

## Fabienne VERDIER (Born in 1962)

**Fabienne Verdier** is an internationally celebrated artist who bridges the dialogue between Eastern and Western artistic traditions, being one of the very few Western artists to have mastered traditional Chinese ink painting. Having spent 10 years studying traditional ink painting under a Chinese master in Chongqing, China, Verdier has since created an iconic pictorial language that merges these traditional painting techniques with influences from Western art history. Working standing up, Verdier uses a giant suspended animal hair brush, not unlike the calligrapher's vertical brush that links heaven and earth, to create her works. The process is both meditative and performative; as Verdier moves with the brush, she responds to the forces around her, transmitting these universal truths and energy into her work at the point of equilibrium.

Born in Paris in 1962, Verdier graduated from the Ecole des Beaux-Arts of Toulouse in 1983 while studying Chinese at the Institut des Langues et Civilisation Orientales in Paris. In 1984, she went to the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute in Chongqing, China, to study traditional Chinese painting and calligraphy. She spent 10 years as an apprentice to a Chinese master before returning to France. Verdier's works have been widely exhibited in Europe and Asia including the Musée National d'Art Moderne Centre Pompidou, France and Kunst Museum Wolfsburg, Germany. Verdier's solo exhibitions include the Chongqing Fine Arts Centre, China; Peking Fine Arts Centre's international calligraphy exhibition, The French Embassy, Beijing; Center for Contemporary Art, Hong Kong; Pacific Cultural Foundation, Taiwan; Erasmus Museum, Belgium; Memling Museum, Belgium and Groeningemuseum, Belgium.

Most recently in 2014, Verdier was celebrated in a major retrospective exhibition *Crossing Signs* at Hong Kong's City Hall as part of Le French May 2014. In 2003, Verdier published her memoir *Passenger of Silence* recounting her years in China. Verdier has created several important private commissions as well as having works in important private and public collections such as Francois Pinault, Barbier-Mueller, the H. Looser Foundation, Musée National d'Art Moderne Centre Pompidou, Cernuschi Museum in Paris and the Majunga Tower in La Défense, Paris. The artist lives and works in France.



*"When I went to China I thought that perhaps it would just be for one month, but then I had to stay for ten years – because I think if I had just stayed for a few moments, I would not have completely changed my approach to everything. My thought was that if I wanted to learn the aesthetic philosophy, I should stay a long time and speak Chinese, think with Chinese thoughts and dream with Chinese dreams... One part of me really tried to immerse myself very deeply, and after that, your perception of reality and your relationship with human beings – everything changes."* – Fabienne Verdier