

ELISABETH DE BRABANT

CHINESE CONTEMPORARY FINE ART

THE NAKED ZITHER

SHAN SA



**ART + LITERATURE
MAY 31 - JULY 2010, SHANGHAI**

Elisabeth de Brabant Private Villa



In celebration of the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai, Elisabeth de Brabant is honored to present the avant-premiere of the new literary masterpiece written by the artist, Shan Sa -- *The Naked Zither* -- accompanied by an exhibition of the artist's works in oil, Chinese ink, and photography. It has been over two years since the Art Center first introduced Shan Sa's return to her native China and her creativity and talent do not stop to amaze us.

The traditional Chinese literati's essential education required an artist-scholar to be well versed in many disciplines: literature, calligraphy, painting and music. We are honored to celebrate a great woman whose rarity is in keeping with these traditions, whose talent is multi-faceted and who is truly a unique artist in our current society.

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Shan Sa has acquired the efficiency of construction and à-plats from Western art. But never for a moment, even in her monumental oil paintings, did she try to move away from her pure Chinese traditional style, which she expresses with a delightful sovereignty and a proud lightness. In her paintings, we can enjoy the wonderful nature described by the Chinese poets.

“THE NAKED ZITHER”



The novel is set in China during the South-North dynasties (420-589 AD), alongside the Yangzi River, when North China, occupied by the nomad tribes, clashed with Southern China of Chinese exiles.

Born to an aristocratic family, she was kidnapped the day before her wedding by a captain of the Imperial Army and forced to follow the path of his warfare. After falling into a world of violence, hunger and disease, she was unexpectedly taken to the Forbidden City.

A young zither maker from the lowest cast, broke into an imperial tomb, stole the precious sarcophagus and carved a zither by using the sarcophagus wood. The sacred music awoke the ghost of an empress.

The seven strings zither was created by a semi-god called Fu Xi who invented language, mathematics and the use of fire for Chinese people. Its education was reserved to a limited number of initiated. As its magical aria resonated, ancient cities, fabulous temples, warriors, conspirators, poets, pirates flew out of the misty vastness of the Yangzi River.



Background on Shan Sa



Shan Sa was born in Beijing and resides in Paris.

At the age of eight, she made a sensation in China when her first poems were published in "Poetry" magazine. At the age of nine, she was acclaimed as the youngest poet, a phenomenon of Chinese modern literature. Before the age of sixteen, she had already published four collections of her poems in Chinese.

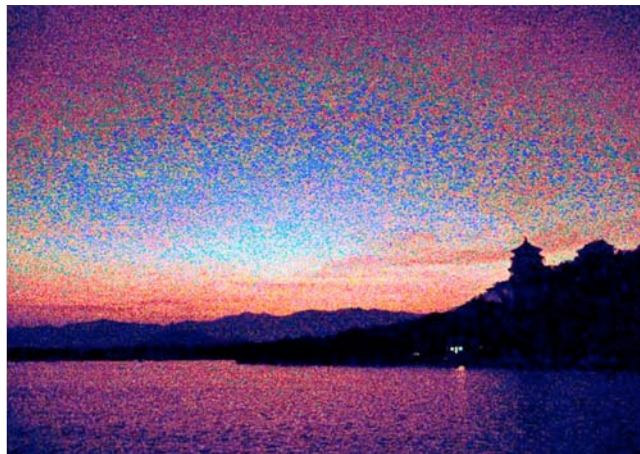
In 1990, she moved to Paris as a teenager. From 1994 to 1996 she worked for the artist Balthus in Switzerland. In 1997, she returned to France and published her first novel, *Porte de la Paix Céleste*, which won the Goncourt for best first novel.

Later, at age of twenty-eight, she published her internationally renowned novel, "The Girl Who Played Go". She has sold 350,000 copies of her third novel in France. Her writings have been translated into more than thirty languages.

Shan Sa is now acclaimed worldwide as an author. She has published six novels and has received the prestigious *Goncourt* awards.

Her novels have been published in the United States by Knopf and Harper-Collins.

Shan Sa's works have been shown in prominent exhibitions in New York, Paris, Tokyo and Shanghai, including the traveling exhibition "Time in West, Light in East" hosted at Elisabeth de Brabant Art Center in April 2009.



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PLEASE NOTE:

Shan Sa will be available in Shanghai for interviews from May 30 to June 5th.

PRESS PREVIEW / VIP OPENING / BOOK SIGNING

Date: May 31, 2010

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

EXHIBITION DATES

Dates: May 31 – July, 2010

Please RSVP to receive the address of the Elisabeth de Brabant Private Villa in the French Concession.

RSVP

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Tues-Fri, 10a – 6:30p; Sat & Sun, 1:30 – 6:30p; Closed on Mondays

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