

## Chinese Contemporary Artists (9)

# Yan Ping: Deal with the Eternal

“A lot of Chinese painters today work in a realist style because they believe it is more objective in dealing with current events and that seems to be popular. I work in an expressionist style and thematically, I deal with that which is eternal.”

By JON BURRIS

THERE are far fewer contemporary Chinese female artists than male artists, especially painters. That is a simple fact substantiated for the most part in the marketplace but also, statistically, by the number of female artists whose work is exhibited in museums. Yan Ping is an exception. She is a woman who has had a successful career as a working artist and as a teacher. I first became aware of her large, expressionist paintings in the major art auctions throughout China in the late 1990s although her work had been exhibited in museums since 1993, and she had won numerous awards in public exhibitions.

The first time we met was in 2005 at her studio on the campus of Renmin University of China, Beijing, where she was a professor at the Xu Beihong Art Institute. At that first meeting, I remember thinking that Ping was such a small woman and her canvases were huge, full of energy and power, so how did she accomplish these works? I discovered that she is full of energy that manifests in the power one feels in her paintings. She was animated, moving constantly, shuffling around canvases twice her size.

