

# GALERIE NÄCHST ST. STEPHAN ROSEMARIE SCHWARZWÄLDER

MIAO YING 苗颖 TOUGH LOVE 坚强的爱

January 26 – March 2, 2019

Galerie nächst St. Stephan Rosemarie Schwarzwälder featured the Chinese artist Miao Ying for the first time in 2016 in the LOGIN space with her installation *Chinternet How: A Love Story*. We are pleased to showcase Miao Ying's solo exhibition *Tough Love* in the main gallery. The exhibition will present all new works from Miao Ying in the form of paintings, video, installation and sculptures.

The Stockholm Syndrome relationship that Miao Ying has developed with China forms the core of her recent work. As a coping mechanism to live with the fact of developing a traumatic bonding with the totalitarian power during the intimate time spent together, Miao Ying has twisted her defense mechanism of the ego under stress, convincing herself it is all tough love after all—being cruel to be kind. These sentimental feelings are not strictly for show, however. Since she often fears that her affection will be perceived as fake, she eventually begins to believe that her positive sentiments are genuine. The Stockholm Syndrome is reflected throughout her most recent solo projects, "*Chinternet Plus*" commissioned by the New Museum, New York and "*Hardcore Digital Detox*" commissioned by M+ Museum, Hong Kong. As a member of the first generation who grew up with the open policy of China and the Internet, her work has always reflected the technology of our time and modern China addressed with a thread of humor.

In the work "*Blind Spot*" (2007), Miao Ying spent three months, ten hours a day, checking each term from a 1,869 page standard Mandarin dictionary to indicate 2,000 search terms that were censored in China from google.cn. The exhibition will reveal for the first time, a selection of these words censored in "*Blind Spot*" as paintings.

A new video, "*Love's Labour's Lost*," is commissioned by the Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art (CFCCA), Manchester, UK. The title is taken from William Shakespeare's early comedy and is a documentary of the artist stealing love locks from Paris, the city of love. The love locks were first invented by the Chinese and spread all over the world when individual Chinese were allowed to travel privately since the 1990s. Lock picking is like using VPN servers in China, and the process of training herself to pick locks is parallel to the labour spent in *Blind-Spot* (words censored from google.cn).

Also included will be new sculptures, "*Love's Little Spank*", five wooden instruments with colored ropes for a dungeon, and Trump's prototype walls in petite portable, Asian style folding screens. The exhibition overall has a romantic atmosphere.

Miao Ying takes part with a new commissioned work in the exhibition *Chinese Whispers. Recent Art from the Sigg Collection*, which will open on January 29, 2019 at MAK Museum für angewandte Kunst, Vienna. She also will participate in the panel discussion (with Ai Weiwei among others), taking place at 6 p.m. before the opening.

Miao Ying was born 1985 in Shanghai, she lives in New York and Shanghai. She received her BFA from the China Academy of Fine Arts - New Media Arts Department, and her MFA from the School of Art and Design at NYSCC at Alfred University, with a focus in Electronic Integrated Arts. Her works have been shown in China, Taiwan, Europa, USA, on the internet and in the virtual world of Second Life. In 2015, she represented China at the Venice Biennale (Chinese Pavilion) and in 2018, she participated in the Gwangju Biennale, Korea.

Recent and upcoming exhibitions (selection): New Museum, New York (group, 2019), Madeln Gallery, Shanghai (solo, 2018), Art Night London, Hayward Gallery (solo, 2018), Contemporary Art Museum Kumamoto, Japan (group, 2018), Surplus Space, Wuhan, China (group, 2018), The Photographer's Gallery, London (group, 2018), K11 Art Foundation in conjunction with MoMA PS1, Shanghai und Hongkong (group, 2017), Kunstraum Niederösterreich, Vienna (group, 2017)