

Tang Contemporary Art Presents

## The Beach, A Fantasy :

A Liu Yujia Solo Exhibition

Artist: Liu Yujia

Curator: Lu Mingjun

Opening: Saturday, October 7, 2017, 4 PM

Dates: October 7 to November 8, 2017

Venue: Tang Contemporary Art Space I

Tang Contemporary Art Beijing is proud to announce the opening of “The Beach, A Fantasy,” a solo show for artist Liu Yujia, on October 7, 2017. Curated by Lu Mingjun, the exhibition will present the artist’s recent video, animation, and installation works centered on the beach.

At the end of 2015, Liu Yujia traveled alone to an energy industry site in Karamay, Xinjiang. Over the course of nearly a month, she immersed herself in the spectacle of the Gobi and the yardangs in shooting Black Sea. Inspired by Italo Calvino’s *Invisible Cities*, this video constructs a demonic yet scenic narrative that is both created and destroyed through the presentation of modern changes taking place in the border areas and the toughness and fragility of these areas. The piece does not sing an elegy for a modern borderland; it intends to explore a new, latent energy for perception and action in a savage land enveloped by rationality.

More than a year later, she presented a new project *The Beach, A Fantasy* (2017). Strictly speaking, it is an extension of *Black Sea*, but the difference is that Liu has shifted her focus to the beach. Situated between dry land and the ocean, the beach belongs to neither side, but has the traits of both. The beach is a boundary, but it is also a frontier, liminal space.

The project is comprised of five independent yet interrelated new works, all focused on different narrative dimensions of the beach as a theme or motif. Liu has perused large amounts of print and online resources, selecting video documentation and pictorial imagery, including familiar scenes of the beach at Normandy, where Allied forces landed during World War II, Sydney’s Bondi Beach, and Miami beach vacations, as well as relatively unfamiliar scenes from Alexandria’s port, Rio de Janeiro, and Martinique. It is hard to imagine what direct relationships could possibly exist between the beaches in lifestyle advertising, in Daniel Defoe’s books, and in Friedrich’s paintings, as well as the beaches of Syrian resorts, the beaches on which refugees arrived, and the beaches that

当代唐人艺术中心 - 北京 地址：中国北京市朝阳区酒仙桥路2号

大山子 798 艺术区 邮编：100015 电话：0086 10 5978 9610 传真：0086 10 5978 9379 电邮：info@tangcontemporary.com

Tang Contemporary Art – Beijing Add: 798 Art District, No. 2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100015, P.R. China T:

0086 10 5978 9610 F: 0086 10 5978 9379 E: info@tangcontemporary.com

Web: <https://www.tangcontemporary.com/>

serve as daily markets in India. Thus, these materials have created a special realm that knits together the different political, cultural, and psychological states of gender and class, race and region, trade and conflict, desire and massacre, expansion and recession, freedom and terror.

At the beginning of this year, when she traveled to Ko Lan, an island near Pattaya in Thailand, she focused her attention on a vagrant down on his luck. In her film, the miraculous experience of a vagrant is an allegory of the beach. As in W. J. T. Mitchell's views on landscape, the beach is not simply a fetishistic object; it is a complex socio-political organism. It is a free zone of self-exile, and at the same time, because of taboos, it can become a regulated area; because of war, it can become the site of a massacre; because of capital, it is often a space of consuming and being consumed. The beach is an embodiment of modernity, while also containing intense anti-modernity. In a globalized era of collision, blending, conflict, and fragmentation, Liu Yujia has inadvertently written a cultural history or geographical treatise on beaches, but what she truly cares about is how it is shaped into a new geographical structure and perceptual method when we attempt to weave it into a new narrative. Like Robinson Crusoe discovering footprints on the beach, this gives rise to surprise and fear, while inspiring wisdom and imagination. Here, the beach is a metaphor for frontiers, borders, and geographic politics; it also transcends existing definitions and grows into a new aesthetic medium and imaginative mechanism.

---

## ABOUT Artist

Liu Yujia was born in Sichuan Province in 1981. She graduated from Sichuan Fine Arts Institute in 2004 and got her Master's Degree in London College of Communication, University of the Arts London in 2009. She currently lives and works in Beijing. Recent exhibitions include: Liu Yujia Solo Exhibition: Vertigo, Tang Contemporary Art Center, Beijing, 2016; Liu Yujia Solo Exhibition: The Third Man, Shanghai Gallery of Art, Shanghai, 2015; Why Not Ask Again? 11th Shanghai biennale , PSA , Shanghai , 2016 ; Resurrection-The Regeneration of Strongholds, Surplus Space, Wuhan, 2017 ; Rip It Up!-2nd Changjiang International Photography and Video Biennale, Chongqing Changjiang Museum of Contemporary Art, 2017 ; A Chemical Love Story , Tang Contemporary Art Beijing, Beijing, 2017 ; Leap Screen: "What you see is not what you see", Photofairs San Francisco, 2017 ; Take me out, chi K11 Art Museum, Shanghai, 2016; The Image Expression In the Art Practice of New Generation, Xi'an Art Museum, Xi'an, 2016; Moving Image programme , OCT Contemporary Art Terminal , Shanghai, 2015; The System of Objects, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, 2015; The Film Sector, Art Basel HK, Hong Kong, 2015.

当代唐人艺术中心 - 北京 地址：中国北京市朝阳区酒仙桥路2号

大山子 798 艺术区 邮编：100015 电话：0086 10 5978 9610 传真：0086 10 5978 9379 电邮：info@tangcontemporary.com

Tang Contemporary Art - Beijing Add: 798 Art District, No. 2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100015, P.R. China T:

0086 10 5978 9610 F: 0086 10 5978 9379 E: info@tangcontemporary.com

Web: <https://www.tangcontemporary.com/>

## 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.

## 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.

Tang Contemporary Art  
Tang Contemporary Art, 798 Art District, No.2 Jiuxianqiao  
Road, Chaoyang Dst., Beijing, 100015  
Gallery Hours: Tuesday to Sunday, 11am – 6:30pm

info@tangcontemporary.com | +86 59789610  
WeChat: tang\_contemporary / IG:  
tangcontemporaryart  
www.tangcontemporary.com

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