

IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE**A Departure from Reality III: The Tender Truth
Featuring Maleonn & Jiang Pengyi
Curated by Janet Fong****Date: September 3 to October 30, 2010
Venue: Blindspot Gallery, Central****Date: September 11 to October 31, 2010
Venue: Blindspot Annex, Wong Chuk Hang****Opening Reception: Friday, September 10 2010, 7:00 to 9:00pm****Artist Talk: Saturday, September 11 2010, 3:00 to 4:30pm
Moderator: Joseph Fung
Venue: Blindspot Annex, Wong Chuk Hang**

Blindspot Gallery proudly presents the finale of its trilogy exhibition - *A Departure from Reality III: The Tender Truth* featuring Mainland Chinese artists, Maleonn and Jiang Pengyi. New series of the artists, Maleonn's *What Love Is* and Jiang Pengyi's *Unregistered City* will be exhibited at Blindspot Gallery in Central. Previous major works of Ma and Jiang will be shown at the newly opened Blindspot Annex in Wong Chuk Hang as a retrospective on the artists' careers.

Continuing the theme of *A Departure from Reality*, Ma and Jiang employ the subjective lenses to project their thoughts and concepts into

'The Tender Truth', where carefully staged settings, miniature and digital manipulation deliver extraordinary messages to the viewers. Both Ma and Jiang's artworks are closely related to "Magic Realism", a prominent trend in literature and visual art that emerged in 1930s. Magic Realism marks a sharp departure from Realism (documentation) and Surrealism (departure from life), it encapsulates the mystique of the real. Maleonn's use of dramatic characters and dreamlike set-ups, Jiang's disproportioned buildings and odd arrangement of still life objects build up to the climax of the visual journey in *A Departure from Reality*.

One of the most famous artists in conceptual photography, Maleonn loves to express his sensibility through photography accompanied by his poems and prose. Ma's photographs are filmed both on location and in studio; his previous professional work as a TV commercial director gives a staged quality to both his indoor and outdoor shots. And Ma often participates in his art by incorporating the use of his own facial masks and body parts. The staged photography represents a whimsical world, with total manipulation of space and matters by the artist. In *What Love Is*, the phantom objects include fire flames, butterflies, flowers, decorative lights and paper-cut

figures on a miniature red-curtained stage. Every prop is carefully arranged along with dramatic effects such as smoke and festive lighting. These make-shift elements seem to signify that 'Love' is like a dream/play.

Jiang Pengyi made his name with his early work, *All Back to Dust*, featuring real-life massive buildings reduced to miniature size placed among trash and junk. Jiang was once a cityscape and architecture photographer who shot new skyscrapers. When Jiang moved from his less developed hometown to the rapidly changing Beijing, the cultural shock bred a deep sense of alienation in Jiang amid the bustling city. Excessive urbanization, demolition, redevelopments are recurrent themes in his art. In his latest series *Unregistered City*, Jiang uses digital manipulation to place new skyscrapers from real life among demolished sites of city expansion. Jiang intends to diminish the presence of human beings in his works, yet most of the images are filled with traces of human activity.

Both Maleonn and Jiang Pengyi recreate scenes with objects and matters from our daily life, yet the composition and atmosphere of their photographs go beyond the usual perception of the 'real'. By softening the cold reality they experienced with playful and magical images, the artists lure the audience into their messages imbued with facts through dramatic, conceptual photography.

About Maleonn

Born in Shanghai, Maleonn received his art training at Shanghai University and Shanghai Huashan Art School. Ma's works have been exhibited extensively worldwide. He now lives and works in Shanghai as an independent artist.

About Jiang Pengyi

Born in Yuanjiang, Hunan Province, Jiang graduated from Beijing Institute of Art & Design. He has participated in various exhibitions and first gained attention for his "All Back to Dust" series. He is currently based in Beijing.

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 market, to a higher degree of visibility. We feature both established and emerging photographers and artists, mainly from the region but not limited to.

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

Blindspot Gallery, 24-26A, Aberdeen Street, Central, Hong Kong
Gallery hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 11:00am to 7:00pm

Blindspot Annex, 15/F, Po Chai Industrial Building, 28 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen Hong Kong
Gallery hours: Thursday to Sunday, 11:00am to 7:00pm (during exhibition) / by appointment

Image caption:

Maleonn, What Love Is, No. 2, 2009, Inkjet print, 90 x 135 cm, Edition of 8

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