

空白空间 WHITE SPACE

YANG Jian | Geyser
WHITE SPACE (Caochangdi)
5.26-7.7, 2023

White Space presents *Geyser*, Yang Jian's fifth solo exhibition with the gallery. Opening on May 26, 2023, the exhibition is on view through July 11 at the Caochangdi location.

During his past trip to the United States, Yang witnessed the eruption of a geyser at Yellowstone National Park. In awe of this phenomenon of nature, the artist writes: "The water once again spouted upward, after it fell back down. I experienced with my own eyes the power of the geyser. It revealed the mightiness of the hidden underworld."

Geyser's almost unquenchable power is foregrounded by the intervals of calmness between eruptions, which render more palpably the appalling force when it bursts. Yang fittingly titled the exhibition *Geyser*, hinting at a similarly eruptive force that underlies the works in the exhibition – the individual's outburst of intense emotions and thoughts during abnormal times and circumstances. Best known for his installation and video works, Yang has staged this exhibition around his recent body of paintings. Paintings offered a casual, yet immediate and bodily response to a time of extremely limited mobility.

Yang Jian considers this body of work as a constellation of blueprints that contributes to the system building of his future artistic endeavor. They articulate what the artist stresses as a clear distinction between "an artist's paintings" and "a painter's paintings." More than a prophetic look into the future, the works honestly embody the tangible experience of living under societal forces, offering a counteraction to the omnipresence of discipline. Fire hoses form an unconventional framing device, metaphorically besieging the paintings. Collapsed and slack, they suggest the once powerful release and the looming threat as pressure rebuilds, a synecdoche for certain forms of discipline and a site for resistance.

Yang Jian (b. 1982, Fujian Province, China) received his MA from the School of Fine Arts, Xiamen University in 2007. From 2009 to 2010, Yang Jian was admitted to the international residency program at the Dutch Royal Academy of Fine Arts (RABK), in 2010 he was awarded funding by the Dutch Niemeijer Fonds Foundation; in 2015, he won the Special Jury Prize of the Third "Huayu Youth Award" at Art-Sanya, China; in 2021, he was selected for The Swiss Arts Council Artists Residency. Recent solo exhibitions include *Geyser*, WHITE SPACE (Caochangdi), Beijing, China (2023); *Geyser - Yang Jian*, TOKU Gallery, Nanjing, China (2023); *Higher Faster Stronger - A Solo Project by Yang Jian*, C5CNM, Beijing, China (2021); *Yang Jian: A Big Metaphor*, Microneme Space, Wuhan, China (2019); *The Times Impossible to Encounter; The Gaze from a Composite Leviathan*, WHITE SPACE, Beijing, China (2018); *General Image*, SNAP, Shanghai, China (2017); *Yang Jian: Constructing Ruins*, Taikang Space, Beijing, China (2017). Recent group exhibitions include *Durian-Durian: Southeast Asian Studies as a Methodology*, Art Museum of Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, Guangzhou, China (2023); *Double Reality*, Emerging Curators Project 2022, Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China (2022); *BOOMERANG-OCAT Biennale 2021*, OCAT Shenzhen, Shenzhen, China (2021); *Elise Gagnebin-de Bons & David Hominal & Yang Jian*, CIRCUIT, Lausanne, Switzerland (2021); *Noire*

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Lumière, HOW Art Museum (Shanghai), Shanghai, China (2020); *A Composite Leviathan*, Bridge Project, Los Angeles, US (2020), Luhring Augustine Bushwick, New York, USA (2019); *Sunset on a Dead End: The Notorious and Their Inexplicable Modes of Existence*, Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China (2019); *Three Rooms: Edge of Now*, Gallery Damdam, Berlin, Germany (2019-2020), Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe (ZKM), Karlsruhe, Germany (2019), Chronus Art Center (CAC), Shanghai, China (2018-2019), Nam June Paik Art Center, Seoul, South Korea (2018); *8102: On Reality*, OCAT Shanghai, Shanghai, China (2018); *The 6th Guangzhou Triennial 2018-As We May Think: Feed Forward*, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China (2018); *Turning Point: Contemporary Art in China Since 2000*, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2016). Yang Jian currently lives and works in Nanjing, China.