

XU QU

CHAOS

Massimo De Carlo is pleased to present a new series of works by Xu Qu, entitled *Chaos*.

One of the most interesting and versatile artists to emerge out of contemporary China, Xu Qu's work spans a wide variety of mediums, such as video, painting, sculpture and installation. Preoccupied with confronting the reality of our global world, Xu Qu's previous work examined the symbolism of money, questioning our obsession with the aesthetics of power relations.

For *Chaos*, Xu Qu presents a series of eroded acrylic paintings and black rubber soft sculptures, engaging with more existential themes of humanity and deviating from his prior concerns with the harsh reality of our capitalist society. Delving into ideas of space and the universe, Xu Qu has created three sets of paintings, titled *Dust*, *Magnetic Fields*, and *Star Trail*, exploring the imagined view of the Earth taken from the perspective of humans in space. Each painting depicts an illustration of the world map, created by using bleach to permeate the dark canvases. Xu Qu immerses the viewer within the individual and collective world imagined through his eyes. Instead of utilizing precise satellite topography, the maps were drawn from the artist's personal memory and perception of the world. In *Dust*, the images of meteorites and dust float on top of the maps. *Magnetic Fields* depicts the north/south poles of the Earth. In *Star Trail*, one sees abstract man-made lights and the traces of celestial movements.

The new series of sculptures are titled *Sun Gun*, *Sputnik*, *Insight*, and *Voyager 1*. The exertion of human presence in the vast unknown of the universe is symbolized through the machine element of a space ship, and Xu Qu riffs on this idea by re-imagining the concept of a shape ship. Using cutouts of the various spacecrafts, Xu Qu utilises black rubber, bundling up the flat pieces with bronzed ropes. Dotted around the exhibition space, the viewer becomes encircled in this playful reconstruction of disparate elements of space, opening up the space into an imaginary mission.

Through this exhibition, the artist plays on the duality of two-dimensional paintings and sculptural installations to examine and question the ways in which the human race perceive this world, and whether the objects we release unto the unknown world become a shadow that shroud us.

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Xu Qu was born in 1978, in Suzhou, CN. He currently lives and works in Beijing. His solo exhibitions include: *Currency Wars*, Brussels, Belgium (2015); *Hunting*, Ullens Centre of Contemporary Art, Beijing, CN (2015); *Intercourse*, Beijing, CN (2015); *A Hit*, Beijing, CN (2014). Selected group exhibitions include *ZHONGGUO 2185*, London, UK (2017); *Hack Space*, Hong Kong, (2016); *Bentu, des artistes chinois dans la turbulence des mutations*, Paris, France (2016); *Shanghai Deal*, Shanghai, CN (2014); *On/Off*, Beijing, CN (2013).

Hard Facts:

Massimo De Carlo, Milan

Via Giovanni Ventura, 5 - 20134 Milan, Italy

From February 22, 2019 until April 20, 2019

Opening reception on Thursday February 21, from 19:00 to 21:00

Open Monday to Friday, 11:00 – 19:00

For further information and materials:

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