VSF

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上 TOP

022

谁在说? 谁在听? 林荫庭的美学政治 WHO IS SPEAKING? WHO IS LISTENING? KEN LUM'S POLITICS OF AESTHETICS

陈立 Leo Li Chen



026

戈尔丁+塞内比: 无头者 GOLDIN + SENNEBY: HEADLESS 知念露西 Lucy Chinen

030

萨沙・布罗宁: 中空的身体 SASCHA BRAUNIG: THE HOLLOW BODY

克莱尔·提瑞尔-莫瑞 Clare Tyrrell-Morin

034

特罗拉马: 我不知道自己在做什么, 也不知道为什么一直做着 TROMARAMA: I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOINGAND WHY I KEEP DOING IT

瑞思卡・阿菲亚提 Riksa Afiaty

038

刘宇昆: 人造物、表达,以及语言 KEN LIU: ARTIFACTS, EXPRESSIONS, AND LANGUAGES 洪迈 Einar Engström

044

"异装"的外来语: 维吾尔之于凯末尔 TRANSVESTITE TRANSLITER-ATION: THE CASE OF UYGHUR VERSUS ATATÜRK

斯拉夫人与鞑靼人 Slavs and Tatars

054

陈文波: 绘画的几个关键词 CHEN WENBO: KEYWORDS FOR PAINTING

岳鸿飞 Robin Peckham

058

重铸过去: 邱炯炯的人像纪实 RECASTING THE PAST: THE DOCUMENTARY PORTRAITURE OF QIU JIONGJIONG

夏本明 Benny Shaffer

062

姚书安: 烟雾的港湾 AMY YAO: BAY OF SMOKES

尚端 Danielle Shang

066

托比亚斯・麦迪逊: 咬一口梨 TOBIAS MADISON: ONE BITE OF PEAR

072

时间作为对抗──读"王兵: 三个肖像" TIME AS PROVOCATION: ON "WANG BING: THREE PORTRAITS"

邓祖儿 Jo-ey Tang

杨诗涵 Ida Yang

076

在你面前,我们一同消散: 梅里克·卡拉 IN YOUR PRESENCE, WE DISSOLVE TOGETHER: MELIKE KARA

080

萨斯基亚·努尔·范·伊姆霍夫: 模式、霉菌、不拘一格 SASKIA NOOR VAN IMHOFF: A MOLD IS A MOLD IS NOT A MOLD 莎拉·吉安尼尼 Sara Giannini

084

跃界 CROSSOVER

中 MIDDLE

092

关小: 奇异的节奏 GUAN XIAO: RHYTHM OF SINGULARITY

赖非 Lai Fei

102

曾吴: 生命进行时 WU TSANG: A LIFE IN PROCESS 白慧怡 Stephanie Bailey



112

从"社会主义现实主义之后"到"社会 主义现实主义之前" FROM AFTER SOCIALIST REALISM TO BEFORE 宋轶 Song Yi

116

社会主义现实主义及其前世今生 SOCIALIST REALISM AND ITS INCARNATIONS

弗拉基米尔・帕佩尼 Vladimir Paperny



126

《戴草帽的人》和《健壮的妇女》 THE MAN WITH THE STRAW HAT AND THE ROBUST WOMAN

曾宏 Zeng Hong

134

2016国际生活指南 INTERNATIONAL LIVING GUIDE 2016

杨圆圆 Yang Yuanyuan

144

作为一种图像基因的社会主义 现实主义 SOCIALIST REALISM AS AN ICONOGRAPHIC GENE 贺婧 He Jing

154

底层出走: 被忽略的"工人经验" 与中国当代艺术实践 THE WORKER'S EXPERIENCE 于渺 Mia Yu



164

真实的事物与现实的物品: 资本主义现实主义调查 A SURVEY OF CAPITALIST REALISM

许大小 David Xu Borgonjon

168

潘赫 Pan He

沈阳的一些绘画者: 反映论之后 PAINTING AFTER REFLECTION THEORY



178

汪晖:《短二十世纪: 中国革命 与政治的逻辑》 THE SHORT TWENTIETH CENTURY 鲁明军 Lu Mingjun



182

成功的晕眩: 大连万达与"模式创新" DIZZY WITH SUCCESS: DALIAN WANDA AND THE INVENTION OF A CLICHÉ

卓睿 Jacob Drever

190

短评 HANGINGS



VSF



上 | Top

姚书安: 烟雾的港湾 **Amy Yao: Bay of Smokes**



《潘通表面》 水桶, 动物饭店的花生油, 塑料复活节彩蛋 36.83 × 29.21 × 29.21 厘米 Bucket, peanut oil from Animal

Restaurant, plastic Easter eggs

原体, 而也是在这里姚书安开始学习冲浪。

姚书安在这个备受期待的个展上质询工业和生活空间中不同形 呢?尚端(由顾虔凡翻译)

后院里一个黑色油桶中有一台泡沫机喷射出大量云朵般的肥 式的污染,这并不令人惊讶。她的作品——包括了雕塑、场域特定的

城市径流中含有都市区域里未经处理的垃圾、化学污染物和生物病 环境危害的材料,而不是购买和制造污染物,那么她对于人类生态足 迹的批判是否能引起更响亮的共鸣, 她的抗议又是否会更具说服力

VSF

上 | Top

A foam machine gushes a massive cloud of soap lather from a black oil barrel in the courtyard. Plastic flowers stick out from a miniature blue Hanjin shipping container in the foyer. A bucket of murky peanut oil, collected from a trendy local restaurant, sits on the floor in a side room; a few shiny plastic Easter eggs swim in it. Lead blankets, used to shield bodies from radiation, are hung on chromed towel racks. A pyramid. constructed with a mixture of rice, polyvinyl chloride imitation rice, freshwater pearls, and plastic pearls, is erected in the center of a main room that is entirely covered with cheaply produced beige synthetic carpeting scattered with plastic K-rails, polyurethane rubber brains, and latex bones are scattered. Plastic flowers are implanted in an interior wall. A scent diffuser in a back room constantly emits an irritating odor that simulates off-gassing. Amy Yao transforms Various Small Fires Gallery into a quiet and eerie excavation site littered with biofacts that await the viewer to discover and to ponder upon. The ecological data uncovered from these objects confronts us with the pressing reality of a contaminated world in the wake of the Flint water controversy and the Porter Ranch gas leak. The title of the show, "Bay of Smokes," refers to the name that the Spanish bestowed on Los Angeles's San Pedro Bay in 1542.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, the city of eternal sunshine, Amy Yao and her sister Wendy were members of the all-Asian American riot grrrl band Emily's Sassy Lime in their teenage years, and later continued on in experimental sound performance. At the age of 22, Yao and a group of friends launched the legendary gallery China Art Objects in Chinatown, where a cluster of galleries soon formed. From 2004 to 2012, the Yao sisters organized Art Swapmeets in the High Desert, where artists from all over the world gathered to sell and bargain-hunt their works. After completing her MFA at Yale, Amy Yao relocated back to the West Coast, to San Pedro Bay, the site of the Port of Long Beach and the Port of Los Angeles, which together constitute the busiest container port facility in the United States. The blue-col-

lar community is also crowded with manufacturing sectors. As a result, the area suffers some of the worst pollution in the entire country. Bunker fuel and heavy diesel exhaust generate an enormous amount of toxic air pollutants. Additionally, the area maintains a large oil industry with wells located both underground and offshore. The drilling, fracking, and refining of oil exacerbate carbon footprints and toxicity in the environment. To make the matter even more biting, the water quality also ranks among the worst, mainly due to urban runoff containing untreated garbage, chemical pollutants, and biological pathogens from the metropolitan area. This is where Yao picked up surfing.

It should not come as a surprise that Yao's highly anticipated solo exhibition interrogates different forms of contamination in industrial and domestic spaces. Her works-spanning sculpture, site-specific installation, olfactory installation, digital print, and audio-smell acrid and look suspicious. Employing store-bought cheap consumer goods, she highlights causality in the fabric of everyday life that bears lethal consequences. Contamination is rubbed on our skins and ingested into our stomachs. It aggravates our nostrils and infects our bodies. Imminent threats to the relationships between nature and society alert us to a disaster subculture in which our ethos and social function are increasingly shaped by the anxiety of recollecting and anticipating environmental calamities. Yao lets it all out. Her installation creates a sensory and narrative experience that confronts the viewer with the dystopian and fragile landscape of modern society, imperiled by unsettling breakage, slippage, spillage, and the disruption of systems and processes. The palpable aging of her materials evokes the question of lasting. Plastic flowers implicate Bill McKibben's "end of nature." Silicone brains and bones suggest an uninhabitable earth. And the persistent off-gassing further inflicts phobia: our environment has finally turned against us.

While challenging the dominance of consumerism and raising eco-consciousness, Yao's work also underlines the



"烟雾的港湾" 展览现场 旧金山星星之火画廊 View of "Bay of Smokes" Various Small Fires Los Angeles

上 | Top



inequality in toxic discourse-Lawrence Buell's term for the perceived threat of environmental hazard due to human agency-and environmental justice. On the one hand, low-cost synthetic merchandise, often contaminated, typically targets lower-income people; on the other hand, silicone breast implants are favored by women of the middle and upper classes. San Pedro Bay is heavily polluted, while Malibu, only a few miles away but populated by movie stars and hedge fund gurus, enjoys pristine beaches and water. Under Lefebvre's aegis of the capitalist trinity (land, capital, labor), time and space are simultaneously "fragmented and hierarchical." To paraphrase Mark Dowie, "not all Americans are being poisoned equally."

Amy Yao's work is a testimony to collective anxieties around environmental degradation and its menace to the body. In making art, however, the use of material is not immaterial; it carries both literal and metaphorical meanings. Would Yao's critique of ecological footprints resonate louder, her protest more convincingly, if she incorporated recycled or less harmful materials instead of purchasing and creating contamination? Danielle Shang

2016年 泡沫机,桶,手喷漆 尺寸可变 Foam machine, barrel, soap, Dimensions variable

2016

《到外是城、无外是城》 聚氢酯橡胶 12.7 × 11.43 × 13.97 厘米 This City is Everywhere, This City is Nowhere No. 1 Polyurethane rubber 12.7 x 11.43 x 13.97 cm each



064