

Press Release
For Immediate Release

From Perception to Domain Sichuan Millennial Artists Group Show

“These young artists’ artworks have opened my eyes and urged me to re-examine myself. It is a process that began conceptually, but ends in a very real and grounded visual experience. From my perspective, these works internalized an attitude and atmosphere of a journeyman, as well as poetic qualities that detach from the everyday life, so that at its core, one is reminded of the distance between attainment and reality. Art, as well as artists, can only have meaning when they maintain a distance from the frantically complex reality. In today’s China where contemporary art is getting increasingly frothy, this is of particular value.”

Ning Jia, Sichuan Fine Arts Institute CAEA Museum Executive Director
Huxi, Chongqing
June, 2015

On July 4, 2015, Shanghai Longmen Art Projects is delighted to present a group show, “From Perception to Domain”, which gathers 15 artworks by four young artists from Sichuan Fine Arts Institute (hereinafter referred to as SCFAI): Meng Xiaoyang, Liu Sibao, Chen Qilin and Chang Rui. The exhibition includes paintings as well as a video installation and a mixed medium work. Through this exhibition the artists will be able to introduce themselves to the public with unique art perspectives in contemporary cultural background. Influenced and enlightened by contemporary art education, As a matter of fact, Chinese artists of younger generation are more direct and intuitive than their predecessors in expressing themselves. Their artworks may be a better media for the audience to get an insight into China’s contemporary art.

SCFAI, situated at the corner of southwest China, plays a very important role in the country’s art evolution. In the early 1990s, several outstanding artists trained by SCFAI came forward and laid a solid foundation for the status of contemporary Chinese art. They have significantly advanced the development of the country’s contemporary art with vigorous energy. The implication of their achievement is so far-reaching, even today’s artists are still greatly influenced by SCFAI. However, the younger generation of SCFAI has their own characteristics compared to their predecessors. The current generation seeks to present themselves in new and unique methods to grab others’ attention. As Ning Jia wrote, “Since 2003, SCFAI’s new generation painting has entered a derivative stage. It is during this stage that SCFAI artists made the transition in terms of ‘concepts and languages’ in their art making.” Meng Xiaoyang, Liu Sibao, Chen Qilin and Chang Rui, four outstanding representatives of SAFA’s new generation of artists, happen to be standing at the turning point and exploring the depth of reality.

“They started to create”, added Ning Jia, “based on their personal experience and perceptive, and display their reflections on contemporary culture, on the relationship between art and individuals in a more direct, concrete and thorough way.” Works of Liu Sibao, such as his video project “Dopamine Every Second”, or installation project “Old Friends”, confirms Ning Jia’s Point. Like an excellent conversationalist, the artist is very good at making his point clear with seemingly insignificant small talks, revealing the cold truth of life with humor. With strong personal characteristic,

On the other hand, Meng Xiaoyang has created his own field of art and elevated his works from sensory level to spiritual level. “They are metaphors of the disappearing of social criticism, the living experience of city youth and their weary inner world.”

Compared to the above two, Chen Qilin and Chang Rui are more sensitive female artists. Chen Qilin uses 3D video game-like textures to depict real life scenes. There are a lot of “frame skips”, which is usually seen in online 3D games in the lines and images of her paintings, suggesting the disharmonies in real life. Meanwhile, Chang Rui has a sober and impersonal perspective in describing reality. “The artist gives the artificial spectacles more layers with exquisite foreshadowing. It makes them look cold but even more intriguing.” Commented Ning Jia on Chang Rui.



All four artists of this exhibition have distinct standpoint and arguments. In viewing their works, the audience can be easily carried away with their ideologies and led to deeper self-examination, which I think is the special strength of the new generation.

Nowadays, novel techniques are no longer the goal for China's younger artists in their journey of art creating, at least not the only one. They put more effort in improving the level of their works ideologically and expanding their perspective to give more layers to their art. In age of information, they try to give the information more value and pass it to the audience. As Ning Jia said in his article, "These young artists' artworks have opened my eyes and urged me to re-examine myself. It is a process that began conceptually, but ends in a very real and grounded visual experience. From my perspective, these works internalized an attitude and atmosphere of a journeyman, as well as poetic qualities that detach from the everyday life, so that at its core, one is reminded of the distance between attainment and reality. Art, as well as artists, can only have meaning when they maintain a distance from the frantically complex reality. In today's China where contemporary art is getting increasingly frothy, this is of particular value."

"From Perception to Domaine – Sichuan Millennial Artists Group Show" will last until September 5th. Longmen Art Projects hereby sincerely invite ardent supporters of art to join in this great event and feel the amazing energy of SCFAI's millennial generation artists.

Opening Reception: Saturday July 4th, 2015 3-6pm

Exhibition Dates: Tuesday-Saturday 10am - 6:30pm, July 4th-September 5th, 2015

Exhibition Venue: Longmen Art Projects, Rm102, Tianan Center, No. 338 West Nanjing Rd, Huangpu District, Shanghai, China

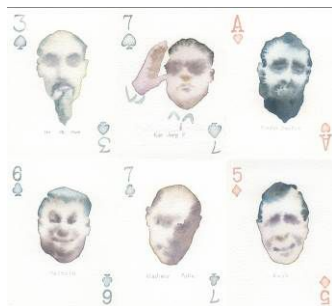
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1. *Meng Xiaoyang - Memories - 1/2 Oil on Canvas 100 x 80 cm 2014*
2. *Liu Sibó - Old Friends watercolor on paper 8.8x6.4 cm x6 2014*
3. *Zhang Rui - Who is There Oil on Canvas 120 x 180 cm 2015*
4. *Chen Qilin - Deviations - Generated Pixels Oil on Canvas 150 x 200 cm x2 2015*