

For Immediate Release

West Bund Art & Design 2023

9 - 12 November, 2023

Booth B136, West Bund Art Center, Shanghai

Blindspot Gallery is pleased to participate in West Bund Art & Design this year at Shanghai West Bund Art Center on 9 - 12 November, presenting works by Chen Wei, Un Cheng, Sin Wai Kin, So Wing Po, Xiyadie, Trevor Yeung, and Zheng Haozhong. Their practices encompass a range of mediums including painting, photography, video, object-based works, and papercuts. They reflect the gallery's diverse program focusing on contemporary art practices by Chinese and diasporic artists with a global perspective.

Featured in our West Bund presentation are recent works by **Chen Wei** who captures through photography staged scenes that are constructed in his studio space, depicting societal narratives stemmed from his observations of urban life. Hong Kong-based artist **Un Cheng** creates large-scale paintings that are derived from her personal encounters in the city. Painted from photographs and dashed with magical realism, these works reflect her internal dialogues with her surroundings. London-based artist **Sin Wai Kin** was nominated for the Turner Prize 2022 for their film and project *It's Always You* (2021). This presentation will exhibit limited edition ephemera, including acrylic framed signed posters, generated from the video. Displayed alongside the posters are unique face wipes by the artist. These wipe works are imprints of the artist's makeup from different performances and video works. Recalling the essence of *The Shroud of Turin*, they are documentation of the performance and filming, as well as stand-alone works that exist in their own right.

**So Wing Po** whose art is informed by her family background in Chinese medicine uses medicinal ingredients as raw materials for her artistic practice. Coinciding with West Bund, So will also be taking part in the 14th Shanghai Biennale at the Power Station of Art opening on 9 November 2023, showcasing her mixed-media work *Invisible Island* (2021 - 2022). She collected seaweeds and plant samples from Lamma Island in Hong Kong, putting them through a process called decellularisation which erases all living cells and proteins. Each sample comes with a story or a poem and are shown collectively, bleached of all natural colours, in a cabinet. The work personifies the chance of renewal in Hong Kong following the effects of the social unrest and the coronavirus pandemic.

**Xiyadie** had his first solo exhibition at The Drawing Center in New York in 2023. A series of papercuts by the artist made from 1988 to 2008 depict the moving narrative between him and his son who was paralyzed from cerebral palsy. **Trevor Yeung** will represent Hong Kong at the Venice Biennale in 2024. His mixed-media works, *Soft and milky, but don't smell it* (2020), center upon imbalances generated by unfulfilled desires. This presentation will also introduce new works by **Zheng Haozhong**, a Shanghai-based artist who creates studio portraits of close friends and acquaintances. His recent works reflect a personal and collective feeling of isolation during the global pandemic, unveiling a desire to be connected. Zheng's works will be featured in a duo solo exhibition at Blindspot Gallery, curated by Leo Li Chen, from 28 November 2023 to 13 January 2024, marking the first time his work is being exhibited in Hong Kong.

## About the Artists

**Chen Wei** (b. 1980, Zhejiang province, China) constructs personal narratives using found objects, fabricated props and staged scenes, all of which are meticulously assembled inside his studio and captured in photography. Evoking recurring motifs, memories and dreams, every image is its own story. In these fictional scenes of interiors and nocturnal cityscapes, Chen exposes the psychological and socio-political characteristics of contemporary society: collective yearning for betterment, disillusionment of consumerist desires, and a nostalgia for a haphazardly erased past. Chen also creates multi-media installations that act as an extension of his studio practice. Chen's work is collected by Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung, DSL Collection, Fondation Carmignac, M+, Rubell Family Collection, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Sigg Collection, Singapore Art Museum, UBS Collection, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, West Bund Art Museum, White Rabbit Gallery, and Yuz Foundation. Chen currently lives and works in Beijing.

**Un Cheng's** (b. 1995, Hong Kong) paintings invite audiences into an intimate encounter of her psychological landscapes and personal lens on urban life. Cheng's works mirror her careful observations of quotidian living in Hong Kong, the fleeting conversations she makes with strangers, and the internal dialogues she has with her surroundings. Her paintings function as a visual diary of her angle on the city and its people, carrying an ephemeral photographic quality. The artist morphs her sentiments into her compositions, unveiling a heartfelt desire for intimacy and connection in an isolating metropolis. Cheng participated in the Gil residency program in Iceland in 2018, and was the artist-in-residence at Blindspot Gallery in 2020. Cheng's recent solo exhibition includes "Unbridled Wanders" (Blindspot Gallery booth presentation at Taipei Dangdai, 2023) and "What's there when you ain't home?" (Blindspot Gallery, 2022). Cheng currently lives and works in Hong Kong.

**Sin Wai Kin** (b. 1991, Toronto, Canada) is an artist using speculative fiction within performance, moving image, writing, and print to interrupt normative processes of desire, identification, and objectification. They were nominated for the Turner Prize 2022. Sin uses drag as a practice of purposeful embodiment questioning the reification and ascription of ideal images within technologies of representation and systems of looking. Drawing from close personal encounters of looking and wanting, their work presents heavily constructed fantasy narratives on the often unsettling experience of the physical within the social body. Sin's work is collected by Albright-Knox Art Gallery, British Museum, The Ingram Collection of Modern British Art, M+, Kadist Art Foundation, Sunpride Foundation, and White Rabbit Gallery. Sin currently lives and works in London.

**So Wing Po** (b. 1985, Hong Kong) was born into a family of Chinese medicine doctors, and growing up surrounded by medicinal ingredients, she transformed them into raw materials for playthings and eventually artworks. Seeing that traditional Chinese medicine originates in observation, sensitivity and imagination towards nature, So applies the same theory of knowledge in her investigation of forms, materiality, metaphysics and relationality. So had a solo exhibition at Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hong Kong, titled "Six-part Practice" (2018). This year, her works will be exhibited at the Shanghai Biennale, the Taipei Biennial, The First Trans-Southeast Asia Triennial, and the "Hyundai Blue Prize Art+Tech 2023" exhibition. So currently lives and works in Hong Kong.

**Xiyadie** (b. 1963, Weinan, Shaanxi Province, China) is a self-taught traditional Chinese papercut artist who started creating works with homoerotic themes to tell his narrative of transformation. Xiyadie means Siberian Butterfly, a name he chose after his move to Beijing as a migrant worker in 2005, where he found an accepting community in the burgeoning gay subcultural scene. As he relates, the Siberian Butterfly is a northern creature. Surviving in the harshest conditions, it maintains its vanity and pursuit of freedom in an environment that does not lend political agency or representation to queer-identifying people. He had his first solo exhibition in New York in 2023, at The Drawing Center. His work is collected by Sunpride Foundation and Tate. Xiyadie currently lives and works in Shaanxi.

**Trevor Yeung** (b. 1988, Guangdong Province, China) uses botanic ecology, horticulture, aquarium system and installations as metaphors that reference the emancipation of everyday aspirations towards human relationships. Yeung draws inspiration from intimate and personal experiences, culminating in works that range from image-based works to large-scale installations. Obsessed with structures, he creates different scales of systems which allow him to exert control upon living beings, including plants, animals, as well as spectators. Yeung currently has a solo exhibition at Gasworks London (28 September – 17 December, 2023), and he will represent Hong Kong at the 60th Venice Biennale in 2024. He is shortlisted for the Sigg Prize 2023 (winner to be announced in 2024). Yeung's work is collected by Centre Pompidou, FRAC Alsace, Kadist Art Foundation, M+, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, and Stiftung Skulpturenpark Köln. Yeung currently lives and works in Hong Kong.

**Zheng Haozhong's** (b. 1985, Shandong province, China) figurative paintings, depicting friends, acquaintances and himself in his studio, capture the gestures, expressions, and psyches of his sitters. His paintings carry a rhythmic quality with expressive brushstrokes that are freestyle and not confined within a rigid parameter, mirroring the music he plays. In recent works, the prominence of window frames accentuates the domesticity of his paintings, capturing the isolation experienced by individuals during lockdown and covid restrictions. Zheng delves into an introspective reflection on interpersonal connections, subtly hinting towards the notion of solitary. Zheng studied at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing. His work is collected by DSL Collection, The Moegling Foundation, and White Rabbit Gallery. Zheng currently lives and works in Shanghai.

## 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.

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