

M (AKA MICHAEL CHOW)

BID NOW

Landscape with wild flowers

No. 8, 2023

Acrylic, handmade sterling silver, gold leaf, and eggshells collaged on canvas
76.2 in. x 75.2 in. / 195.4 cm. x 192.3 cm.

Following 50 years of success with his international restaurant empire, MR. CHOW, M (aka Michael Chow, b. 1939, Beijing) creates abstract paintings that embody what he calls his recipe: a unique fusion of Asian, American, and European aesthetics. His canvas is a battleground where he pours thick household paint, shoots from a paint gun, and scatters debris to control chaos, often physically immersing himself in the process. The paintings, resembling apocalyptic landscapes during creation, transform into luminous, atmospheric renderings of the cosmos. M's artistic journey spans sixty years and draws from diverse influences, including his experiences in theater, painting, and cuisine.

M rekindled his interest in painting in 2011. This resurgence was sparked by Jeffrey Deitch, then Director of MOCA, Los Angeles, who discovered his artwork and urged him to resume his artistic pursuits. Jeffrey Deitch expressed, "I knew that he came from an artistic background, but I didn't know that he was a very serious painter. There is this energy and drive of a young artist, but also this wisdom and experience of a mature man." The early works feature dense compositions with sheets of silver, invoking Jean Dubuffet and Alberto Burri. As his practice evolves, Chinese landscape structures and calligraphic grace infuse his paintings with movement and fluidity. M's paintings, a synthesis of his multifaceted life, represent not only exceptional artistic vision but also an extraordinary life story.

Courtesy of Studio of M aka Michael Chow, Los Angeles, and Kristy Stubbs Gallery

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