

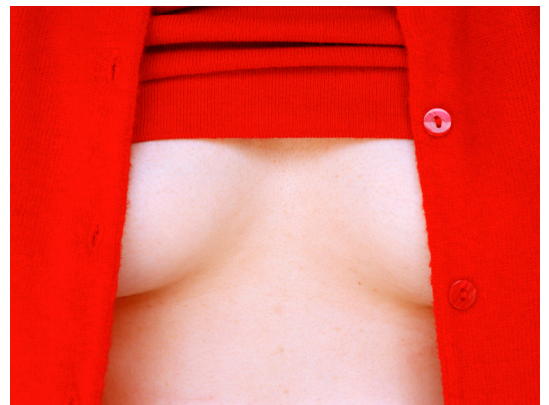
For Immediate Release**UNSCHEDULED 2021 | Pixy Liao****2 - 6 September 2021**

Venue: G/F & 1/F, Asia Standard Tower, 59 - 65 Queens's Road Central, Central; Booth 07

Opening Hours: (Preview day, 2 Sep: 12 - 9pm); (Public days, 3 - 6 Sep: 12 - 8pm)

Blindspot Gallery is pleased to present the works of Pixy Liao this year at UNSCHEDULED 2021. Following the success of her first solo museum show *Your Gaze Belongs to Me* at Fotografiska New York this year, Liao's works at UNSCHEDULED will span a series of photographs, videos, objects and a wallpaper installation.

Pixy Liao is known for her staged photographs featuring interactions between herself and Moro – her Japanese partner 5 years her junior. Liao's series of images take on an underlying humour whilst challenging male and female roles within standardised relationship models. Treating her relationship as an experiment, she develops the ongoing *Experimental Relationship* project where she and Moro subvert gender stereotypes in front of the camera. As the photographer and the director, Liao embraces dominance, initiating contact in most images whilst Moro adopts the role of the submissive and objectified muse, reversing the superiority and the history of the male gaze. These unique dynamics range from subtle to explicit.



Pixy Liao, *Red Cardigan*, 2014, C-Print, 37.5 x 50 cm
(Image courtesy of artist and Blindspot Gallery.)



Pixy Liao, *Get a firm grasp of your man*, 2010, C-Print, 50 x 37.5 cm
(Image courtesy of artist and Blindspot Gallery.)

Challenging displays of affection in public spaces, Liao brings her practice outdoors in *Hug by the Pond* (2011) and *Get a firm grasp of your man* (2010) where their comfort with vulnerability is tested and conservative ideas of concealing intimacy are challenged. Almost all the time, we spot the shutter release in the palm of Liao or Moro's hand; suddenly, the audience is equally vulnerable as we become aware that we are being examined and provoked with our voyeurism. Capturing Moro in dresses and kimonos further questions the necessity for representation, in both *Find a woman you can rely on* (2018) and *You don't have to be a boy to be my boyfriend* (2010), Liao shows that gender fluid expression does not make him any less of a man.

Atop a desk, *Breast Spray* (2015) is Liao's ready-made sculpture in which she assembles a silicon breast to a water sprayer filled with milk. Besides rendering the breast into an object, Liao weaponises this female

organ of nurture by altering the nipple into a nozzle. In the accompanying film *Milking the garden*, she demonstrates the function of the object by spraying Moro's face aggressively, blinding him with milk. Behind the object, a wall-sticker shows a larger-than-life Moro dangle from a clothes hanger, his limp body surrendering him into a prop. The inanimate *Breast Spray* appears to assert more power than him.

Taking a closer look at things, we come across *For Your Eyes Only*, Liao's photographic series of bodily close-ups. Simplified forms are composed with the curvature of buttocks and breasts, images of touch intensify sensations of intimacy, but not without humour as mundane acts transform into theatrical performances. In *Debut* (2012), red curtains part to reveal a mooning bottom; and in *Play Station* (2013), red nail varnish draws explicit attention to the fingertips attempting to censor nipples. A phallic representation emerges in *Ping Pong Balls* (2013), as a hand grips a white cloth pouched with a pair of balls.

One wall of the booth features a unique wallpaper designed by Liao, exhibiting a playful pattern with repeated icons of breasts and penises. Music plays from within a small kitchenette. On a small CRT television screen, two PIMO (Liao and Moro's art and music collective) produced films, *We Girls* (2015) and *What is the meaning of this?* (2018) present Liao and Moro conducting an array of cheeky antics. Liao's works reveal the constant flux and multiplicity of relationship dynamics and gender reversals, permitting a pathway for mutual understanding with her blatant humour. Her photographs present with clarity a model that provides women an expansive vision of possibilities beyond their society's preconceived notions.

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.

About Pixy Liao

Born 1979 in Shanghai, China, Pixy Liao is a multidisciplinary artist whose practice covers photography, installation, and performance. Liao is known for her staged photography, where she poses with her partner, Moro, who is Japanese and five years her junior. Her works challenge the traditional gender roles in heterosexual couples, humorously revealing the multitude of ways to be together.

Liao's solo exhibitions include "Your Gaze Belongs to Me" (2021) at Fotografiska, New York, "Choose Your Own Adventure" (2020) at SCOPE Hannover, Hannover, Germany and "UNE RELATION EXPÉRIMENTALE" (2019) at the Rencontres d'Arles in Arles, France. Liao has also participated in exhibitions and performances in institutions internationally, including How Museum, Shanghai, China (2020); National Gallery of Australia, Sydney (2020); Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool, UK (2019); the Museum of Sex, New York, USA (2017); Asia Society, Houston, USA (2016); and Firstdraft Gallery, Sydney, Australia (2016); He Xiangning Art Museum, Shenzhen, China (2014).

Liao currently lives and works in New York.

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