie In
Bronze, 145 x 42 x 84cm
TREE TOP MEMORIES
Play
Bronze, 82 x 26 x 40cm
Upside Down
Bronze, 78 x 34 x 63cm
Up High
Bronze, 102 x 23 x 42cm
Wait
Bronze, 74 x 28 x 88cm
Climb
Bronze, 53 x 19 x 66cm
You & Me
Bronze, 143 x 42 x 84cm
XIE AI GE
Balance

Bronze, 82 x 44 x 57cm
Cloud Dream
Bronze, 63 x 34 x 27cm
Model in the Studio
Oil on Canvas
56 x 44 cm
Xie Ai Ge
Lead
Bronze, 63 x 28 x 34cm
Pray
Bronze, 70 x 20 x 45cm
*Up Top*
Bronze, 88 x 27 x 33cm
Sitting
Bronze, 33 x 30 x 49cm
Squat
Bronze, 61 x 29 x 34cm
XIE AI GE
Title
Bronze, Size
Title
Bronze, Size
Fairy Horse Series No 1
Bronze, 53 x 27 x 91cm
Fairy Horse Series No 10
Bronze, 40 x 41 x 71cm
Fairy Horse Series No 2
Bronze, 60 x 26 x 65cm
Wrestling, 2012

Bronze, 35 x 22 x 52 cm

XIE AI GE
Fairy Horse Series No. 3
Bronze, 36 x 30 x 64cm
Fairy Horse Series No 4
Bronze, 38 x 28 x 66cm
Fairy Horse Series No 5
Bronze, 60 x 23 x 62cm
Fairy Horse Series No 6
Bronze, 57 x 24 x 75cm
Fairy Horse Series No 7
Bronze, 72 x 41 x 56cm
Fairy Horse Series No 8
Bronze, 56 x 23 x 62cm
Fairy Horse Series No 9
Bronze, 34 x 15 x 95cm
Tai Chi No. 8
Bronze, 90 x 75 x 54cm
Tai Chi No.3
Bronze, 90 x 40 x 67cm
Tai Chi No. 6
Bronze, 90 x 32 x 53 cm

Xie Ai Ge
Tai Chi No.7
Bronze, 62 x 39 x 90cm
Tai Chi No.5
Bronze, 90 x 33 x 60cm
Xie ai ge
Biography

1977  Xie Aige Born in 1977 year, Hunan province China

EXHIBITIONS

2014  Tree Top Memories Exhibition, Ode to Art Singapore
       Miami Art Fair
       Tree Top Memories England
       NO1 PHYSICAL REACTION, Shanghai China
2012  Shanghai newspaper art exhibition
       No wall exhibition in Shanghai china
       Pure feel art exhibition Shanghai china
       No talk sculpture invite exhibition china
       Netherland art biennial exhibition
       Moproo is my own private room exhibition
2011  Kohler Art Project National Touring Exhibition
       LosAngeles Art contemporary Fair in America
       Ceramic Woman Art Exhibition Germany Crailsheim Museum
2009  Xi An Contemporary Female Art Exhibition
       China, Korea Art Exchange Exhibition
       Habitat heart solo Exhibition Shanghai
       Dazzled and enchanted New Age Animamix 2009 - 2010, Guangdong Museum
2008  Shanghai Sculpture Art Center Redtown Salon —Happy Land
       Shanghai Sunart Gallery—self cultivation & refinement
       LanZhoub GuCang Museum—talk togther
2007  Shanghai Youth and Midlife Artists Commending Exhibition
       Shanghai Duolun museum of modern art—“A Peaceful Nature” sculpture solo exhibition
2006  German Consulate General Shanghai —A Feminine World in Clay and on Paper
2005  Super Brand Mall Autumn Art Show
       Shanghai international Biennial Urban Sculpture Exhibition
       Vision Express - 2005 Shanghai Youth Biennial Exhibition
       Exhibition - i have a date with spring
       Exhibition of natural instincts; metal, wood, water, fire, soil.
2004  Shanghai University—Chinese and Korean Ceramic Art Exchange Exhibition.
2003  Shanghai Spring Art Salon Xie Aige Ceramics Exhibition—J-gallery
2001  international Ceramic Art Exhibition, Yixing China

PRINTS

<Art China>
<Ceramic Art>
<China Daily>,
<How>
<Shanghai Daily>
<Shanghai TV>
TREE TOP MEMORIES
XIE AI GE

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