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Blindspot Gallery participates in PHOTOFAIRS | Shanghai 2018 featuring works by Jiang Zhi, Jiang Pengyi, Chen Wei and South Ho Siu Nam

Date: 21 - 23 September 2018

Venue: Booth D25, Shanghai Exhibition Center, Shanghai, China



Blindspot Gallery is delighted to participate in “PHOTOFAIRS | Shanghai 2018”, presenting the works of Jiang Zhi, Jiang Pengyi, Chen Wei, and South Ho Siu Nam.

In the *Fade* series (2016-17), Jiang Zhi photographs acrylic, silk and glass flowers that are artificial, seemingly permanent and ever-green, though showing traces of dust and time. By reconstructing the décor of a common Chinese household in the 1980s, the artist allegorises the foregone epochal aestheticism and romantic imagination of a good life. This vision stands as a stark contrast to our present age, where one enjoys an ever-accelerating pace of change and volatility, yet foregoing a safe space to deposit one’s feelings and desires. This also reveals the artist’s meditation on classical Chinese philosophy, that things are “neither new nor old, neither leaving nor coming”.

Jiang Pengyi’s *In Some Time* (2015-17) is a series of abstract images of dreamy colours, the result of a cameraless analogue technique in which Jiang personally manipulates the physical contact of coloured fluorescent paper against 4x5 large format photographic film in the darkroom. The former absorbs and emits light, while the latter registers and fixes the light reflection by a silver-salt reaction. Using photography to paint with light, the process is as much about the mastery of photo-chemistry as the pursuit of accidental beauty in the temporary connection between two sensing and reactive bodies.

In *Dissolution* (2016-17), Jiang Pengyi directly intervenes in found images through an emulsion lift of the instant film material. By separating the image-bearing emulsion from its original setting, Jiang gives a sculptural body to the once flat images, creating photographic objects that are unique, blurring the line between photography and sculptures.





Chen Wei's photographic works are centred around his studio practice. Meticulously constructed in miniature and staged inside his studio, these fictional scenes are often ironically vacated and devoid of people. In *Entrance of the Garden* (2009), overgrown vegetation boisterously blocks the door from the outside. An ever-present motif in Chen's work, the sense of abandonment exposes the psychological and socio-political characters of contemporary China: collective yearning for betterment, disillusionment of urbanisation, and the powerlessness of individuals against systemic forces.



South Ho Siu Nam's *Into Light* (2007-2008) is a series of black and white photographs of pedestrian tunnels, taken at different locations in Hong Kong at night. The artist then hand-makes the print with the traditional darkroom process. In 2009, Ho was awarded the Hong Kong Contemporary Art Biennial Awards with this series. The entire series of *Into Light* is in the collection of San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA).

About the Artists

Jiang Zhi (b. 1971 in Yuanjiang, Hunan, China) graduated from China Academy of Art in 1995. Jiang works with a wide range of media, including photography, painting, video, and installation. Writing and poetry have also been an important part of his artistic output. Consistently engaging with contemporary social and cultural issues, Jiang consciously positions himself at the intersection of poetics and sociology. Jiang Zhi has had two major solo retrospectives at OCAT Shenzhen (2016) and Times Museum in Guangzhou (2012).

Jiang Pengyi (b.1977, Yuangjiang, Hunan, China) graduated from the China Academy of Art, Hangzhou in 2014. Jiang is an artist who constantly innovates with the infinitely generative potentialities of the photographic medium. His recent artistic evolution has taken him from digital photography to the experimentation with the materiality of photographic film with the use of cameraless analog technique and traditional darkroom processes. Jiang was awarded the Aletti ArtVerona Prize for Photography in 2011, the Jury Grand Prize from the Société Générale Chinese Art Awards in 2010 and the Tierney Fellowship Award from the First Annual Three Shadows Photography Award in 2009.

Chen Wei (b. 1980, Zhejiang, China) graduated from Zhejiang University of Media and Communications in 2002. Chen Wei constructs personal narratives using found objects, fabricated props and staged scenes, all of which are meticulously constructed and assembled inside his studio. Chen's recent solo exhibitions include "Chen Wei: The Club" (Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne, Australia, 2017), and "Chen Wei: In the Waves" (K11 chi art museum, Shanghai, 2015).

South Ho Siu Nam (b. 1984, Hong Kong) graduated from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 2006. Ho's artistic practice began with photography and has since evolved to the inclusion of performance, drawing and mixed media installations. Ho participated in group exhibitions in various international institutions, including LOOK/17 Liverpool International Photography Festival (2017); Asia Society (Hong Kong, 2017); and CHINA 8 (Germany, 2015). In 2009, he was awarded the Hong Kong Contemporary Art Biennial Awards.

About Blindspot Gallery

Set up in 2010, Blindspot Gallery is a Hong Kong-based contemporary art gallery. The gallery began with a primary focus on contemporary photography and image-based art, and has evolved to include diverse media in contemporary art. The gallery represents both emerging and established artists, mainly from Hong Kong and 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:

Jiang Zhi, *Fade 14*, 2016-2017, Archival inkjet print, 126 x 95 cm, edition of 6 + 2AP

Jiang Pengyi, *Dissolution No.20*, 2017, Instant film, acid free cardboard, steel pin, acrylic box, 27.5 x 21.5 cm

Chen Wei, *Entrance of the Garden*, 2009, Archival inkjet print, 100 x 120 cm, edition of 6

South Ho Siu Nam, *Into Light I*, 2007-2008, Gelatin silver print, 45 x 45 cm, edition of 10

(Image courtesy of artists and Blindspot Gallery)