

Tang Contemporary Art presents:

AURA

XIA XIAOWAN • CHEN HUI

Artists: Xia Xiaowan, Chen Hui

Exhibition Dates: August 31 – September 27, 2017

Location: Tang Contemporary, 19th Floor, 18 On Lan St, Central, Hong Kong

Opening Reception: Thursday, August 31, 2017 from 6 – 8pm

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (HONG KONG – August 22, 2017):

Tang Contemporary Art Hong Kong is proud to announce that “Aura”, a duo exhibition for Xia Xiaowan and Chen Hui, will be on view from August 31 to September 27, 2017. The exhibition will showcase eleven works from two artists since 2011, including oil and watercolor paintings. Xia Xiaowan will show three new works created this year for the very first time.

The title of the exhibition, “Aura”, reflects the authenticity and uniqueness of the art creation. The idea of an aura is diametrically opposed to the popularized aesthetic that is commonly found in contemporary life. People today attempt to get close to art and make it consumable with a sense of universality, but the presence of the aura in an artwork conveys a distant feeling. An aura is like the ‘breath’ of an artwork; it breaks through the surface and brings out a sense of life and uniqueness in it.

Xia Xiaowan’s artistic aura has always come from his observations of human nature. Xia was born in 1959 in Beijing, and he made a name for himself during the “85 New Wave movement” of the 1980s; his interests in romance, soul, life, and individuality have already become part of the history of modern Chinese art. Across different creative periods, Xia has been persistent in his creation of various strange creatures.

These heavy, repressed, and sometimes distorted living forms have found a place in Xia’s creative world through unimaginable living power. The exhibition presents three of Xia’s new works: “Sphinx”, “Medusa”, and “Sketch of Memories”. In these pieces, he solemnly constructs his understanding of the complex layers of life and his thoughts about lasting living power.

Compared to Xia Xiaowan’s pieces, Chen Hui’s work presents the spectacle of another glittering world. The artist excavates the present consumerist era for real states that have been obscured by the shiny exteriors of modernity; using realistic yet highly dramatic methods, she merges the external surfaces of her subjects with their internal substances. In her Your Portrait series, Chen uses extremely fine, delicate brushstrokes to explore and probe the universal theme of portrait painting, depicting what is hidden beneath the surface of everyday life and giving clues to her subjects’ spiritual and psychological states.



Chen Hui 陳卉, *The Pearl 珍珠*
Oil on Canvas 布面油畫, 75 x 57 cm, 2011

This exhibition reflects the two artists' deep interests and explorations in humanity. Set against the multiple structures of society, these works map out the present era and highlight their own uniqueness. At a time in which smart technologies and consumerism interact, the farsighted will always look for a gleam of aura in the art, which one can feel its presence in the works of Xia Xiaowan and Chen Hui.

ABOUT ARTISTS

XIA XIAOWAN

Xia Xiaowan is a contemporary Chinese painter and sculptor. Best known for his three-dimensional, painted works, Xia has pioneered a unique process that mimics MRI sequence imaging. In his meticulous practice, many small slivers of form are painted on sequential panes of glass which, when affixed together, result in a holographic and illusory object. Xia's work notably often features grotesquely figural subjects of distorted faces and body parts, suspended in a cloudy space that evokes a bleak and tortured atmosphere.

CHEN HUI

Born in Jiangxi in 1974, Chen Hui grew up in an artistic atmosphere as her father is a famous art theorist. After graduated from the Central Academy of Drama in 1996, Chen further received a master's degree from the China Academy of Art Oil Painting in 2009. Chen's paintings uniquely arrest their human figures, of which she models she deliberately extracts from their true habitats and then inserts them into a fictional, dramatized space, using them to describe her feelings about life and as an allegory for the state of worldly affairs. Chen Hui currently working as a professor at the Communication University of China.



Xia Xiaowan 夏小萬
Sphinx 斯芬克斯
Mixed media on canvas 布面綜合材料
181 x 181 cm
2017

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

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ABOUT TANG CONTEMPORARY ART

Tang Contemporary Art was established in 1997 in Bangkok, later establishing galleries in Beijing and most recently 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.

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.

當代唐人藝術中心：

靈氣 夏小萬·陳卉

藝術家：夏小萬, 陳卉

展覽時間：2017年8月31日至 9月27日

展覽地點：當代唐人藝術中心，香港中環安蘭街 18 號 19 樓

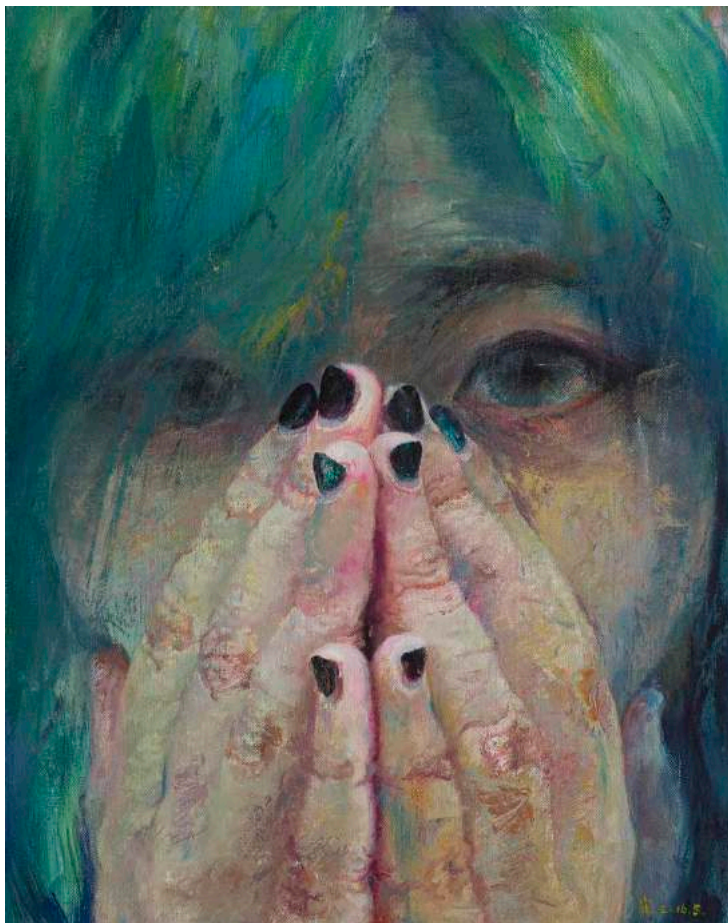
開幕時間：2017年8月31日星期四，下午六時至八時

新聞稿：請即發佈（香港2017年8月22日）：

當代唐人藝術中心香港很榮幸地宣布，將於 2017 年 8 月 31 日至 9 月 27 日舉行夏小萬和陳卉的雙個展“靈氣”。參展的作品涵蓋了兩位藝術家從 2011 年至今創作的 11 件作品，包括布面油畫及紙本水墨等形式。這也是夏小萬創作於 2017 年的 3 件新作首次亮相。

展覽以“靈氣”為主題，意指作品自身的本真性和獨特性。與當代生活中日益增長的大眾的審美相對。當代人意圖從心理上和藝術消除距離感，達到普遍性與共性，但藝術作品中靈氣的存在正需要距離感。當距離消退，“靈氣”也將隨之凋萎。如同從作品中散發出來的呼吸，它衝破作品自身而出，又將自身包圍，賦予作品存在的此時此刻與獨一無二。

夏小萬的藝術靈氣，始終來自於他對人性的審視。夏小萬 1959 年年生於中國北京，成名於上世紀 80 年代“新潮美術”時期，以“浪漫”、“靈魂”、“生命”、“個體”等題材被載入中國現代藝術史。在不同的創作階段中，夏小萬始終以異乎尋常的執著不斷地製造著各種異常的“生靈”- 這些負重的，被擠壓甚至變形的生命形態，以超乎想像的生命力，棲息於夏小萬的創作主題之中。本次展出的夏小萬 3 件新作《斯芬克斯》，《美杜莎》和《全面回憶手稿》，則用一種相對沉穆的方式，構造出藝術家對複雜的生命層次的理解，及亙古如新的生命力量的思考。



Chen Hui 陳卉
Portrait of You No.28 你的肖像之二十八
Oil on Canvas 布面油畫, 50 x 40 cm, 2016

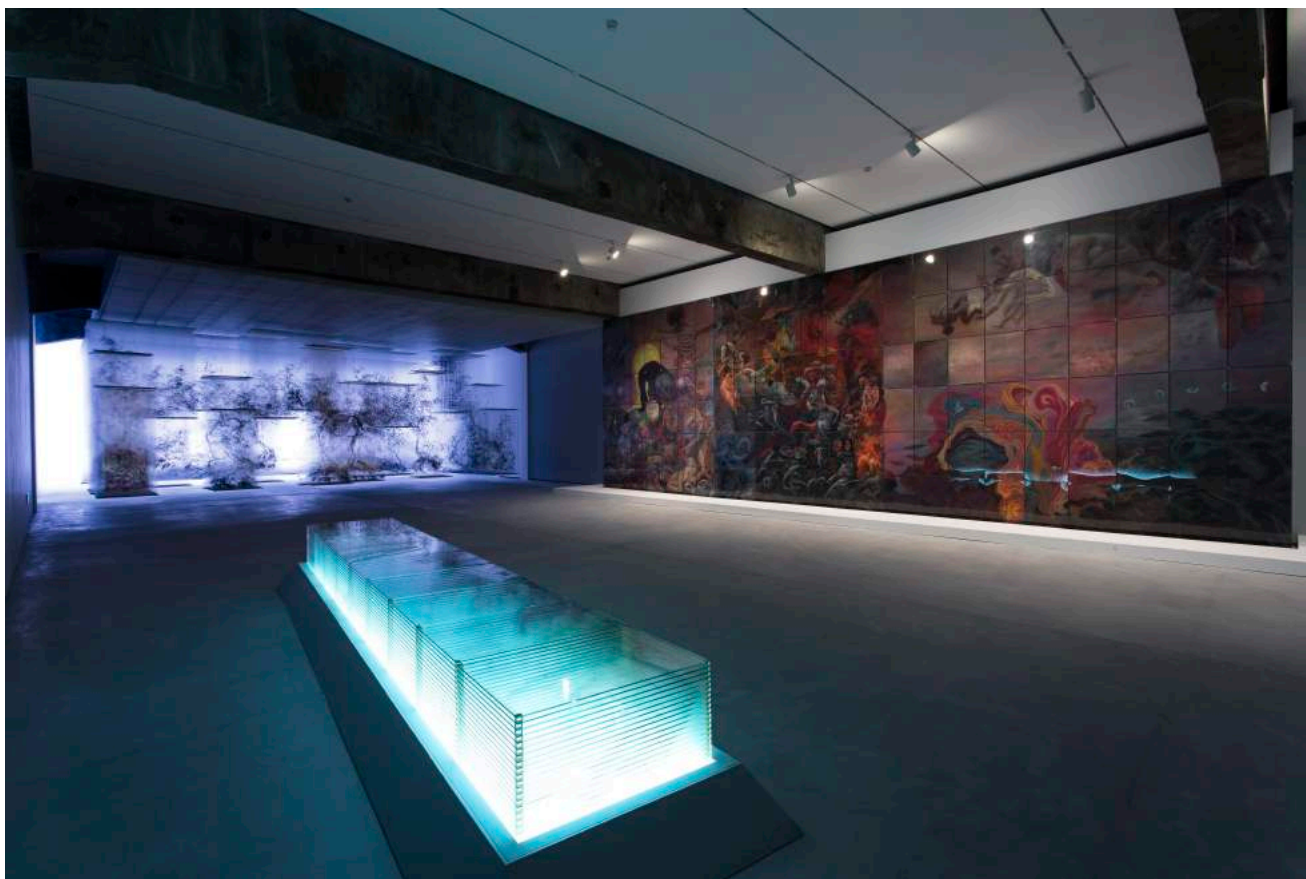
與夏小萬的創作相對，陳卉的作品則呈現出另一種閃亮世界的奇觀。她慣以發掘在當今消費主義時代裡，被現代特徵的光耀外表圍裹下的真實狀態，用寫實而充滿戲劇化的手法，將事物的表面外在性與內在實質性合二為一。本次展出的“你的肖像”系列作品中，藝術家以極為細緻敏感的筆觸，對肖像繪畫這一普世題材進行深入的探討和嘗試，刻畫出在日常生活經驗表象的遮蔽下，人們的內在精神和心理狀態的蛛絲馬跡。

本次展覽體現出兩位藝術家對人文的深刻關注與探索，在社會多重結構背景下，映射出時代又反映出作品自身的獨特性。在當下智能科技和消費主義相互迭加的時代中，睿者的目光總會投向藝術中時隱時現的氣質，而夏小萬和陳卉作品中所充盈的，正是這種“靈氣”。

關於藝術家

夏小萬 - 1959 年在北京出生，1982 年畢業於中央美術學院油畫系第三工作室並獲學士學位。夏小萬是探索突破藝術表達自由的早期中國當代藝術家，他一直保持著對傳統繪畫方式的挑戰，但同時是一位受人尊敬，有著崇高學術地位的藝術家。夏小萬目前住在北京，在中央戲劇學院的舞台美術系擔任教授。他也是中國油畫的繪畫油畫委員會研究所，北京美術家協會，北京美術成員。

陳卉 - 1974 在江西出生，由於父親是著名的美術理論家，藝術家從小就在藝術的氛圍中長大。1996 畢業於中央戲劇學院，2009 畢業於中國藝術研究院油畫專業，獲碩士學位。陳卉的畫以捕捉人物的神態為特點，把塑造的人物從現實環境中抽離出來，放到一個虛擬和戲劇化的空間里，彰顯了這些肖像豐富的心理和現實狀態。陳卉目前住在北京，現為中國傳媒大學教師。



夏小萬《自轉—夏小萬個展》現場, 北京民生現代美術館, 2015
Xia Xiaowan "Rotation – Xia Xiaowan solo exhibition" space, Beijing Minsheng Art Museum, 2015

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藝術家將出席開幕酒會並接受傳媒訪問, 請預先聯絡以便安排。

關於當代唐人藝術中心

當代唐人藝術中心於1997年在曼谷成立，其後在北京開設展覽空間，以及最近期香港的新空間。唐人致力策劃及提供具啟發性展覽，向亞洲和國際推廣中國當代藝術，促進中國當代藝術與國際性之交。作為中國最具學術影響力和開創性的當代藝術平台之一，唐人致力於為本地及國際的藝術家、策展人、收藏家和藝術機構搭建交流對話平台。當代唐人藝術中心歷年來以充滿開拓性的展覽在國際上贏得了高度評價，確立亞洲當代藝術先驅的地位。

當代唐人藝術中心代理的中國著名藝術家包括艾未未，黃永砷，沈遠，王度，劉小東，楊詰蒼，夏小萬，孫原&彭禹，顏磊，王音，王玉平，阳江組，鄭國谷，林明弘，林一林，林輝華，何岸，趙趙，王郁洋，翁奮，楊勇，徐渠，徐小國，計洲，蔡磊，郭偉，凌健，陳文波等，也與裡克力·提拉瓦尼，阿運·拉挽猜哥，薩卡琳·克盧昂，大宛·瓦突亞，巴舍·越格爾等海外藝術家合作。