

Zhou Zhiwei was born in Shanghai in 1954 and started to paint when he was 9 years old.

He was a disciple of two famous Chinese painters Yu Yun-Jie and Liu Kemin and attended of Fine Art and Theatre Academy in Shanghai. When he was 25, enticed by Italian art treasures, he reached Italy to attend the Academy of fine art in Venice and immerse himself in methodical research of the places and the works lying in the extensive repertoire of knowledge he had acquired during his early education in China.

He enhanced his technique in Rome in the atelier of Riccardo Tommasi Ferroni, one of the great masters of contemporary figurative painting. Since 1980, he has, mainly, been living in Italy, where he attended famous contemporary artists such as Pietro Annigoni, Giacomo Manzù, and Gregorio Sciltian.

Indefatigable traveler, he explored Asia, Africa, and Europe spiritually retracing the silk route. He continues his research and study of the work of the greatest masters in museums all over the world, his life being a continuous pilgrimage between the western and the eastern world. He considers himself a guest in both worlds, always in search of his own personal route. His thought has roots in philosophical Taoism. Tao, which means life, is the supreme unity where oppositions of life find unison: the good one, Yang, and the dissolving one, Yin.

Professor Mario De Micheli, the famous Italian art critic wrote about him:” The plot of his entire work is rich in imagination, skill, experience. He reveals his poetic and technical secrets without difficulty because, in fact, they are not secret, they are absolutely evident. In other words, he paints with extreme simplicity...”

Zhou Zhiwei has presented his works in many exhibitions in Europe and China, in Rome, Florence, Venice, Trieste, Padova, Vienna, Shanghai, Beijing, Inner Mongolia, etc.

Since January 2020, Zhiwei has been working exclusively with HJ Art Gallery, in Kensington, London.