

漫游者之歌

5.25 - 7.14, 2019

艺术家：高磊、高露迪、何翔宇、简策、郝经芳 & 王令杰、Christine Sun Kim、李燎、李姝睿、刘诗园、刘文涛、刘辛夷、钦君、石至莹、谭天、童文敏、Ignacio Uriarte、王强、王海洋、王拓、谢帆、杨健、翟惊、张子飘

策展人：沈宸

“当你启程前往伊萨卡，但愿你的道路漫长，充满奇迹，充满发现。”

1911年，希腊离散文学作家卡瓦菲斯以《伊萨卡》为题，写下了这样的诗句，抒发对于故土的怀念与对漫漫人生的感慨。作为多重意义上的离散者，他远离当时的潮流，创造属于自己诗歌的独特精神世界。卡瓦菲斯在诗中提及的岛屿，正是24卷本史诗《奥德赛》(Odyssey)中英雄奥德修斯的故乡。于史诗中，奥德修斯历经10年海上历险回归伊萨卡，其名于古希腊语中意为“精神之路”。

时至今日，离散被赋予了更多崭新而复杂的现实涵义。在政治经济全球化的背景下，在去中心化和由网络链接的世界里，离散亦可被视为一次自主的前往和自我意志的选择——正如在另一则以“奥德赛”为母题的经典文本《2001：太空漫游》(2001: A Space Odyssey)中，困顿的海上归途转化为一次主动探究宇宙奥秘的征程。于这样的世界中，空白空间的24位艺术家，其出生、求学以及工作生活的地点也在漫长的道路中不断流转。而我们更在意的是，路途中的幸福、喜悦、迷茫、险阻，以及每每迎面而来的真实生活，曾给他们的精神世界与艺术创作带来怎样的变迁？

展览“漫游者之歌”(A White Space Odyssey)试图为空白空间24位艺术家的创作之旅进行一次“中途曝光”。通过选取贯穿于他们创作中的“线索性”作品，重返不断指向其各自艺术母题的精神家园。“线索性”作品并不一定是艺术家在过往的创作中最为人所熟知的，却从某个角度彰显或印证着艺术家在命题、观念、方法上的个人化实践及探索。在作品的时间层面上，有的艺术家将展示早期的作品，意在探讨蕴藏其中的方法对后续实践所起到的重要影响；有的则选取了新近的创作，提示着艺术家在当下的重要转变，并对此前的工作加以回应。从作品的精神层面来看，有的艺术家向内进发，探索内部经验的意义；有的则积极与外部世界发生关联，试图对激荡的现实加以回应——尽管在更多情况下，两者是缠绕在一起的。这些选择基于艺术家当下的工作及其阶段性状态进行，也都展现出艺术家一以贯之的批判性思考以及身体力行的工作。

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WHITE SPACE BEIJING

展览无意展现一种普遍化的经验,而是希望回到每位艺术家自身,去关照他们的成长与来路,追溯个体意志、思考、判断与选择的价值;并以这些个体生命的多样性和复杂性,去织构交相辉映的星丛与通往未来彼岸的可能。

A White Space Odyssey

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Artists: Gao Lei, Gao Ludi, He Xiangyu, Jingfang Hao & Lingjie Wang, Ce Jian, Christine Sun Kim, Li Liao, Li Shurui, Liu Shiyuan, Liu Wentao, Liu Xinyi, Qin Jun, Shi Zhiying, Tan Tian, Tong Wenmin, Ignacio Uriarte, Wang Qiang, Wang Haiyang, Wang Tuo, Xie Fan, Yang Jian, Zhai Liang, Zhang Zipiao

Curator: Shen Chen

"As you set out for Ithaka, hope your road is a long one, full of adventure, full of discovery."

In 1911, the Greek novelist Constantine Cavafy wrote these verses to a poem entitled, *Ithaka*. It expressed the writer's nostalgia for his hometown and lament for long life. Being an exile in many ways, he distanced his writing from current literary trends. Instead, he created an independent spiritual world for his poetry. The island Cavafy mentioned in the poem is hero Odysseus' hometown, portrayed in Homer's 24-chapter epic, *The Odyssey*. In this epic, Odysseus, whose name means "way of mind" in ancient Greek, traveled for ten years on the sea to return to Ithaka.

As of now, dispersion has the attributes of many new and complex meanings. Particularly in the political and economic context of globalization, in a world decentralized yet connected through the Internet, to disperse may be construed as taking a proactive journey or making a self-driven choice. As in the case of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, modeled on the classical literature of *The Odyssey*, in which a journey trapped on the sea is transformed into an active exploration to the enigmatic universe. In a world like the one we live in, the locations of birth, studies, work, and life for these 24 artists at White Space Beijing have also been shifting constantly on this long journey. However, we are more interested in the happiness, joy, confusion, obstacles, and the life they have inadvertently encountered, as well as how these experiences would pivotally impact their spiritual world and art practices?

A White Space Odyssey aims to present a "midway exposure" for the 24 artists' journeys at White Space Beijing. By selecting these "cue-dependent" works of art that are transversal in their practice, we are given the opportunity to go back to the spiritual homeland of their respective artistic subjects. These "cue-dependent" works are not necessarily the most familiar pieces in their practices, however, to a certain degree, each exemplifies or embodies the artist's personalized experiments and explorations with regards to subject matter, concept, and approach. With regards to the temporal component of this selection, some artists choose to exhibit their early works in order to address the approach they have taken that had a tremendous impact in their practice thereafter; others present the more recent works that exhibit the artists' current and important transitions, as they may offer a response to their earlier practice. In terms of the spiritual component of the artworks, some embarked on introspective journeys that uncover the meanings of their internal experiences; others are proactively relating to the outside world and try to provide responses to the agitated realities – in spite in most cases, the two are intimately intertwined. These choices are made on the basis of the artists' current work and their state of being, which aim to showcase their continuous critical thinking and commitment to art practice.

This exhibition is not interested in articulating a general experience. Instead, it hopes the viewer would engage with the practice of each individual artist by look into the long way they have come, tracing back their individual will, thinking, judgment and value choices. With the diversity and complexity of these individual lives, we hope to weave a radiant constellation and the possibility towards a future paradise.

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