

Cui Xiuwen

EXISTENTIAL EMPTINESS

真空妙有－崔岫聞個展

About Cui Xiuwen

Born in 1960 in Northern China, Cui Xiuwen is one of the most renowned artists in contemporary art in China. Cui graduated from The Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing in 1996. Cui's works are known for addressing issues of sexuality and femininity in contemporary China, her artistic career began with painting and evolved to include video works in the early 2000's, and digital manipulations of photographic works a few years later.

Lady's (2000), is one of Cui's most iconic works, it is a video filmed with a hidden camera in the ladies' room of a Beijing nightclub where prostitutes are chattering as they prepare for their clients. The video led to the first lawsuit in Chinese contemporary art history after its screening at the 2002 Guangzhou Triennial. The piece was also shown at the International Center of Photography (ICP) in New York City.

Sanjie (2003) is inspired by *The Last Supper* by Leonardo Da Vinci, Cui's "alter ego", a young girl, first appeared in her creation. The figure of a young girl in school uniform is acting all the characters in the painting.

Since then, Cui has turned completely to photographic assemblages in an intriguing mix of digital manipulation, traditional motifs in both Western and Chinese arts and her singular aesthetics. From that time, Cui Xiuwen's alter ego always appears as an icon she places in different contexts in her following series including *One Day in 2004* (2004) and *Angel* (2006).

The work of Cui Xiuwen has been exhibited in some of the world's most prestigious galleries and museums including Tate Modern and Victoria and Albert Museum in London; International Center of Photography (ICP) in New York and Pompidou Centre in Paris. Her solo exhibition was held at Today Art Museum in Beijing in November 2010.

About Existential Emptiness

Existential Emptiness continues in a similar vein of digitally manipulated photography as her previous works, *Sanjie* (2003), *One Day in 2004* (2004) and *Angel* (2006). The series is a continuation of Cui's self-exploration and artistic expression of the female experience in today's China. In contrast to the vibrant colours in her previous works, *Existential Emptiness* is a set of manipulation of digital photographic images of monochromatic snow scene where the artist captured in Northern China, the images are reminiscent of traditional Chinese ink painting. Cui's alter ego, the girl is slightly older yet still in school uniform and is accompanied by a life size doll that looks alike her. The re-appearance of the protagonist in this series suggests a development of the artist's alter ego in probing the question rooted in the deeper layers of the artist's mind. The doll implicates the duality of body and soul as a burden and a shield to the girl at the same time. The relations of the girl and the doll seem to suggest the artist's confrontation with her female identity and present the pain borne by women in Today's China.

Existential Emptiness



Existential Emptiness No.1, C print
S/ 73 x 250 cm, L/ 117 x 400cm, Edition of 6

Existential Emptiness



Existential Emptiness No.2, C print
S/ 47 x 300 cm, L/ 78 x 500cm, Edition of 6

Existential Emptiness



Existential Emptiness No.3, C print
S/ 66 x 350 cm, L/ 85 x 450cm, Edition of 6

Existential Emptiness



Existential Emptiness No.4, C print
S/ 117 x 200 cm, L/ 176 x 300cm, Edition of 6

Existential Emptiness



*Existential Emptiness No.5, C print
S/ 57 x 130 cm, L/ 88 x 200 cm, Edition of 6*

On view at Blindspot Gallery

Existential Emptiness



*Existential Emptiness No.6, C print
S/ 76 x 300 cm, L/ 114 x 450cm, Edition of 6*

On view at Blindspot Gallery



Existential Emptiness

*Existential Emptiness No.7, C print
S/ 102 x 82 cm, L/ 200 x 160cm, Edition of 6*

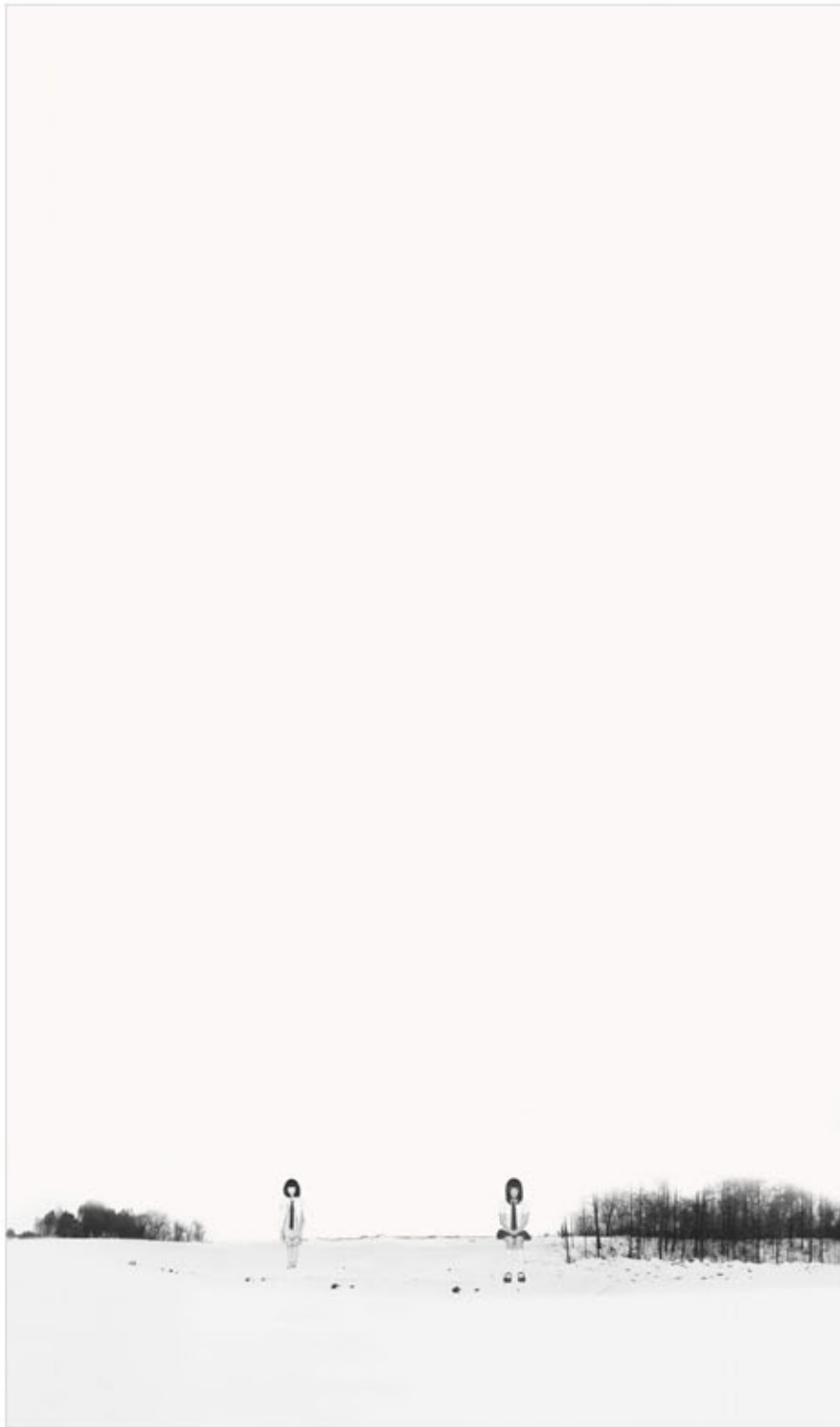
On view at Blindspot Gallery

Existential Emptiness



*Existential Emptiness No.8, C print
S/ 170 x 105 cm, L/ 240 x 149cm, Edition of 6*

Existential Emptiness



*Existential Emptiness No.9, C print
S/ 170 x 103 cm, L/ 240 x 145cm, Edition of 6*

On view at Blindspot Gallery

Existential Emptiness



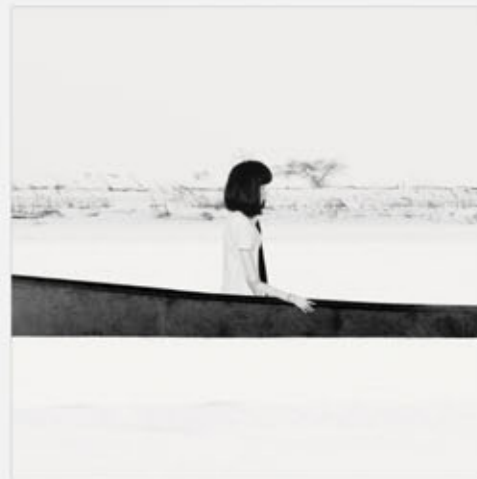
Existential Emptiness No.10, C print
S/ 144 x 130 cm, L/ 190 x 172 cm, Edition of 6

Existential Emptiness



*Existential Emptiness No.11, C print
S/ 39 x 200 cm, L/ 58 x 300 cm, Edition of 6*

On view at Blindspot Gallery



Existential Emptiness



*Existential Emptiness No.12, C print
S/ 71 x 200 cm, L/ 106 x 300 cm, Edition of 6*

Existential Emptiness



*Existential Emptiness No.13, C print
S/ 82 x 250 cm, L/ 132 x 400 cm, Edition of 6*

Existential Emptiness



*Existential Emptiness No.14, C print
36 x 400 cm, Edition of 6*

Existential Emptiness



Existential Emptiness No.14 (details), C print
36 x 400 cm, Edition of 6

Existential Emptiness



*Existential Emptiness No.15, C print
S/ 61 x 250 cm, L/ 98 x 400 cm, Edition of 6*

Existential Emptiness



*Existential Emptiness No.16, C print
S/ 78 x 200 cm, L/ 117 x 300 cm, Edition of 6*

On view at Blindspot Gallery

Existential Emptiness



*Existential Emptiness No.17, C print
S/ 72 x 300 cm, L/ 108 x 450 cm, Edition of 6*

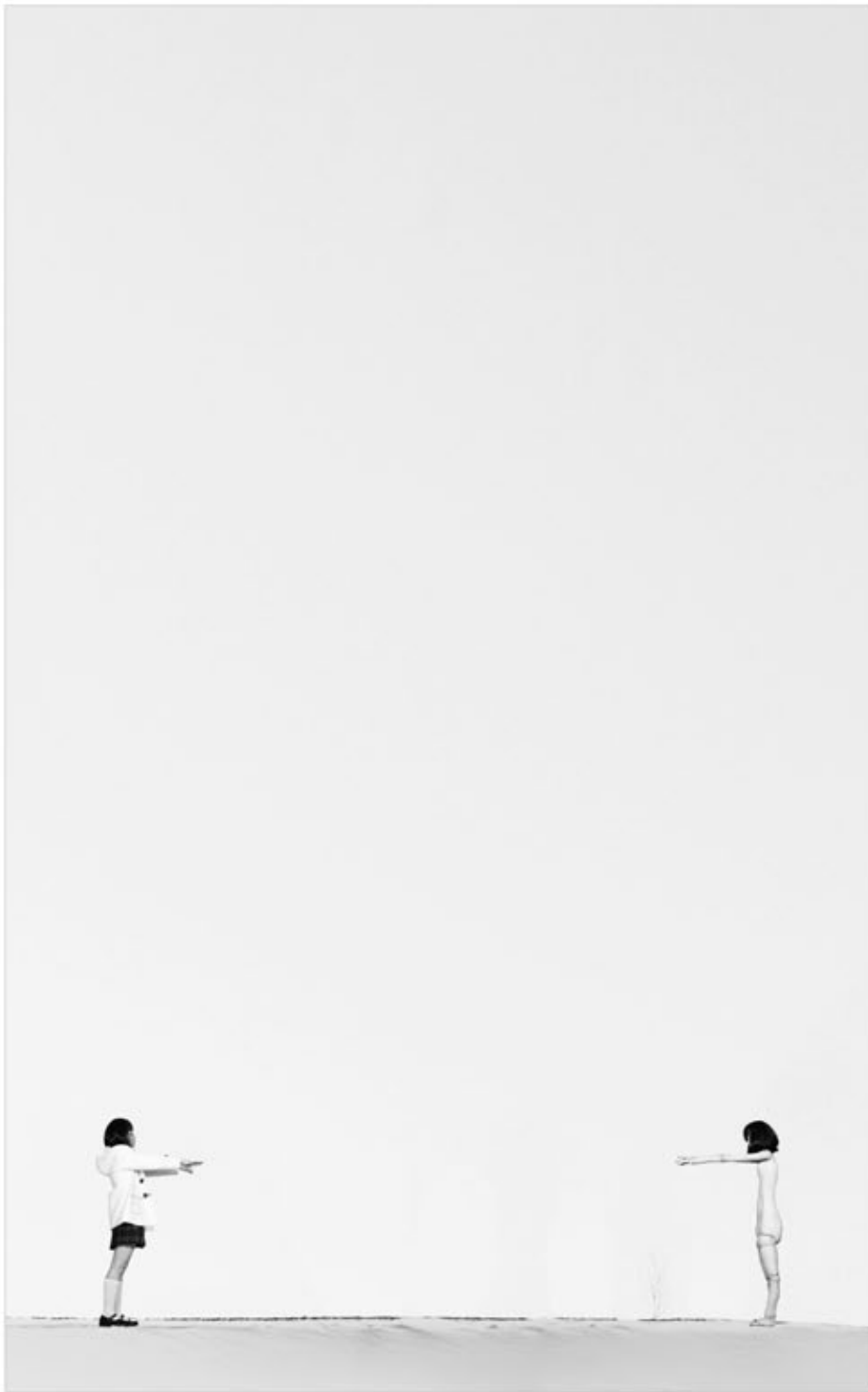
Existential Emptiness



*Existential Emptiness No.18, C print
S/ 96 x 200 cm, L/ 144 x 300 cm, Edition of 6*

On view at Blindspot Gallery

Existential Emptiness



Existential Emptiness No.19, C print
S/ 170 x 109 cm, L/ 240 x 153 cm, Edition of 6

Existential Emptiness



*Existential Emptiness No.20, C print
S/ 63 x 200 cm, L/ 95 x 300 cm, Edition of 6*

One Day in 2004

Blindspot Gallery is proud to present select images from Existential Emptiness alongside an iconic piece from Cui's previous series One Day in 2004.



*One Day in 2004 No.1, 2004, C print, 120 x 120 cm,
Edition of 8*

Artist Biography

1970 Born in Heilongjiang, China

Education

1990 B.A. from the Fine Arts Department of Northeast Normal University

1996 M.F.A. from the Oil Painting Department of the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, China

Solo Exhibitions

2011

“Existential Emptiness – Cui Xiuwen Solo Exhibition”, Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong

“Existential Emptiness”, Eli Klein Fine Art, New York, US

2010

“Existential Emptiness and Characteristic of Essence”, Hammer Gallery, Zurich, Switzerland

“Cui Xiuwen”, Dix9 Gallery, Paris, France

“Spiritual Realm – Solo Show of Cui Xiuwen”, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China

“Existential Emptiness – Solo Exhibition by Cui Xiuwen”, Tina Keng Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan



Artist Biography



2007

"Quarter – Cui Xiuwen", Florence Museum, Florence, Italy

"Angel", Primo Marella Gallery, Milan, Italy

2006

"Cui Xiuwen Solo Exhibition", DF2 Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, US

"Cui Xiuwen solo exhibition", Marella Gallery, Beijing, China

2005

Cui Xiuwen Solo Show "Angel", Marella Gallery, Beijing, China

2004

"Cui Xiuwen – Kan Xuan", Dual-Video Exhibition, Museum of Contemporary Art, Bordeaux, France

Artist Biography



Selected Group Exhibitions

2009

"China: The Contemporary Rebirth", Palazzo Reale Museum, Milan, Italy

2007

"Floating - New Generation of Art in China," National Museum of Contemporary Art, Gwacheon, Korea

2006

"Between Past and Future: New Photography and Video from China", The Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, NC, US

2005

"Between Past and Future: New Photography and Video from China", Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK

2004

"Untitled: Julia Loktev, Julika Rudelius and Cui Xiuwen", Tate Modern, London, England

"Between Past and Future: New Photography and Video from China", International Center of Photography and Asia Society, New York, NY, US

2003

"Alors, la China ? " Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

(Full Biography can be acquired www.blindspotgallery.com/en/artists/2010/cui-xiuwen.)