

“Play and Loop” — a 7-week screening programme
Week 6 | 14.8 – 18.8.2018

Lin Ke and Shen Xin

In week 6 of "Play and Loop", Blindspot Gallery is pleased to present two video works both delivered by the first-person and autobiographical voice of the artists, *Like Me* (2016) by Lin Ke, and *Record of Rites* (2014) by Shen Xin.

Lin Ke's *Like Me* is a music video featuring the artist himself rapping to the beats of electronic dance and dubstep music in the background. The repeating lines come from a 60s *Star Trek* episode, which lament about the creative inertia conditioned by technological progress:

"...When dreams become more important than reality, you give up travel, building, creating; you even forget how to repair the machines left behind by your ancestors. You just sit living and re-living other lives left behind in the thought records. To probe the mind of zoo samples, like me."

The passionate speech becomes a critical confession. A post-internet artist known for his mastery in digital procrastination and manipulation on his MacBook, Lin reflexively looks at his own craft and delivers a stark revaluation on a life on screen.



Shen Xin's *Record of Rites* is an essayistic film concerning the proposal by Chinese billionaire Ni Zhaoxing to rebuild the Crystal Palace in South London. Shen interweaves video footages of her own experience as a guest at a dinner party in a village in Norway, which serves as the reference point to compare Ni Zhaoxing and former mayor of London, Boris Johnson's interaction in London in 2012, as well as that between the British and the Qing dynasty in 1860, which infamously resulted with the burning of the Imperial Summer Palace in Beijing. The artist also quotes a paragraph of the titular *Book of Rites (Liji)*, which dictates the strict code for the social etiquette of the host and the guest. This ever more expansive historical association ends with the famous verses of poet Gu Cheng, "The dark nights have given me a pair of dark eyes, but I seek the lights with them.", which prompts the artist to question herself the possibility of building her own sense of vision, a poignant and sincere inquiry without a clear definition or answer.



About Lin Ke (b.1984)

Lin Ke graduated from the New Media Arts Department of the China Academy of Fine Arts in 2008. Lin held his first solo show "L in K" at (Gallery Yang, Beijing, 2014). He has participated widely in group exhibitions in institutions and projects, such as OCAT Shanghai, Central Academy of Fine Arts Museum in Beijing, Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea (PAC) in Milan, and Museum Folkwang in Germany. Lin won the 9th AAC Art of the Chinese Youth Artist Award in 2015 and the first edition of the OCAT – Pierre Huber Art Prize in 2014. He is also a member of the artist group, Double Fly Art Center. Lin currently lives and works in Beijing.

About Shen Xin (b. 1990)

Shen Xin graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore in 2012 before earning her MFA from the Slade School of Fine Art in London in 2014. In addition to her solo exhibition "half-sung, half spoken" (Serpentine Galleries, London, 2017), her works have also been shown in the 4th New Museum Triennial, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, and OCAT Shanghai. In 2017, Shen was awarded the BALTIC Artists' Award. She is one of the 2018-19 artists-in-residence at Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam. Shen currently lives and works between London and Amsterdam.

Image:

Lin Ke, *Like Me*, 2016, HD single channel video, 6'12"

Shen Xin, *Record of Rites*, 2014, HD single channel video, 16'12"