

Tang Contemporary Art presents:

## Wang Yuping “Tedious Paradise”

Artist: Wang Yuping

Curator: Guo Xiaoyan

Exhibition Dates: June 22 – July 28, 2018

Location: 10/F, H Queen’s, 80 Queen’s Road Central, Central, Hong Kong

Opening Reception: Friday, June 22, 6 – 8 pm

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (HONG KONG – June 8, 2018):

Tang Contemporary Art Hong Kong is proud to announce the opening of Wang Yuping’s all-new solo exhibition “Tedious Paradise” at H Queen’s on June 22, 2018. Curated by Guo Xiaoyan, the exhibition primarily showcases work Wang made while traveling in Thailand, including the locally-flavored *Tuk Tuk* and *Lady Boy*, the watercolour series *Cat*, and the small *Starbucks* works. The exhibition will also present *Beihai Park*, his Beijing sketch series acclaimed for its relaxed, virtuoso technique. When shown together, the works are both moving and delightful.

In looking at Wang Yuping’s paintings, we are often unintentionally influenced by things that we never expected, but we are also inexplicably moved by the richness of the images, first by the special emotional quality achieved through his contemplation of the medium, and second, by the colours of his painting. Here, we can see the truth of painting, namely that they always contain deep perceptions, even if they are often ignored. Wang Yuping uses his distinctive painting language and combination of paint to put on a banquet, showing people that he is an artist who continues to create pictorial magic.



Wang Yuping working on *Lady Boy* series  
*Lady Boy* 系列創作過程

His paintings most often come from reality and memories. Reality is the ordinary lived landscape of cities, streets, and people in an era in which time passes too quickly; time flows like water even in our memories, allowing us to feel the afterglow. Wang Yuping uses simple, languid, and quiet emotion to depict the Beijing in which he lives, but those leaping, obvious, and enthusiastic colours show that he has never abandoned the core of painting, namely, the visual sensation of colour, and the joy of physical, breathing

colour. With regard to Wang’s use of colour in his paintings, the writer Ah Cheng once analyzed it in this way: “Wang Yuping excels at shading. Many people do not do it well and cannot find the right relationships. Wang’s pairing of grey tones and shading is incisive, sensitive, and charming.”

This Hong Kong exhibition tells the story of his ordinary, relaxed days in Bangkok and Chiang Mai. Wang Yuping said that, more than ten years ago, he traveled to Thailand often. In his eyes, Thailand was a friendly, easy place where people coexisted harmoniously with the natural environment, but the longer he stayed, the more he felt that it was too comfortable and empty— a “tedious paradise.” On this trip to Bangkok, he lived in an alley apartment, a quiet place just off

a busy street. He went to Starbucks every day to eat breakfast, and he liked to sit there and watch the world go by. The Westerners there made him think of pirates, and he was cheered by a pretty Thai woman walking slowly down the street. He sat there staring, thinking that the world was both tedious and wonderful. The 24 *Starbucks* works in the exhibition present these interesting figures and scenes, randomly captured on paper napkins.

He also focused on several things that always made him curious: tuk tuks, lady boys, and cats. As the most common mode of transportation in the country, tuk tuks are everywhere on the streets of Bangkok and Chiang Mai. They are convenient and cheap, weaving through the congested streets; in Wang Yuping's eyes, the magnificent interiors and exteriors of the tuk tuks are spots of nostalgic warmth in the city. He painted the tuk tuks from the driver's perspective, facing the street as cats scurry across the road. These tuk tuks are painted in warm, bright colours and riding one through the streets and alleys is like floating in a dream. The number of lady boys has increased since the 1990s, and international commercial interests have allowed Thailand to turn them into commodities for tourists. Most tourists who go to Thailand are searching for novelty when they go to see lady boy performances. Wang Yuping wanted to understand what they were really like, so he invited two lady boys to serve as models, interacting closely with them. He discovered that they had healthy mindsets; they were more accepting of themselves, they loved themselves more, and they thought themselves more beautiful than women. This authentic encounter and understanding allowed Wang to paint these healthy, quick-witted, and powerful lady boys.

In this body of work on Thailand, he chose to use acrylic and oil pastel on canvas, as well as paper. His casual, detached images bring us back to vacation. Paintings (figures), like words, are visible, and when people look at the paintings, it's like looking at the figures. The figures exist in these two-dimensional paintings, but we are actually looking into the depths, the depths of memory.



*Cat 2*, Water colour on paper, 42 x 56 cm, 2018  
猫 2, 紙本水彩, 42 x 56 cm, 2018

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

## ABOUT ARTIST

Wang Yuping entered the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) in Beijing, China in 1983. Since he graduated in 1989, he has been teaching in the Oil Painting Department of CAFA. He is known for his gritty, comic book style portraits of urban life in China.

The creative source of artist Wang Yuping is an expression on the basis of an experience in survival, the selection of subject matter focuses on the description of the plot of reality, and of an excellent “frosty coquettish” and “humorous” performance. He often uses a sketching technique, focusing on trifles and the state of ordinary people, to record, clip and transform the fragments, dispelling and releasing his experience, memory, hobbies and interests.

In 1997, he participated in the 47th Venice Biennial. His works have exhibited in various notable exhibitions in China and abroad and have been collected by the National Art Museum of China. In 2017, Wang Yuping had a solo exhibition "Jingshan Hill St." at Tang Contemporary Art Beijing.

## ABOUT TANG CONTEMPORARY ART

Tang Contemporary Art was established in 1997 in Bangkok, later establishing galleries in Beijing and most recently 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 Michael Zelehoski.

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