

**Material Creation
Wenda Gu**

Start with God



Obscure Him



Forget that you obscured Him



Build color
colored matter



Notice only matter

(but color exists separate from matter and red is not blue)

negate color



create nothing



in the name of harmony



with all good intention

break my heart



it seems expressive?
if not, it would only be black.

Participant Response: 25 responses
#5 Wenda Gu - "Material Creation"

What words would you use to describe your experience of this painting?

strong 8	weak 1
hot 1	cold
sad 6	happy
tortured 11	ecstatic 2
boring	interesting 7
lovely 1	ugly
wonder 1	obvious
painful 6	pleasant

other words...

free imprisonment, find release

balanced consenting adult, tortured but awake and willing, necessarily painful

unrest, great sadness, fragmented, broken, dark-light never the less

heavy, opened by crisis. it's a great process!

intense, disruptive, ugly in a lovely way

hide

hardness of modern society - feeling versus bleak architecture

disturbed, chaotic

warm, inviting

something breaking open, constricted, metallic, earthly, cold light

warping - distorting, disorienting

intense, sensing with the skin on the back of my forearms

chalk like, dry, layered, heavy or intense, revealing

personal/not personal, young, provoking, murky

confused

I feel confused, relief, unclear, darkness, shimmer of hope

coming through something in the end

transition, hope

Wenda Gu (谷文達)(born 1955, Shanghai) is a contemporary artist from China who lives and works in New York City. Much of his works play off of traditional Chinese calligraphy and poetry.

Wenda Gu celebrates such common aspects of human experience as the physical origins of life. Yet the shared wonder in the creation of life dissolves when culturally divergent practices related to conception and birth are introduced. Disparate practices often provoke misunderstandings, indignation, and conflict, fracturing humanity into contentious groups. Gu's mission is devoted to reconciling contrasting cultural practices, thereby promoting universal accord. In pursuit of this mission he has instigated cross-cultural exchanges in relation to contraception, placentas, menstruation, fertilization, virginity, and blood.

Recently Gu has been planning a work that is even more proactive, and potentially controversial. He has removed the dream of global unity from the realm of mental abstraction by devising an artwork that actualizes it. This new project would extend his engagement with procreation. It will add insemination, pregnancy and birth to his earlier considerations of ovulation and conception. Gu plans to create human lives. An international team of lawyers, social scientists, biologists, and politicians are advising him on the manner of producing a work that will involve the artist impregnating one woman from each continent on the globe.... Gu's plan will not only be global, it will be eternal. He envisions that when these "art babies" grow up, they will become parents whose children will grow up and become parents, and so on. Thus Gu's work, UNTITLED: Impregnation Piece, will last as long as humans exist on the planet.