

Tang Contemporary Art is proud to present

Wang Du and An Xiaotong

Paysage

Opening Date: 2018.7.14, 16:00

Exhibition Dates: 2018.7.14 - 8.23

Exhibition Venue: Tang Contemporary Art Beijing Space II

Tang Contemporary Art is proud to announce the two-person exhibition “Paysage” for Wang Du and An Xiaotong at Tang Contemporary Art Beijing Space II from July 14 to August 23, 2018. The exhibition centers on “paysage” (the French word for “landscape”), showing how Wang Du and An Xiaotong understand and reference the contemporary qualities of ancient images of landscape within the context of our current globalized society.

Wang Du’s landscapes once again employ the technique he has used in his past work to translate 2D images into 3D images. Wang selected three classic ancient Chinese landscapes: Wang Ximeng’s *One Thousand Li of Rivers and Mountains* and Yan Wengui’s *Pavilions Along Mountains and Rivers* from the Northern Song period, and Wu Yuanzhi’s *Red Cliffs* from the Jin dynasty, translating them into 3D images using glass. While these transparent, fragile, sharp, and somewhat dangerous glass landscapes create a formal contrast with landscapes painted on ancient scrolls, they also suggest an intrinsic cultural reciprocity.

An Xiaotong’s landscapes are genetically-modified products of familiar ancient scroll standards and the present glut of images. Using the traditional painting materials of water, ink, and rice paper, she creates a landscape scroll nearly sixty meters long that was certainly not painted. It has the translucency of a latent image on a photographic negative, presenting—in creative form—the multi-layered spectacle of a seemingly idealized utopia, but also a ruin that has just barely survived disaster, or a mirage that is about to disappear.

This presentation of landscape avoids strong conceptual references, and there is no flattery to delight the senses, no feigned cynicism, no lamentations, and no self-consoling metaphysics; there is only simple landscape. The works are presented in the exhibition with an introverted tranquility, using space to guide the viewer’s interventions and meditations. This also provides another possible identification for the dimensional changes in the work: multiple relationships between the viewers and the works is more interesting than the artists directly presenting their ideas.

About the Artists

Wang Du

Wang Du was born in Wuhan in 1956, and he was one of the founders of the Southern Artist Salon during the '85 New Wave. He has lived and worked in Paris since 1990. He taught at the University of Paris VIII and the École supérieure d'art de Brest. Wang Du works in a range of media, including installation, sculpture, photography, and multi-media. Wang Du's art has received broad attention from critics and the media. His work has been featured in documentaries and numerous international media outlets (magazines, newspapers, TV, radio, contemporary art dictionaries, and catalogs).

In 2008 and 2012, Wang Du held solo exhibitions entitled "International Kebab" and "Musée d'Art Contemporain de la Chine" at Tang Contemporary Art in Beijing. In 2016, he held "Post-Fetishism" at Tang Contemporary Art Hong Kong. His works have been exhibited in international museums and contemporary art institutions including the 1999 Venice Biennale, the Centre Pompidou, the Musée National d'Art Moderne in Paris, the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Rodin Gallery in South Korea, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Deitch Projects in New York, and the Kestnergesellschaft in Hanover.

An Xiaotong

Born in 1971 in Xi'an, An Xiaotong currently lives and works in Paris. She has participated in exhibitions around the world as an independent artist and curator since the early 1990s. Her work takes diverse forms, including painting, installation, collage, embroidery, conceptual dance choreography, and jewelry design, and she is known for her rich and interdisciplinary practice.

The artist's recent solo shows include "An Xiaotong's Perceptual Forms—Jewelry and Textiles," Beijing Design Week, Come True Jewelry Design Center, Beijing, China (2016); "E moi," 33 Art Center, Guangzhou, China (2015); "Jellyfish" Shimei Bay, China (2012); "Arabian Labyrinth," Istanbul, Turkey (2012); "Stars," Paris, France (2012); "Where and When," Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China (2008); "Absolute Images," Assurances & Conseils Saint-Honoré, Paris, France (2006). She has also participated in "Passage," Beaugrenelle, Paris (2015); "Grand Paysage," Musée d'art et d'histoire de Saint-Denis Paris, France (2006); "Entry Gate," MoCA Shanghai Biennial, Shanghai, China (2006).

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Please contact the gallery in advance to arrange an interview.