

Tang Contemporary Art Presents:

The Mental Trip

A H.H.Lim Solo Exhibition

Artist: H.H.Lim

Opening: 2017.11.25, 4pm

Dates: 2017.11.25 — 2018.1.6

Venue: Tang Contemporary Art, Beijing Space I

Tang Contemporary Art Beijing is proud to announce the opening of “The Mental Trip”, a solo exhibition for artist H.H.Lim, from November 25, 2017 to January 6, 2018. The exhibition will present the artist’s recent installation and painting works.

As a non-western immigrant surviving in the context of Euro-centric dominance, the themes and images of cultural difference, confrontation and negotiation, with Lim’s imagination and creative energy, are always central to his work. This is why typical images symbolising both Eastern and Western cultures such as Chinese gods and European divinity are put in parallel and confrontational positions in the same work. More interestingly, these symbols are more often embodied in everyday life objects. They are hence redefined as a kind of animistic existence. Meanwhile, they perfectly match the artist’s intention to express his interests in the elasticity, ambiguity and mythic essence of language itself.

Lim plays with the game-like ambiguity and non-accordance between images and languages to reveal the inevitable uncertainty and contradiction in the linguistic function of words and sentences vis-à-vis reality. It’s no doubt a serious inquiry, suspicion and even challenge towards the commonly recognised relationship between significant and signified, between words and things. However, this critical understanding and usage of language not only reflect a theoretical truth. It’s, more importantly, a result of the live experience of an artist who constantly searches for an innovative way of living and creation between two highly contrasting but intimately linked cultures. And this is increasingly becoming an essential condition for everyone in our contemporary age, the age of global communication.

To push further the envelope, Lim created a new project “The Mental Trip” for his exhibition in Beijing. In the form of double spiral cages, it invites the public to walk through the cage and enter a mental game. They enter and exit the cage in a parallel way without meeting each other, as in the Well of Saint Patrick. Hence, one can “live” in one’s own world. Paradoxically, taking shelter in a cage can make one feel protected. But, in exchange, one is condemned to be cut off from touching the other. This generates a permanent mental tension under the gaze of the other while the other is never an accessible company. Being “appreciated” by the other can be a “pleasure”. But in the meantime, this is the beginning of losing all freedom.

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H.H.Lim: "There is no cage that does not resemble a jail, instead it's a mental architecture. The extraordinary thing, though, is that cages can be looked at from two different angles: one that is despised and one that is loved. The cage most despised is obviously jail, the human prison. A bank vault, on the other hand, holds enormous appeal. Yet it wields a tempting power that turns us into the victims of a mental cage. Its contamination is capable of seeping into everyday life, through an obsession with everything around us, and constant self-surveillance. And so, throughout history, humans have managed to build one cage for their treasures and another for themselves."

ABOUT Artist

Born on August 1, 1954 in Malaysia, H.H. Lim is a Sino-Malaysian artist. He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome. Since 1976, he lives and works between Penang and Rome, where he founded in 1990 the artist space "Edicola Notte", which hosted interventions of numerous international artists. Recently, Lim and his partner Viviana Guadagno have developed the "Edicola Notte" into the "Zoo Zone Art Forum", to contribute as the driving force of the rejuvenation of the Roman art community. Lim has been actively exhibited in a handful of internationally renowned biennales, including the Venice Biennale, the Prague Biennale, the Singapore Biennale, the Istanbul Biennale, Tirana Biennale etc. In addition, Lim also manages to exhibit in UCCA Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing, GNAM (Galleria nazionale d'arte moderna e contemporanea) Roma, MAXXI (Museo nazionale delle arti del XXI secolo) Roma, Tang Contemporary Art, IVAM (Istituto Valenciano de Arte Moderno) and many other established institutions.

ABOUT Tang Contemporary Art

Founded in 1997, Tang Contemporary is headquartered in Beijing, with art spaces in Bangkok and Hong Kong. The gallery is fully committed to producing critical projects and exhibitions to promote Contemporary Chinese art regionally and worldwide, and encourage a dynamic exchange between Chinese artists and those abroad. Acting as one of the most progressive and critically driven exhibition spaces in China, the gallery strives to initiate dialogue between artists, curators, collectors and institutions working both locally and internationally. A roster of groundbreaking exhibitions has earned them international recognition, establishing their status as a pioneer of the contemporary art scene in Asia.

当代唐人艺术中心
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Tang Contemporary Art represents leading figures in Chinese art including Ai Weiwei, Huang Yong Ping, Shen Yuan, Wang Du, Liu Xiaodong, Yang Jiechang, Xia Xiaowan, Sun Yuan & Peng Yu, Yan Lei, Wang Yin, Wang Yuping, Yang Jiang Group, Guo Wei, Zheng Guogu, Michael Lin, Lin Yilin, H. H. Lim, He An, Zhao Zhao, Wang Yuyang, Weng Fen, Yang Yong, , Xu Qu, XU Xiaoguo, Ji Zhou, Cai Lei, Ling Jian and Chen Wenbo, additionally collaborating with international artists such as Rirkrit Tiravanija, Navin Rawanchaikul, Sakarin Krue-on, and Prasert Yodkaew.

Tang Contemporary Art
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Gallery Hours: Tuesday to Sunday, 11am – 6:30pm

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Artist will be present and available for interviews, please contact us in advance for scheduling.