

Tang Contemporary Art Presents

Compounds of Aura

Artist: He An, Xu Zhen-Produced by MadIn Company, Zheng Guogu

Curator: Lu Mingjun

Opening: Sunday, December 3, 2017, 4PM.

Dates: December 3, 2017 - January 6, 2018

Venue: Tang Contemporary Art Space II (Beijing)

Tang Contemporary Art Beijing is proud to announce the opening of “Compounds of Aura,” a exhibition for artists He An, Xu Zhen-Produced by MadIn Company and Zheng Guogu, and curated by Lu Mingjun on December 3, 2017.

Religious feeling and aimless movement do not resolve He An’s daily anxiety and impetuosity; they often collide, creating sparks of inspiration and almost-forgotten textures. Based on cheap materials and ready-mades such as aluminum plate, pencil, steel, cement, and textiles, He An re-explores the multiple temporary relationships between materials, bodies, and vision, as well as underlying pictorial narratives and subtle perceptual dimensions. Xu Zhen (MadIn Company) unexpectedly transformed the four-thousand-year-old monument of Stonehenge into a stage for Chinese traditional martial arts performance. This grafting of forms can naturally be traced to his previous *Eternity* series, but apart from the mocking, ridiculous symbolic relationships, I found it especially profound that the body measures earth, time, and space, and I was taken aback by the fantasy and despondency. Zheng Guogu has said that people actually exist in another magnetic field. He believes that every person’s body is a locus of energy, and he has extracted the circulatory structures and movements of this energy into a set of symbolic systems and visual principles, choosing classic examples from history (including artists, thinkers, and associated concepts) for analysis and visualization. When the viewer confronts the image, a reactive magnetic field is created, influencing everything including the energy movements of the universe.

Benjamin’s concept of the aura has been criticized as conservative and decadent, but these practices have shown us that they haven’t lost their authenticity; instead, they have derived a new aura. These works not only play on the authenticity of each practice; whether light and dark, they respond to a time that has lost its center and its gravity. Giorgio Agamben called this an aura space—a mystery that cannot be expressed. However, the “compound” nature of this exhibition also tells us that this is not a personal mysticism, and not purely metaphysical. These works are the aesthetic products of the “chemical” reactions between multiple materials or elements—although the compounds have different auras in different people’s eyes. Perhaps, these three different practices share a subtlety and spirituality that achieve the same goal.

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ABOUT Artist

He An

Born in Wuhan, Hubei Province in 1971. Currently works and lives in Beijing.

Recent exhibitions include: ARMENIA, Tang Contemporary Art, Beijing, China (2015) ; Post Pop : East Meet West, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK (2014) ; Tough Guys Don't Dance , madein Gallery, Shanghai, China (2014) ; Harmonious Society-Asia Triennial Manchester , ATM, Manchester, UK (2014) ; The World III in the Third World, The Art Center of Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand (2014) ; WIND LIGHT AS A THIEF, Galerie Daniel Templon, Brussels, Belgium (2014) ; ITS FOREVER NOT, Magician Space, Beijing, China (2014) ; ONCE, Tang Contemporary Art, Beijing, China (2013) ; HUBBLE, Art Basel, Unit Unlimited, Basel, Switzerland (2013) ; WHO IS NOW ALONE WILL STAY ALONE FOREVER, TOP Contemporary Art Center, Shanghai, P.R. China (2012) ; FRIEZE ART FAIR, Project FRAME, New York, US (2012) ; HE AN SOLO SHOW, Templon Gallery, Paris, France (2011) ; I AM CURIOUS YELLOW I AM CURIOUS BLUE, Tang Contemporary Art, Beijing, China (2011) ; I BELIEVE SOMEONE WILL TAKE ME THERE, BUT THAT'S FOR TOMORROW, Magician Space, (2010) ; Beijing,China (2010) ; What makes me understand what I know?, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China (2009) ; THE REAL THING: Contemporary Art from China, Tate Liverpool, Liverpool, UK (2007) , etc.

Xu Zhen-Produced by Madeln Company

Xu Zhen, born in Shanghai in 1977 and Graduated from Shanghai Arts & Crafts Institute in 1996. He was the Art director of BizArt Art Center in 2001-2010. He Initiated together with other artists Art-Ba-Ba Contemporary Art Forum in 2006, and establishes Madeln Company in 2009. Xu Zhen was a recipients of 2016 artnet Awards "Artist of the Year Award 2016", 2008 AAC Award "Best Young Artist of the Year", and 2004 CCAA (Contemporary Chinese Art Award) "Best Artist" .

Madeln Company is a contemporary art creation corporate, focused on the production of creativity, and devoted to the research of contemporary culture's infinite possibilities. In 2013, Madeln Company launches the art brand "Xu Zhen".

Recent exhibitions include: Xu Zhen Store, Madeln Gallery, Shanghai, China (2016) ; Xu Zhen Solo Exhibition, James Cohan Gallery, New York, USA(2016) ; Xu Zhen Solo Exhibition, Long Museum, Shanghai China (2015) ; "Twenty" A Solo Exhibition by Xu Zhen, PMQ, Hong Kong(2015) ; Xu Zhen-Produced by Madeln Company: "Blissful As Gods", Space 1&2, ShanghART Gallery, Shanghai China(2014) ; Prey-Xu Zhen,Produced by Madeln Company, Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris, France(2014) ; Xu Zhen-Produced by Madeln Company, ShanghART Singapore, Singapore(2014) ; Xu Zhen-A Madeln Company Production, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China (Madeln Company)(2014) ; The Most Important Thing Is Not the Contract, OCT, Shanghai, China (Madeln Company)(2013) ; Turbulent, Bund 18 Temporary Space, Shanghai China (Madeln Company)(2013) ; Movement Field - Xu Zhen Solo Exhibiton, produced by Madeln Company, Long March Space, Beijing China (Madeln Company)(2013) ; Madeln Company - Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai,China(Madeln Company)(2012) ; Movement – Madeln Company Fall 2012 Works Launch, Madeln Company Exhibition Space, Shanghai, China (Madeln Company)(2012) ;

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Sleeping Life Away, Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris, France (Madeln Company)(2012) ; Physique of Consciousness, Long March Space, Beijing (Madeln Company)(2011) ; Physique of Consciousness, Kunsthalle Bern, Bern, Switzerland (Madeln Company)(2011) , etc.

Zheng Guogu

Born in Yangjiang, Canton, China in 1970. Currently lives and works in Yangjiang, Canton.

Recent exhibitions include: Art and China after 1989: Theater of the World, The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2017) ; Digging a hole in China, OCT Contemporary Art Terminal, Shenzhen, China (2016) ; M+ Museum (+Uli Sigg collection) – Four Decades of Chinese Contemporary Art, M+ Museum, Hong Kong, China (2016) ; Nonfigurative, Shanghai 21st Century Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2015) ; Zheng Guogu- Ubiquitous Plasma, OCAT Xi'an, China (2015) ; The System of Objects, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2015) ; Cosmos - Limited and Limitless, Existence and Co-existence, Shanghai 21st Century Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2014) ; Images of Magnetic Resonance - Zheng Guogu Solo Exhibition, TANG Contemporary Art, Beijing, China (2014) ; Landscape- the Virtual, the Actual, the Possible? Guangdong Times Art Museum, Guangdong, China (2014) ; Hans van Dijk - 5000 Names, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China (2014) ; Advance through Retreat, Rockbund Art Museum Shanghai, China (2014) ; Fuck off the Rules: Yangjiang Group, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2013) ; Zheng Guogu × Yangjiang Group - The Last Bet!, Hanart TZ Gallery, Hong Kong, China (2013) ; Esprit Dior, Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai, China (2013) ; PORTRAIT OF THE TIMES - 30 YEARS OF CHINESE CONTEMPORARY ART, Shanghai Contemporary Art Museum, China (2013) ; Insightful Charisma, Himalayas Art Museum Shanghai, China (2013) ; Writings Without Borders, Lehmann Maupin Hong Kong, China (2013) ; Duchamp and/or /in China, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China (2013) ; Face, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2012) ; Museum on Paper: 12 Chinese Artists, Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China (2011) ; Garden of Pine: Also Fierce Than Tiger II (Cooperation with Yangjiang Group), Tang Contemporary Art, Beijing (2010) ; Thirty Years of Chinese Contemporary Art, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai (2010) ,etc.

ABOUT Curator

Lu Mingjun has a PhD in History from Sichuan University (2011). He is currently Associate Professor of Art History at Art College, Sichuan University. Lu's research interests include history of modern and contemporary art. His thesis was found in Literature & Art Studies, Art Studies, 21st Century, Artforum, Leap, etc.. His recent books include Writing and Narrating of Vision: The Vision of History and Theory (2013); Visual Cognition and Art History: Michel Foucault, Hubert Damisch, Jonathan Crary (2014); and On Meta-Painting: An Art Institution and Cognition of Universality (2015). Since 2015, he held the post of artistic director of Surplus Space. The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Greater China Research Grant 2015 Grantee. He received the 2016 Yishu Awards for Writing on Contemporary Chinese Art. He was ACC fellowship award recipients from China, and 2017 CCAA the 6th Art Critic Award recipients .

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.

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.

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