

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### “Away from Disgrace” by Jiang Pengyi

**18 March – 6 May 2017**

**Opening Reception: 18 March 2017, Saturday, 3:30 – 5:30pm**  
**Artist will be present.**

Venue: Blindspot Gallery (15/F, Po Chai Industrial Building, 28 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Wong Chuk Hang, Hong Kong)

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm (Sunday and Monday by appointment only);  
closed on public holidays

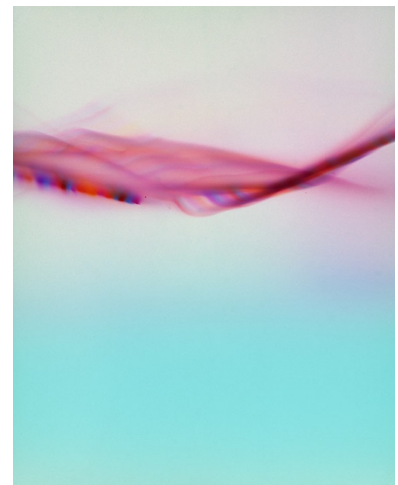
“Eroticism is the question of questions. Out of all questions, eroticism is the most mystic,  
the most common, and the most ancient.”

-Georges Bataille, *L'Érotisme* (1957)

Blindspot Gallery is pleased to present “Away from Disgrace”, Jiang Pengyi's fourth solo exhibition at Blindspot Gallery. The exhibition will showcase his newest works from three series which involve different experimentation of photographic materials, underscoring Jiang’s persistence to constantly investigate and innovate with the boundlessly generative potentialities of the medium.

Deeply inspired by French surrealist philosopher Georges Bataille’s text *L'Érotisme*, Jiang conceived his recent development of art as an existential inquiry into the solitude of being, and the role of sexuality in human relationality and spirituality. The three series being showcased, *In Some Time*, *The Sun Matched with the Sea* and *Dissolution*, forms a thematic exploration and a way of thinking about human mortality through the making of art.

*In Some Time* is a series of abstract images of dreamy colours, the result of a cameraless analogue technique in which Jiang personally manipulated the physical contact of coloured fluorescent paper against 4x5 large format photographic film in the darkroom. The former absorbs and emits light, while the latter registers and fixes the light reflection by a silver-salt reaction. Using photography to paint with light, the process is as much about the mastery of photo-chemistry as the pursuit of accidental beauty in the temporary connection between two sensing and reactive bodies. This process of painting with physical contact in the darkroom is an analogy to the acts in erotic play.





In *The Sun Matched with the Sea*, Jiang captured found pornographic images on expired instant films and violently treated them with excessive force, folding, pressing and prodding in an act of utter destruction and violation. The resultant image shows creases of radiating patterns, dramatising the explosive power and domination that characterise the underlining sexually explicit images.

In *Dissolution*, Jiang directly intervened in the found images through an emulsion lift from the instant film material. By separating the image-bearing emulsion from its original setting, Jiang gives a sculptural body to the once flat images, creating photographic objects that are unique, blurring the line between photography and sculptures.

“Away from Disgrace” represents the most recent development in Jiang’s evolving artistic practice. Select work from these three series will be featured in Art|Basel Hong Kong 2017.

The artist will be present at the opening reception. Interviews are welcome and can be arranged.

### **About Jiang Pengyi**

Born in 1977 in Yuanjiang, Hunan Province, China, Jiang Pengyi graduated from the Beijing Institute of Art and Design in 1999. He has been awarded the Aletti ArtVerona Prize for Photography in 2011, the Jury Grand Prize from the Société Générale Chinese Art Awards in 2010 and the Tierney Fellowship Award from the First Annual Three Shadows Photography Award in 2009. Jiang was invited to participate in the Helsinki Photography Biennial 2012 and was nominated for the Prix Pictet 2012. His work is collected by Kadist Art Foundation (France and USA); Guy & Myriam Ullens Foundation Collection (Switzerland); French Regional Contemporary Art Fund (Frac des Pays de la Loire) (Loire Region, France); Tierney Family Foundation (USA); ArtNow Contemporary Art Collections (USA); UniCredit Art Collections (Italy and Germany); Bank Aletti Foundation (Fondazione Banca Aletti) (Italy), CAFA Art Museum (Beijing, China) and White Rabbit Collection (Australia). He currently lives and works in Beijing, China.

### **About Blindspot Gallery**

Set up in 2010, Blindspot Gallery is a Hong Kong-based contemporary art gallery, with a primary focus on contemporary photography and image-based works amongst other media in contemporary art. The gallery represents both emerging and established artists, mainly from Hong Kong and the region but also beyond.

For enquiries and media interviews, please contact Ms. Lesley Kwok at 2517 6238 or by email [info@blindspotgallery.com](mailto:info@blindspotgallery.com)

Image captions:

**Jiang Pengyi, *In Some Time No.6***, 2016, Archival inkjet print, 178.6 x 140 cm, Edition 3 + AP

**Jiang Pengyi, *Dissolution No. 11***, 2017, Instant film on acid free cardboard, 27.5 x 21.5 cm

(Image courtesy of artist and Blindspot Gallery)