

Tang Contemporary Art presents:

Along the Horizon

Artist: Yang Bodu

Curator: Zhou You

Exhibition Dates: 27 March - 30 April 2021

Opening: 27 March 2021 at 4:00PM

Venue: Tang Contemporary Art Bangkok

Tang Contemporary Art is proud to present the opening of *Along the Horizon*, a solo exhibition for Chinese artist Yang Bodu. This marks the artist's first solo exhibition at Tang Contemporary Art, taking place between 27 March - 30 April 2021, with an opening reception commencing on 27 March at 4:00pm.

The horizon is an indistinct dividing line, in the distance yet underfoot.

In 2007, Yang Bodu subconsciously chose the museum, a space she was familiar with, to develop her series. Her early paintings roughly portrayed particular works of art in fictional spaces, based on source images. Sometimes, she selected certain details or blurred the works of art by presenting them from a wider perspective. As the series continued, she realized that what she wanted to depict was the atmosphere in these refined spaces:

"Walking from City Hall to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the roads were covered in snow. The museum was dim and silent, and sitting on a bench in front the paintings, with my back against the wall, I napped. The stillness startled me countless times. Each time I confirmed that I was there, I would close my eyes again and continue to sleep. The atmosphere of this space can always be felt. Regardless of the time or place, it exists as a stable presence, therefore, what I rendered has never changed."

In more recent works from the *In the Museum* series, Yang Bodu retained common elements such as the entryways, decorative elements, and the scattered museum staff or visitors, but she often intentionally hides the works of art or leaves only a white canvas. When depicting outdoor scenes, she also aims to minimize any disturbances resulting from painting techniques or other elements. These spaces, composed of ordinary sunsets, lawns, flowering bushes, beaches, ground paving and architectural structures calmly approach similar scenes from our memories. When standing in front of a piece of work, our viewing perspective coincides with the frontal perspective of the work; in this somewhat familiar environment, we unconsciously confront the scenes invented by the artist. We seem to be stepping into this fabricated space and then become a part of it.

As a result, the space flows. In the museum, the artwork hung at the vanishing point touches the depths of our souls. However, what lies beyond the entryway in front of us? Do we choose to go left or right after walking through it? In *Nightfall*, the tall dark grey rectangular block ahead faintly beckons us, but... what is it? How far away is it? How do we get there? And would we really want to go?

Then, there stands the two-meter-tall black rectangular column, and peeking through the holes on all four sides, we see the same two doors opening to the left and right, and the mirror on the front wall reveals our own reflection.

**Adapted from the curatorial statement by Zhou You.*

ARTIST

Yang Bodu was born in Tianjin in 1986. In 2008, she received her bachelor's degree in painting from the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts. In 2012, she received her MFA from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA). She currently lives and works in Beijing, and has presented solo exhibitions and projects at institutions including Tang Contemporary Art Bangkok, Mine Project, the PAFA Alumni Gallery, and Wan Wan Lei Projects. Yang Bodu has also participated in many group exhibitions at institutions such as the PAFA Museum, M WOODS, X Museum, Hive Centre for Contemporary Art, Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts Gallery, and SPURS Gallery. Her work has been collected by institutions such as the PAFA Museum, M WOODS, and X Museum.

CURATOR

Zhou You was born in Nanjing, China. In 2012, she graduated from the University of Melbourne with a bachelor's degree in architectural design. In 2017, she obtained an MA from Sotheby's Institute of Art. She currently lives and works in Beijing, where she is the Director of Public Art and Collections Department at Tang Contemporary Art. She has curated solo exhibitions by Chinese artists Yang Bodu and Li Jing, as well as participated in the planning and implementation of the 2019 "Chinese New Year Special Art Project".