

空白空间 WHITE SPACE

Li Liao | Prologue: Reproducing "That Person" and the New Product Launch of Katliax

10.26, 2024-01.10, 2025

White Space is pleased to announce Li Liao's fourth solo exhibition at the gallery, "Prologue: Reproducing 'That Person' and the New Product Launch of Katliax," opening on October 26, 2024, and running until January 10, 2025. On the opening day, from 3:00 to 4:30 PM, the artist will present a live performance, followed by a fashion show debuting new pieces from Katliax, a brand founded by Yang Jun.

In 2022, Li Liao launched the project *The Wife Went to Start a Business* in response to changes in his and his wife's career and personal lives. As the project title suggests, Yang Jun left her stable job to start her own fashion brand. As the primary financial provider for the family, Yang Jun's decision to start a business not only pursued her own professional ambitions but also introduced new uncertainties and possibilities for their household. In this project, Li chose to supplement the family's income by delivering food, using the city as his "studio," which allowed him to capture perspectives and sensitivities previously unimaginable.

In fact, whether in his earlier works such as *Art is Vacuum* or *To Be a Better Man*, or in *The Wife Went to Start a Business* and this upcoming exhibition, Yang Jun and the dynamics within their small family system have always played a key role in driving Li Liao's artistic evolution. Over the past two years, Yang Jun's fashion brand, Katliax, has achieved considerable success. This exhibition will feature an unconventional fashion show to present her latest creations, alongside Li Liao's reflections on his own personal and artistic transformations over this period.

In the last two years, Li has honed himself as the direct subject of labor, meticulously refining both his material life and his thoughts. On one hand, he has actively restructured his lifestyle, while on the other, he has engaged in intense daily reading to "reshape his mind." Li sees himself as a "Ship of Theseus," constantly reworking and reproducing "that person."

Creating semi-fictional autobiographical works based on daily life, Li Liao presents a series of real life situations mixed with artistic actions. Through his often allegorical and self-deprecating action strategy, Li Liao takes the initiative to set up or take advantage of a situation to reveal his concern for the real problems that plague society, applying "communal participation" to practicing what he preaches in micro-level social systems and under concrete circumstances. In this process, he also observes and questions the evaluation mechanisms and rules for family production, social production and artistic production and attempts to provide a set of playful strategies to deal with stress, thus evoking a rethinking of experience.

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About the artist

Li Liao (b. 1982, Honghu, Hubei Province, China) currently lives and works in Shenzhen, China. He received his BFA in Oil Painting at Hubei Institute of Fine Arts in 2005. Recent solo exhibitions include *Li Liao: "Labour"*, MANGROVE GALLERY, Shenzhen, China (2023); *Li Liao: The Wife Went to Start a Business*, Pingshan Art Museum, Shenzhen, China (2023); *Anacatesthesia*, QiAO SPACE, Shanghai, China (2020); *To Be A Better Man*, WHITE SPACE, Beijing, China (2019); *"Art is Vacuum"*, WHITE SPACE, Beijing, China (2016). Recent group exhibitions include *ON / OFF 2021: Carousel of Progress*, He Art Museum, Foshan, China (2022); *Meditations in an Emergency*, UCCA, Beijing, China (2020); *Museum*, Museum für Moderne Kunst (MMK), Frankfurt, Germany (2019); *The Street: Where The World Is Made*, Mo.Co.Panacée, Montpellier, France; National Museum of the XXI Century Arts, Rome, Italy (2018-2019); *The D-Tale: Video Art from the Pearl River Delta*, Times Art Center Berlin, Berlin, Germany (2018); *Performing Dramas*, Centre National d'art et de Culture Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; Chi K11 Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2017); *Dragon Liver Phoenix Brain*, OCAT, Shanghai, China (2016); *What About the Art? Contemporary Art from China*, Qatar Museums Gallery Al Riwaq, Doha, Qatar (2016); *Habits and Customs of ____ Are So Different from Ours That We Visit Them with The Same Sentiment That We Visit Exhibitions*, Kadist Art Foundation Paris, Paris, France (2016); *The 3rd Ural Industrial Biennial of Contemporary Art*, Ekaterinburg, Russia (2015); *Surround Audience*, New Museum, New York, USA (2015). Since 2020, Li Liao transforms himself into an institution and initiate the "Fortune Exhibition of Li's Family House", in which Fengshui masters act as curators and guest artists create commissioned works.