

The Palpable Soul of the Surface

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Exhibition Duration: 7th January – 11th March 2018

Artists: Fu Shuai 付帅, Liu Xi 柳溪, Xiong Yanjun 熊言钧

Art+ Shanghai's new group exhibition "The Palpable Soul of the Surface" inaugurates the year of 2018 featuring three new artists of the gallery – Fu Shuai, Liu Xi and Xiong Yanjun. Three artists animate their artwork with the rich and scrupulously elaborated texture. Fu Shuai borrows the techniques of Chinese rubbing in order to produce the paper which he incorporates in his stunning optical illusions. Liu Xi's appropriates new formations to craft her immaculately produced, offbeat porcelain objects. Xiong Yanjun's raises an open-ended question in his seemingly monochromatic paintings with an extraordinary subtle range of colors. Each work on show carries the human presence that appears in the form of traces left by the hand of the artist. You feel it through the enigmatic markings inscribed or sculpted on the surface of Xiong Yanjun's paintings, you imagine a careful yet firm hand casting sensual shapes of Liu Xi's sculptures, and almost see the repetitive movements of Fu Shuai's thorough hand applying layers of paint on a thin 'xuan' paper to produce a hyper realistic texture of a rusting iron sheet or a wooden frame.

Informed by a great organizing artistic intelligence, technical and emotional sophistication, thoroughly worked surfaces seem to radiate the wisdom of the universe and a serene dignity of the creator.

press contact: gallery@artplusshanghai.com
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tue - sun | 10am - 7pm



www.artplusshanghai.com

About Fu Shuai:

Fu Shuai (付帅) is a Tianjin based artist born in 1985 in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China. He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts from the Free Painting Department of the Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts in 2008 and 2011 respectively. A great portion of his young life he dedicated to computer games, where he felt a disconnect from reality and began examining the relationship between virtual and real spaces. His works are a realization of this examination.

Fu Shuai's paintings are like traps into which the viewer is repeatedly tempted to fall. The protruding visual forms and the hyperrealist sense of the painted textures push our perceptions of dimensionality and reality, and therefore give the irrefutable proof to the fallibility of perception.

The artist has held solo exhibitions in Tianjin, Beijing and Durlach (Karlsruhe, Germany). His works were also widely featured in numerous group exhibitions in Germany and Austria, as well as in the cities of Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and Chengdu in China.

About Liu Xi:

Liu Xi was born in 1986 in Shandong, China. After her graduation from the Sculpture Department of the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, she moved to Shanghai and currently lives and works in Shanghai and Jingdezhen. While appropriating new formations, surfaces and materials, Liu Xi continues to push the technical and aesthetical boundaries of ceramics.

Immaculately produced and innately sensual, her sculptural creations explore the themes of sexuality and love, freedom and constraints, identity and self-discovery, femininity and masculinity among many others.

She has participated in numerous exhibitions in China and abroad including, Portugal, Norway, Spain and Korea. Her works have been included in various international Ceramics Biennales and collected top prizes and honorable mentions. Always ready to pursue new creative opportunities, she actively participates in artist residency programs, among recently completed residencies were the ones in Taipei, Taiwan and Yixing, China. Liu Xi's works have entered public collections of New Taipei City Yingge Ceramics Museum in Taiwan, and Ajuntament del Vendrell in Spain, and Museu de Ceramica de L'alcora in Valencia, Spain.

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About Xiong Yanjun:

Xiong Yanjun was born in the city of Liuan of Anhui province, China in 1977. He graduated from the Anhui Normal University and completed his Master's of Fine Arts in Nanjing University of Arts, Nanjing, China. Xiong is now teaching Oil Painting at the Anhui Normal University in Wuhu and works at his studio as a professional artist.

The common denomination of Xiong Yanjun's works is the artist's reflective attitude towards the surfaces of his surrounding reality and a consequent profound question of the media he uses. Materials such as steel, aluminum, wood, cardboard, concrete, polyurethane foam, often used as support, emphasize the establishment of relationship between his works and the adjacent environment that is so constitutive for Xiong. The combination of spontaneous experimentation with the materials of a new century, technical and artistic sophistication, and an intellectual, constructive method, quite aptly describes the range of Xiong Yanjun's oeuvre.

Xiong's works have been widely recognized and exhibited in solo and group shows around China, including Beijing, Tianjin, Hefei, Nanjing and Shanghai. He has been featured in Anhui Contemporary Art Biennale in Hefei and the 4th Sino-Italian Biennale in Beijing.

About Art+ Shanghai Gallery

Founded in October 2007 and located along the Suzhou River within walking distance to Shanghai's famous Bund area, Art+ Shanghai Gallery is a dynamic art space dedicated to the exhibition, promotion, and development of Chinese contemporary art. Art+ Shanghai Gallery showcases a range of established and emerging Chinese contemporary artists, stimulating and celebrating the diversity of the sprawling contemporary art scene. In addition to holding group and solo exhibitions, Art+ Shanghai Gallery offers art consultation services, hosts cultural events, and participates in international art fairs.