

Blindspot Gallery •

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"My Mum / My Father"

Featured artists: Ren Hang, Li Lang

17 January - 25 February 2015

Opening Reception: Saturday, 17 January 2015, 3 – 6pm

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

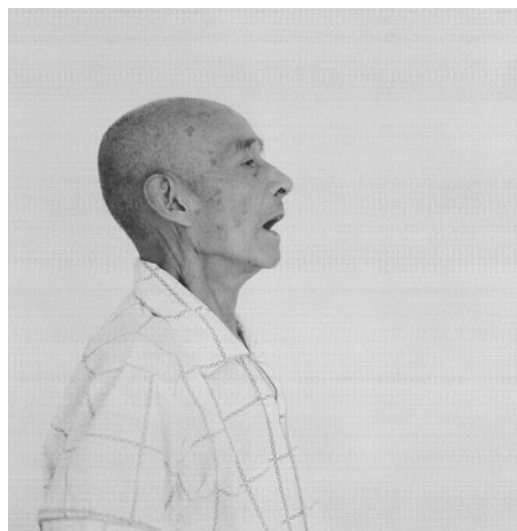


Blindspot Gallery is delighted to present a joint solo exhibition titled "My Mum/ My Father" featuring the new works of two Mainland Chinese photography artists: *My Mum* by Ren Hang, whose provocative brand of personal photography has garnered international acclaim; and *Father* by Li Lang, one of China's most important artists of documentary photography in recent years. Beyond their common theme and contrasting visual languages, the two series shed lights on the artists' creative

approaches and the shifts in critical thinking about the two forms of photography.

A rising star on the contemporary Chinese art scene, Ren Hang uses the photographic medium to depict the spontaneous and random living conditions in the subculture of today's China, where the subjects – mostly the artist's friends who pose nude – are stripped of any sense of self in explicit and often fetishistic images. Ren's latest series, *My Mum*, is a more light-hearted rendering of this ambiguity that underlines the portrayal of self in personal photography. Posing with the usual props in Ren's works like animals and plants, the artist's mother becomes another subject for his carefully staged and colourful images, while she retains her real-life identity in these fictionalised representations of her daily life. Beyond a playful and affectionate portrayal of his mother, *My Mum* also embodies a conceptual variation on Ren's previous works while utilising similar photographic language.

Li Lang has often experimented with a deliberately subjective approach in his documentary, as it highlights the photographer's perspective of the subject (*Portraits of the Yi* and *Land of the Yi*) or the visual language at play (*Landscapes*). In his latest series, *Father*, Li uses documentation to create a deeply imaginative and emotive work. The artist spent three years to hand-write the date of each day his father lived in his 82 years of life, directly on the black-and-white photographs of his father's body and belongings. The creative process was one of mourning, of resurrecting and safeguarding the life of a late parent against oblivion. For all the realism in its subject and visuals, *Father* accents the photographer's personal involvement through the act of creation, showcasing the formal and intellectual experimentation that evolves in his work.



In presenting the latest works from Ren Hang and Li Lang, "My Mum/ My Father" reflects some of the intriguing, experimental facets of personal photography and documentary photography from China today, as the artists pose new questions to the conceptual dialogue on the photographic forms they practice.



Artists will be present at the opening reception. Media interviews are welcome and can be arranged.

About the artists:

Ren Hang was born in 1987 in Chang Chun, Jilin province, China. In 2010, he was awarded The Third Annual Terna Prize for Contemporary Art. Ren's work has been exhibited extensively in China and overseas including museums and international photography festivals. He now lives and works in Beijing, China.

Li Lang was born in 1969 in Chengdu, Sichuan province, China. Beginning his photographic career in the 1990s, Li was awarded The Special Jury Prize by Lianzhou Foto Festival in 2014 with *Father* and the Motherjones Medal of Excellence in 1999 with *The Yi People*. Li's work has been widely exhibited in China and abroad. His work is collected by the Art Gallery of Ontario in Canada, Guangdong Museum of Art and Shanghai Art Museum in China, Instituto Valenciano de Arte Moderno in Spain and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in USA. He currently works and lives in Chengdu, China.

About Blindspot Gallery

Blindspot Gallery is set up to bring contemporary photography, an art form that has entered the blind spot of the Hong Kong art scene to a higher degree of visibility. We feature both established and emerging photographers and artists, mainly from the region but also beyond.

For enquiries and media interviews, please contact Ms. Lesley Kwok at 2517 6238 or by email info@blindspotgallery.com

Image captions:

Ren Hang, *Untitled 57*, 2014, Archival inkjet print, 67 x 100 cm (Edition of 10) / 27 x 40 cm (Edition of 10)

Li Lang, "Father 1927.12.03 - 2010.08.27" *My Father's Last Portrait B*, 2010 - 2014, Archival pigment print, 98.5 x 100 cm, Edition of 8

(Images courtesy of artists and Blindspot Gallery)