

# South China Morning Post 南華早報

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## Arts preview: "Contemplating Landscape" melds colours and shapes

Wednesday, 26 March, 2014, 11:35pm  
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*Vanessa Yung*

**CONTEMPLATING LANDSCAPE**  
**Edouard Malingue Gallery**

Each year, Brazilian-German artist Janaina Tschäpe spends at least one month with her family in their country home in Brazil. Keeping in touch with nature fuels the New York-based artist's creativity, she says.

"I don't want to lose those elements - things like making a fire blaze at night, or just walking through the woods - because they inform so much. It's really essential for my art," says Tschäpe. "The way nature builds things is organic and incredibly intelligent. There's no way for me to think about work without incorporating that, and without being in that space."

Tschäpe takes nature as her inspiration; her work explores its patterns, composition, geometrical shapes, and repetition. Her recent work has focused on depicting her relationship with the natural landscape in a three-dimensional form.

For her first Hong Kong solo show, the colourful installation *Geometric Shapes* (2014) is flanked by two paintings, *Contemplating Landscape* (2014) and *Dark Sea* (2014). Tschäpe says that *Contemplating Landscape*, the show's centre piece, began with just a horizon line.

Then she noticed a relationship between the cubes featured in *Geometric Shapes* and the other two paintings, and idea of exploring the distance between the physical body and the horizon began to take shape.

"The cubes appear to be looking at the horizon. It was a very beautiful way to combine the three works," she explains, adding that standing in between the two paintings is like "waking up with *Contemplating Landscape* and going to bed with *Dark Sea* when the sun sets."

This attempt to visualise the dialogue between 2-D and 3-D representations continues in *Ocean Study II* (2014), an installation that shows how lines can literally leap right off the page.

"There's a search for something that is beyond my imagination, and I think that search is what really feeds me to paint and draw. It's like searching for where can I go and what can I compose with the colours and the shapes. It's like trying to discover a place that I don't know yet, a kind of exploration. It's navigating through a universe in which I might find a new island."

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Edouard Malingue Gallery, 1/F, 8 Queen's Road Central, Monday-Saturday, 10am-7pm. Ends May 3. Inquiries: 2810 0317

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**Source URL (retrieved on *May 30th 2014, 3:47am*):** <http://www.scmp.com/magazines/48hrs/article/1454152/arts-preview-contemplating-landscape-melds-colours-and-shapes>

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