



COME INTO YOUR OWN

映于未时

DAVID CHEW
SOLO ART SHOW
2024



◀ **Movement-I, 《动-I》**
2024
—
Acrylic on canvas
60cm x 90cm
RM3,600

This piece revisits the essence of action painting, where every brushstroke and motion flows from my intuition in the moment. This approach, sparked by a chat about human versus digital (AI) artistry, makes me believe that as a human artist, I bring a unique sense of movement to my pieces. You can feel the warmth of my hands in the flowing lines and energetic strokes, each one a reflection of the human touch.

“WHO AM I?”

I spent a long time searching for the answer to this question. I attended workshops, read books that speak to me, and observed the people and things around me. I discovered that my identity is not defined by the roles I play or the positions I hold, but by the beliefs and values I uphold.

The core values that have guided me over the past decade are shaped by the following concepts: *Dao* (道, the Way), *Fa* (法, the Method), and *Shu* (术, the Techniques or Skills). While exploring *Dao*, the underlying principle of the universe, I seek to live in harmony with natural principles, guiding my personal growth and decisions through fundamental values, effective methods, and practical techniques.



As an artist, I have explored impressionism and am currently delving into abstract expressionism, while also experimenting with the undefinable. However, I am not defined by any specific style or genre. Instead, I will continue to pursue *Fa* and *Shu* that speak to my heart and let *Dao* flow my art.

PAST, TODAY, FUTURE

Acrylic on canvas 213.5cm x 511cm RM70,000

(过去, 今天, 未来), 2024



The past is gone, whether it was filled with successes or failures. All that remains are the experiences, which fade into the distance and become less clear over time.

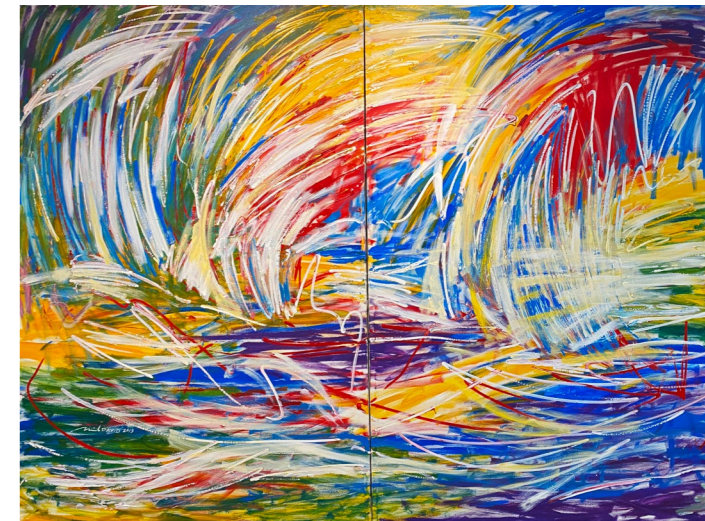
What is certain, however, is today—the present moment. The person we are today is the sum of all our past experiences and events.

The future is uncertain, a realm of possibilities that awaits us. It is shaped by the steps we take today, as we explore, learn, and grow. It is our responsibility to pass on our wisdom to the next generation, with the hope that they will build upon it, creating a better life and a better world.

◀ **Movement-II, 《动-II》**
2024
—
Acrylic on canvas
122cm x 183cm
RM 14,400

This piece revisits the essence of action painting, where every brushstroke and motion flows from my intuition in the

moment. This approach, sparked by a chat about human versus digital (AI) artistry, makes me believe that as a human artist, I bring a unique sense of movement to my pieces. You can feel the warmth of my hands in the flowing lines and energetic strokes, each one a reflection of the human touch.



◀ **Authentic-V, 《真我-V》**
2012
—
Acrylic on canvas
183cm x 244cm
RM28,800

Can I paint with the uninhibited freedom of a three-year-old at nearly forty?

Can I create a piece that embodies a child's boundless imagination, free from rules and conventions?

In this work, I seek to defy order with every stroke and vibrant hue, celebrating the joy of limitless creation. I strive to capture the essence of childlike wonder and connect deeply with my emotions.

Many people are curious about the way I create my artwork. Personally, I engage with my environment through various sensory experiences: reading, listening, observing, touching, and feeling. By immersing myself in books, rhythms, stories, patterns, colours, and textures, I absorb these elements into both my unconscious and conscious mind. This sensory input often evokes particular feelings and reactions, which are then internalised and can spark inspiration. A method I employ involves deconstructing and reconstructing structures iteratively until achieving a satisfying result, guided by my personal worldview.

— David Chew

Come Into Your Own,
David Chew Solo Art Show 2024
Curator © Nana Z

Chen Li Li (@LeeDzign),
artistic director
Yvonne Sharon Mikolden,
marketing manager
Sarah Bong
Lucas Chew
Hoan Gallery, La Promenade Mall
Special thanks:
En.Badrolhisham bin Mohamad Tahir,
strategic advisor



◀ **Beyond Horizons: Ascend to New Vistas, 《忘掉地平线、飞的更高》 2023**

—
Acrylic on canvas
122cm x 152cm
RM11,900

This artwork captures the essence of transcending limits for broader views. This artwork inspires viewers to surpass the familiar, exploring greater beauty and possibilities from a higher perspective. It's an invitation to contemplation on the transformative power of seeking higher ground, both literally and metaphorically, to gain a more profound appreciation of the world's vastness and splendour.



◀ **The Sediment of Time, 《岁月的智慧》 2022**

—
Acrylic on canvas
92cm x 122cm
RM7,200

The essence of wisdom formed through the years. Each colour and form in the painting holds the depth of experiences, like layers left by the passage of time. It reflects on the quiet growth within us, the strength that comes from life's many moments. This artwork invites viewers to feel the assurance that builds up with time, recognising the profound insights gathered along the journey.

▶ **Continuum, 《延续》 2022**

—
Acrylic on canvas
92cm x 122cm
RM7,200

This creation is a dialogue between father and son: the five-year-old expressed freely with colours in motion, while the father responded to complete the piece. It reflects a connection between generations, a deep exchange of feelings, and a passing down of wisdom to sustain for years to come.



◀ **Unconditional Love, 《大爱》 2023**

—
Acrylic on canvas
92cm x 122cm
RM7,200

Love, as the most powerful force in life, transcends all temporal and spatial boundaries, be it affection for family, care for friends, devotion to society, or reverence for all living beings. In my emotional palette, love is blended from soft hues of red, yellow, and orange.



CURATOR'S MESSAGE

Who says that the prime of life ends before 50 and the golden years don't start until 65? At 50, when many are expected to come to terms with their destiny, we can still hold on to a strong sense of purpose and vitality. We also come to understand more deeply what it means to persevere and when it's time to let go.

Come Into Your Own represents an introspective dialogue of artist David Chew at the age of fifty, reflecting on his artistic journey. From striving for accurate representation to moving away from visual realism, and from expressing every emotion on the canvas to focusing solely on joy, he has gradually embraced the journey of seeking light within darkness. Using colour blocks and strokes, he encodes his life experiences and thoughts onto the canvas. In an age of information overload and growing social detachment, his abstract art serves as a means to reconnect with his inner strength. The solo show also embodies the artist's aspiration for the future: to clear away the inner dust and rediscover the enduring, shining diamond within.

Expressing ideas through abstract art and interpreting them through abstract strokes are both forms of dialogue between hearts and minds. Our perspectives are shaped by our unique interests, experiences, and circumstances. This often creates barriers to effective dialogue but also offers a unique opportunity for multivocal expression. We hope this art show serves as a forum where different minds connect and spark unique interactions.



▶ **Wheatfield with Hopes, 《希望的麦田》 2023**

—
Acrylic on canvas
90cm x 480cm
RM27,900

This artwork is inspired by Van Gogh's Wheat Field with Crows. While Van Gogh's piece conveys 'sadness, extreme loneliness', it also seeks to show something 'healthy and fortifying about the countryside'. In my piece, I retain the golden wheat fields but discard the foreboding shadow of crows and the gloomy clouds, leaving only sunshine and the vast landscape. This piece is more than just a painting for me; it is an emotional refuge. It reminds me that, no matter the storms I face, the sunlight will always dispel the clouds, and hope will always take root and grow in my heart.



◀ **Change, 《变》 2023**

—
Acrylic on canvas
60cm x 90cm
RM 3,600

For the past five years, I have struggled for change—a breakthrough in my art style. During this period, I created this piece with brush strokes mimicking childlike spontaneity. Using only blue, red, and yellow—the primary colours—I aimed to connect with something fundamental.

I named it "Change" to remind myself that embracing discomfort and stepping out of my comfort zone is part of the journey. Perhaps a breakthrough is on the horizon.



◀ **Grace, 《从容》 2024**

—
Acrylic on canvas
60cm x 90cm
RM 3,600

Regardless of the challenges and changes encountered, one should maintain inner peace and determination, facing everything with grace. Experience the confidence and tranquility from deep within, and transform it into strength to overcome challenges.



▶ **Completeness, 《完整》 2012**

—
Acrylic on canvas
183cm x 122cm
RM 14,400

Many people have been constantly searching for a complete life; others have had what is considered a complete

life but still let it go; and many have it but don't even realise it.

What does "completeness" really mean? It's a life filled with joy and abundant love, free from fear. With these thoughts in mind, I depict "completeness" in my own way. The piece features various forms without fixed shapes—just as long as it feels complete.

▶ **Elevated Insights, 《翱翔高处》 2023**

—
Acrylic on canvas
122cm x 183cm
RM14,400

When caught in a predicament, perhaps the best strategy is not to wrestle with the problem but to detach from it and view the broader perspective from a higher vantage point.

