

“Play and Loop” — a 7-week screening programme
Week 1 | 10.7 – 14.7.2018

Jiang Zhi

In Week 1 of “Play and Loop”, Blindspot Gallery will screen two video works by Jiang Zhi. Both videos, *0.7% Salt* (2009) and *Curtain Call* (2009), feature an actress in front of the camera by herself, addressing the audience with simple actions. These two works reflect on the issues of performativity and theatricality in video art.

0.7% Salt is composed of a still close-up shot of Gillian Chung, a celebrity singer-actress from Hong Kong. The video displays the minute changes in facial expressions as Gillian slowly starts crying. Jiang Zhi stages Gillian’s tears to critique the way society and media place moral judgments on women. The video did not reason objectively why Gillian was crying, rather it allows for an undecidability between “truth” and “fiction”. What is reality in the media’s portrayal of a public figure? The multiplicity of subjectivities makes it difficult to tell for sure. Between perception and judgment, an individual should have the space to smile or cry.



If *0.7% Salt* manifests the catharsis in tragedy, then *Curtain Call* shows its polar opposite, that of farce and comedy. An actress responds to the repeated curtain calls in various ways, fascinating and charming the audience in a final act, as if it was an ultimate flirtation under the name of ‘farewell’. In a final straw of comedic intervention, the actress had to be dragged off stage. The curtain call becomes a “post-performance” that is self-reflexive and inauthentic. It breaks the fourth wall and is fully aware of its performativity, while ritualistically, if not under false pretense, distorting the temporality of the spectacle.



About Jiang Zhi (b. 1971)

Jiang Zhi graduated from China Academy of Art in 1995. Jiang had two major retrospectives at OCAT Shenzhen (2016) and Times Museum in Guangzhou (2012). He has also participated in exhibitions in many major institutions, including Guggenheim Museum and M+ Museum, as well as the Venice Biennale, Gwangju Biennale, the Shanghai Biennale and Guangzhou Triennial. Jiang was awarded the Chinese Contemporary Art Award (CCAA) in 2000, the Academic Award of Reshaping History (Chinart from 2000 to 2009) in 2010, and the Credit Suisse Today Art Award in 2012. Jiang currently lives and works in Beijing.

Image:

0.7% Salt, 2009, HD single channel video, 8'35"

Curtain Call, 2009, HD single channel video, 15'35"