

WANG DONGLING (王冬龄)

and contemporary calligraphy



ABOUT THE ARTIST

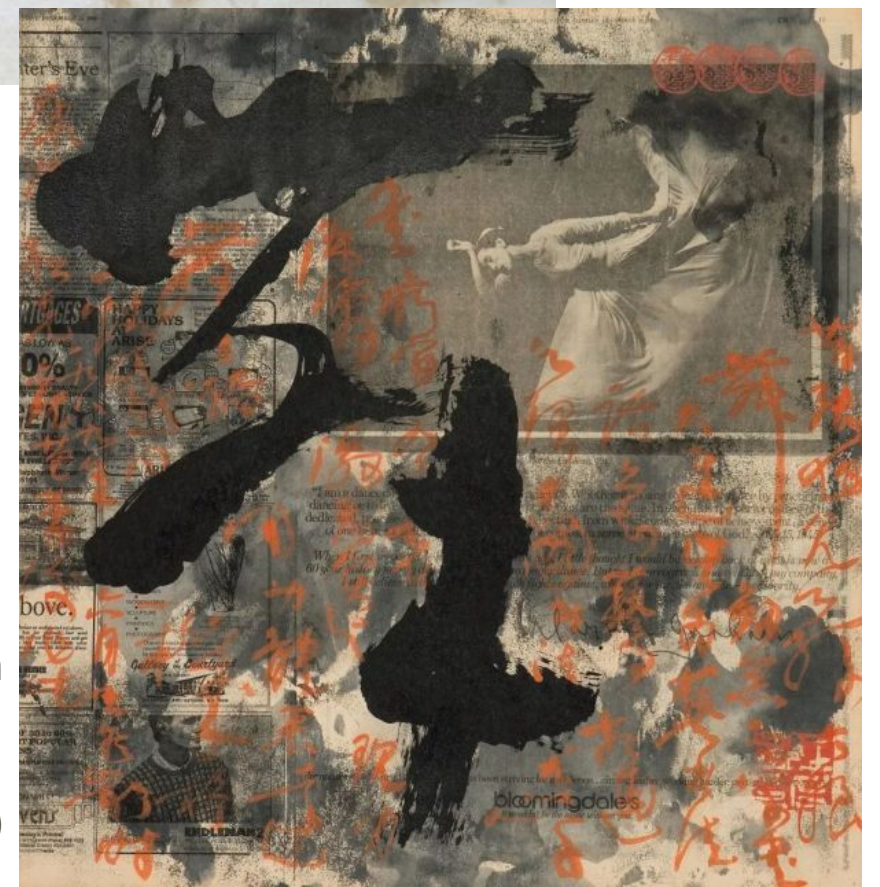
- Born in Jiangsu, China in 1945
- Currently lives in Hangzhou
- Director and Professor at the Calligraphy Department of China Academy of Art
- Exhibited in: Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Spain, Germany, Sweden, and Zaire



TRADITIONAL AND WESTERN INFLUENCES

- Studied traditional Chinese calligraphy in Nanjing
- Sent to work on mass education through art during Cultural Revolution
- Came to the US in 1989 to teach calligraphy

First Monumental Characters | Mt Tai Becomes a Grindstone, Yellow River Turn to a Skirtbelt (1987)



Inspiration from Western Contemporary Art and Modern Dance | Dance (1989)



Abstraction | Primordial
Line (2013)

Creating Chaos Script |
Imperial Ancestral Temple
Art Museum (2016)



PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES

ROOTED IN TRADITION

- Maintains calligraphic fundamentals: stroke order, rhythm, and balance
- Emphasizes spirituality: harmony, balance, and the unity of brush and mind

CALLIGRAPHIC PAINTINGS

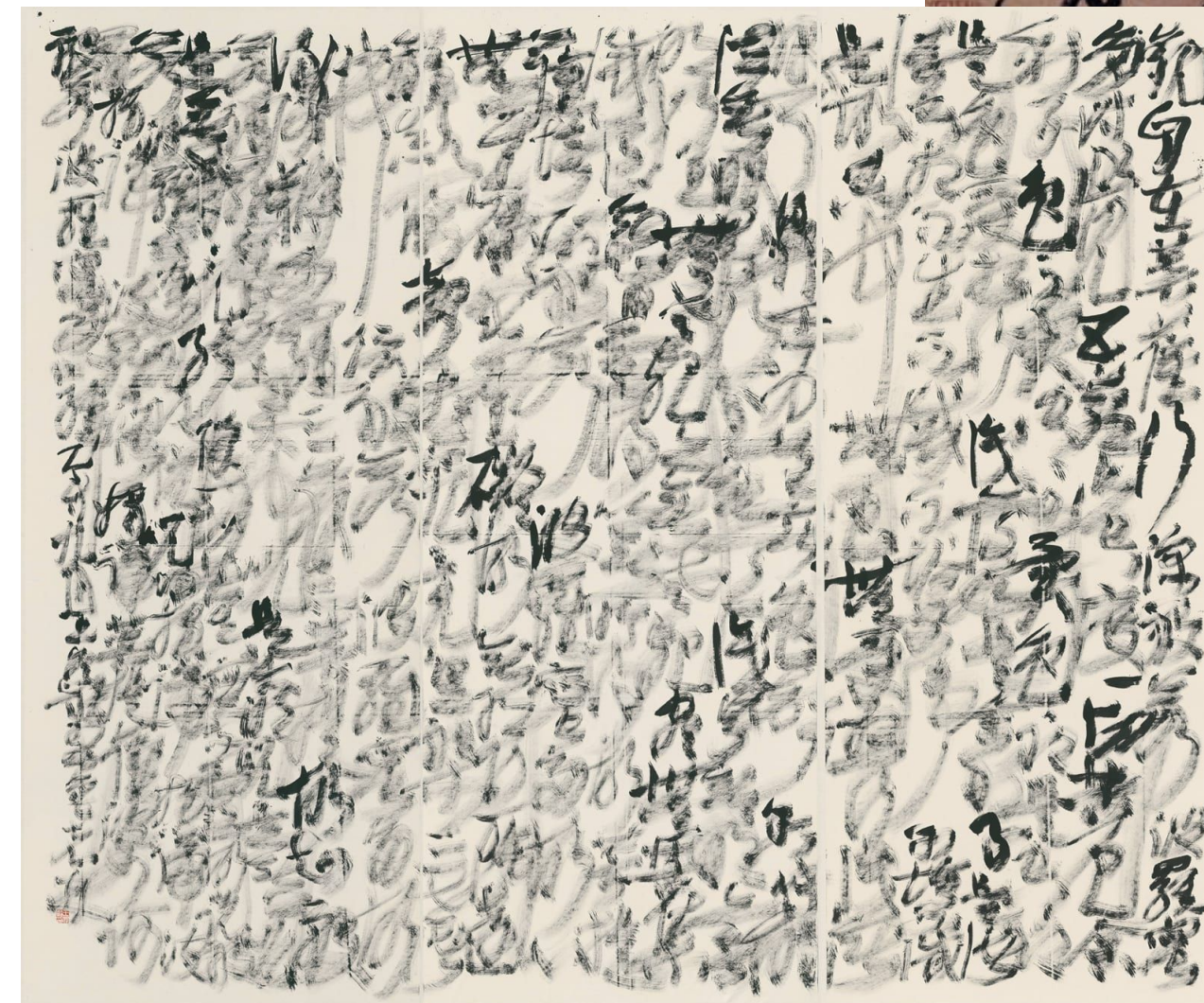
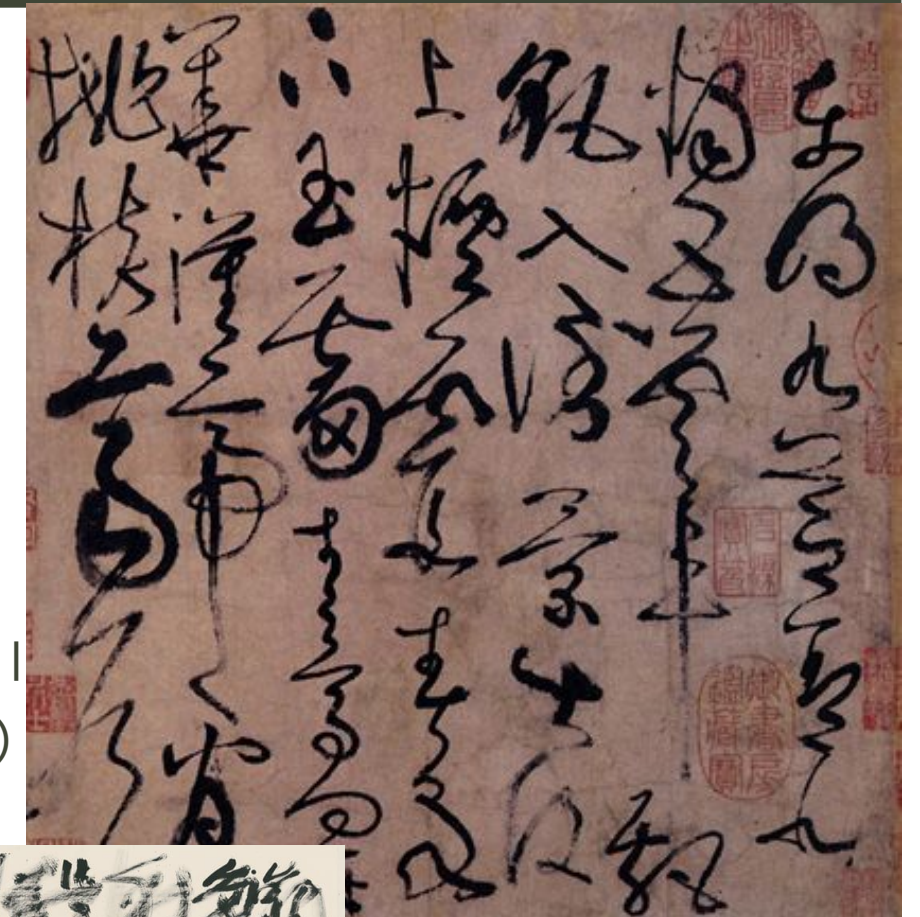
- Work is experimental: not transcriptions of specific characters, so they cannot be read as texts
- Innovations: brushwork techniques, scale, and manipulation of space and composition

STYLE

INSPIRED BY WILD CURSIVE

- **Energy:** large brushwork, bold strokes, and varying degrees of ink saturation imbue pieces with movement and vitality
- **Space:** balance in text density and open areas emphasize rhythm and flow
- **Meditative:** focuses on connection between inner state and expression of characters

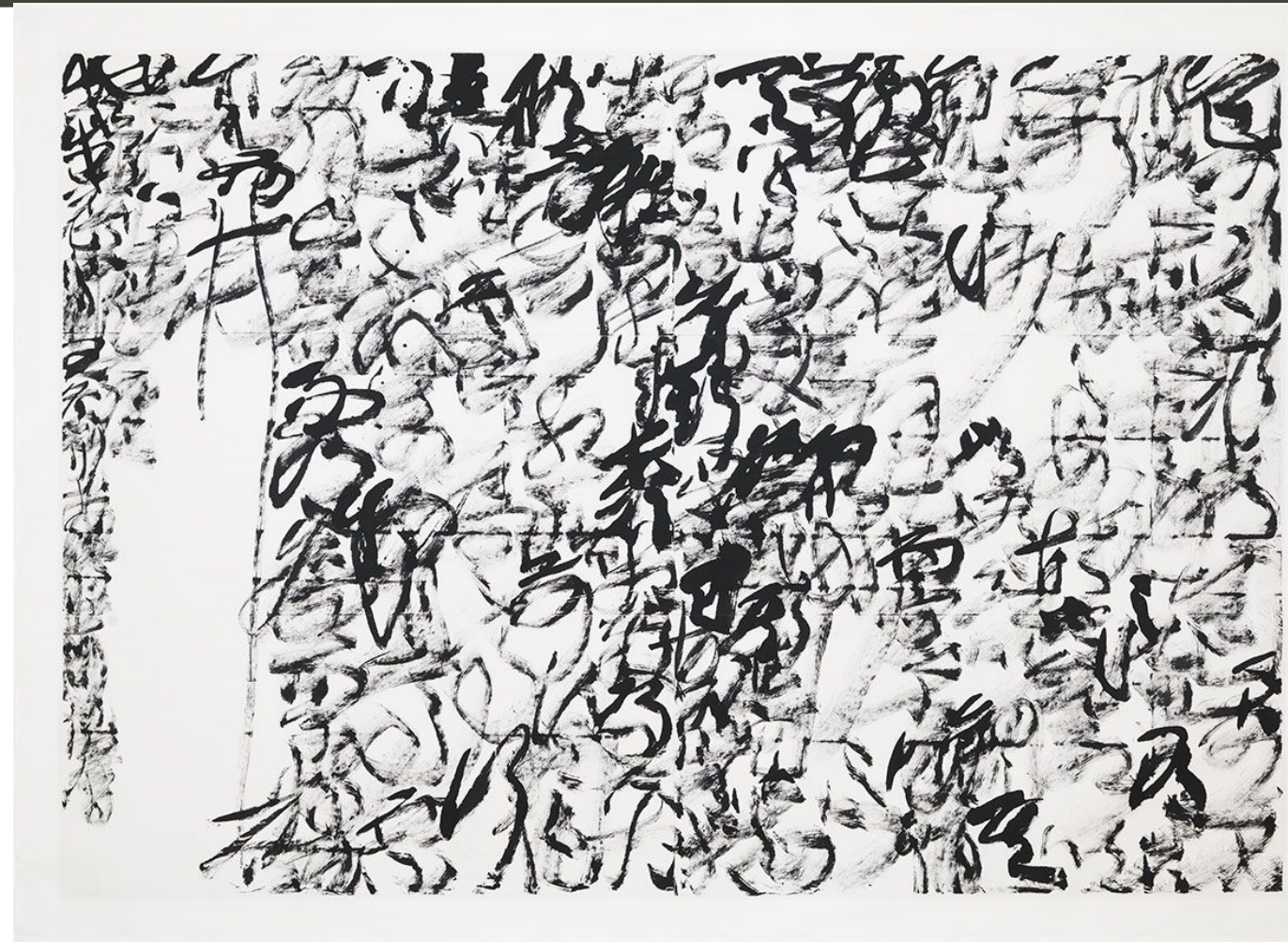
Four Letters on Ancient Poems |
Zhang Xu (710-750 AD)



The Heart Sutra | Wang
Dongling 2015)

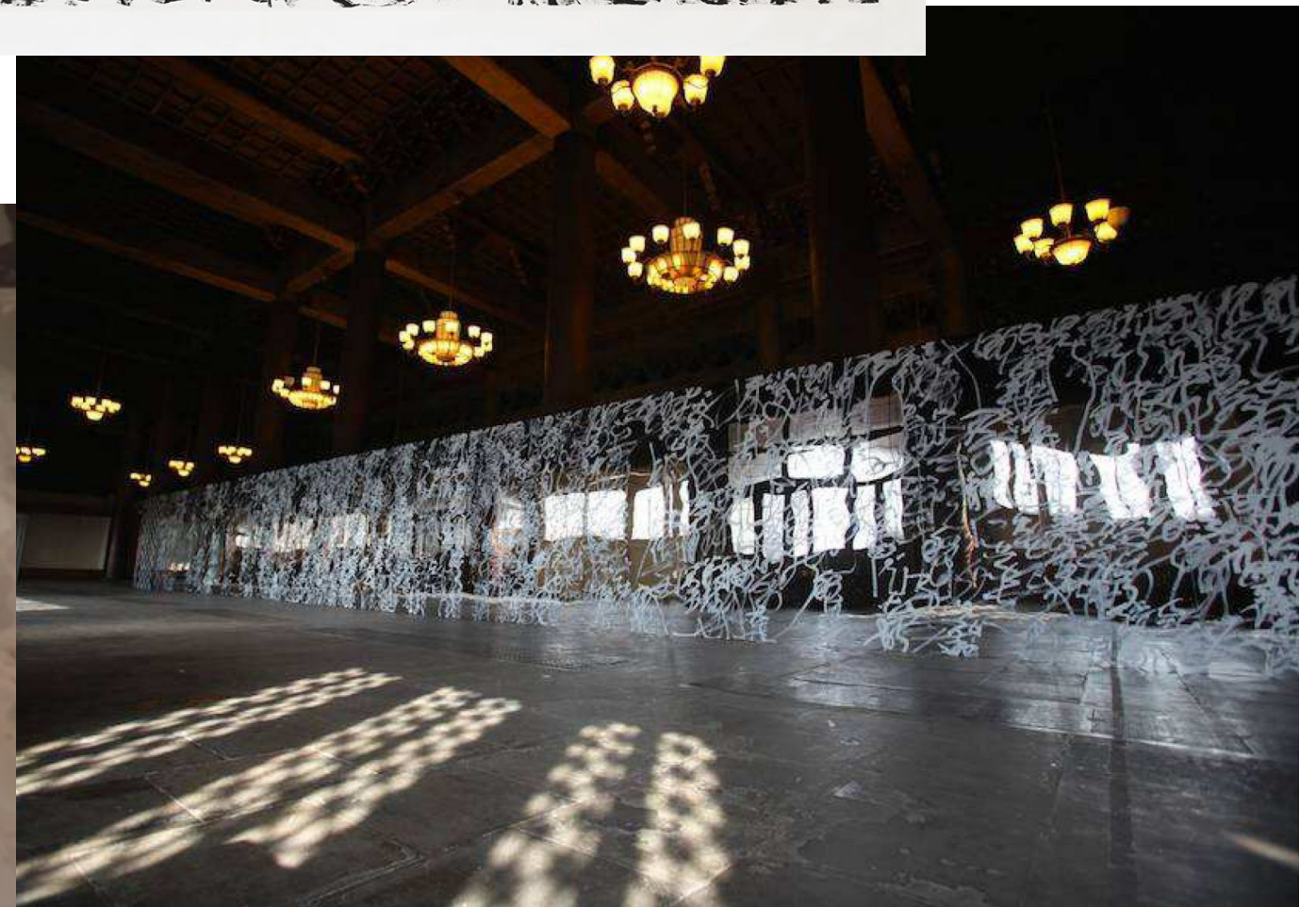
CHAOS SCRIPT

- Strong, robust lines
- Large dimensions
- Abstraction of calligraphy
- Characters overlap, breaking traditional rules
- Able to better express feelings and emotions

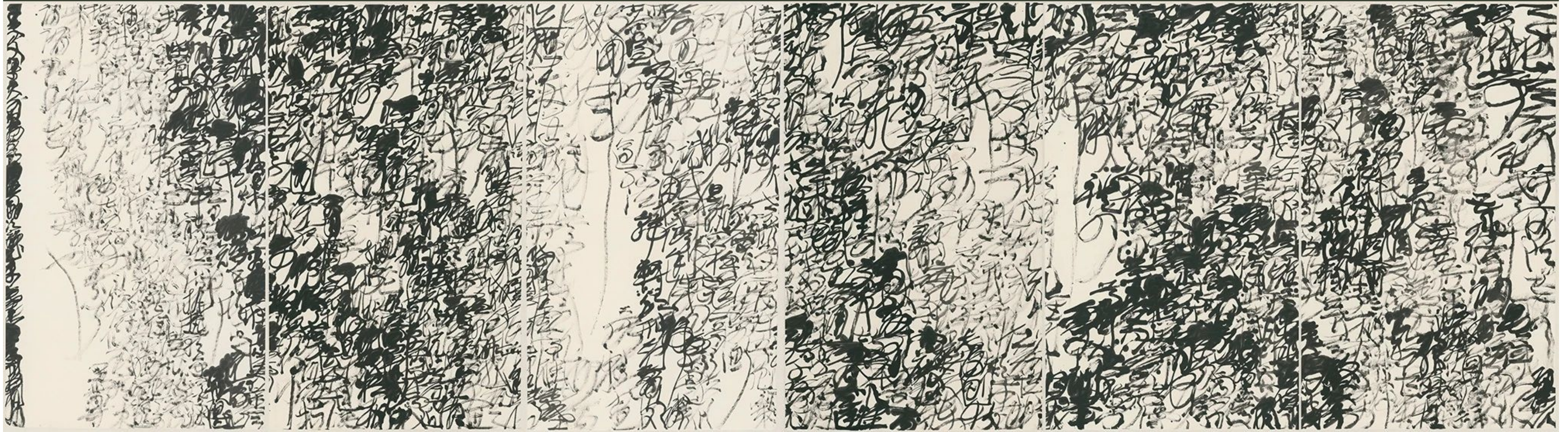


Laozi, Dao De Jing
| Performance at
Asia Society (2018)

Heart Sutra | Performance
Auckland Art Gallery (2016)



Imperial Ancestral Temple Art Museum (2016)

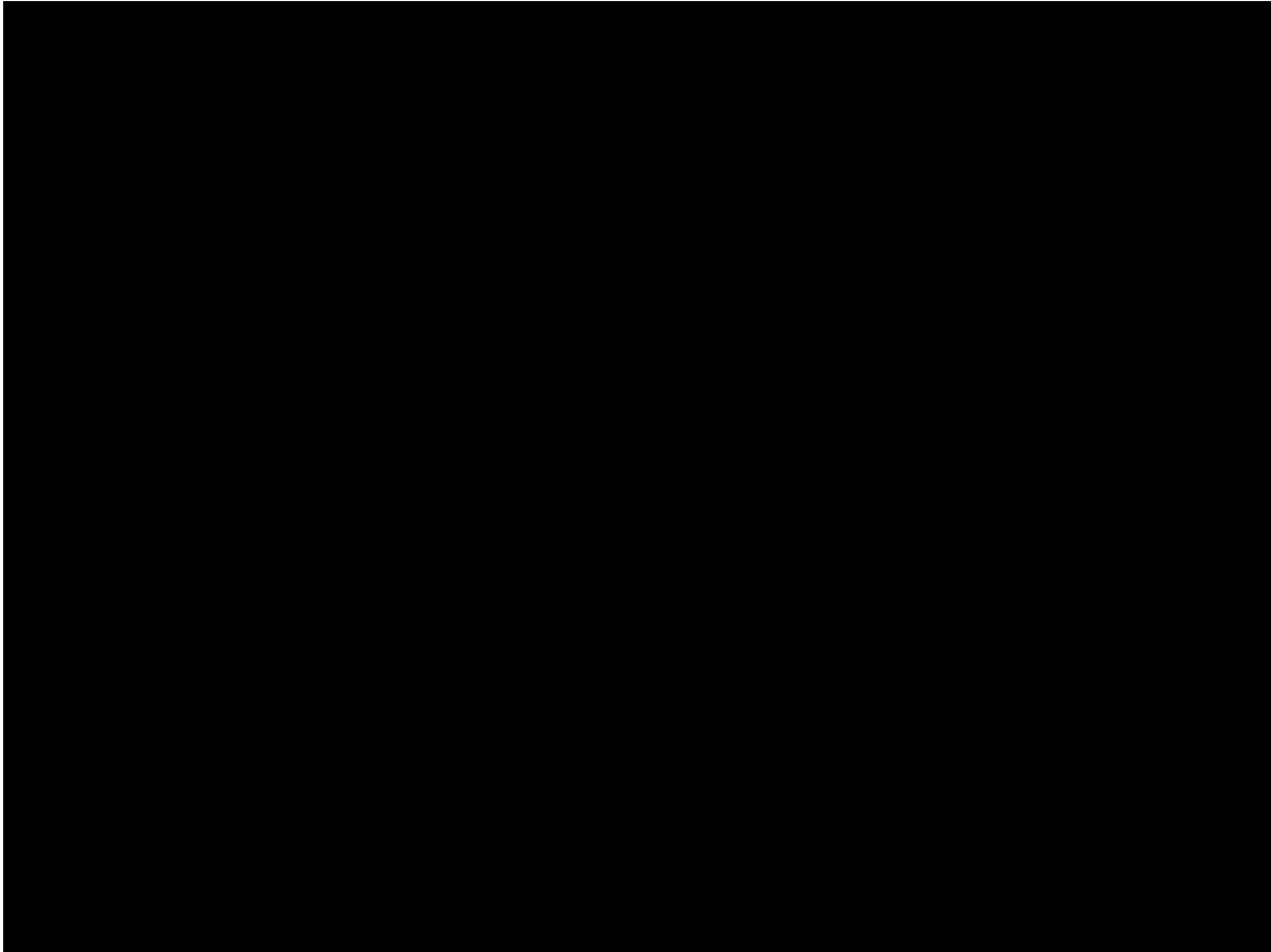


Wang showcases dynamic brushwork and mastery of traditional script styles through this ancient text, traditionally used to teach Chinese characters (2014)

THOUSAND CHARACTER CLASSIC (千字文)

PERFORMANCE

- Known for public performances of chaos script
- Emphasis on the act of writing as an expression of the relationship between art and the body
 - Art as shaped directly by artist's reach, stamina, and physical movement



SOURCES

- <https://www.domestika.org/en/blog/5014-5-contemporary-chinese-artists-you-should-know>
 - <https://www.inkstudio.com.cn/artists/57-wang-dongling/>
 - <https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/term/BIOG15252>
 - <https://www.artnews.com/art-in-america/aia-reviews/wang-dongling-62053/>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4SM62WyKq8>
 - <https://www.ipreciation.com/the-way/>
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