

Xiyadie

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.

Xiyadie is currently presenting his works in the Main Exhibition of the 60th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, entitled “Stranieri Ovunque – Foreigners Everywhere”, curated by Adriano Pedrosa. His solo exhibitions include “Butterfly Dream” at Blindspot Gallery (Hong Kong, 2024), “Queer Cut Utopias” at The Drawing Center (New York, 2023), “Metamorphosis of a Butterfly: A Kaleidoscope Vision of Life by a Gay Chinese Artist” at Flazh!Alley Art Studio (Los Angeles, 2012), and “Xiyadie” at the Beijing LGBT Center (Beijing 2010), among others. Xiyadie’s works have also been shown in group exhibitions at ICA NYU Shanghai (Shanghai, 2023), Kunsthal Gent (Gent, 2023), Tai Kwun Contemporary (Hong Kong, 2022), Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin, 2022), Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art (Warsaw, 2020), Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (Bangkok, 2019), Rockbund Art Museum (Shanghai, 2019), Taipei MOCA (Taipei, 2019), Para Site (Hong Kong, 2017), and Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities (Stockholm, 2012) among others. Xiyadie has also participated in the 33rd Ljubljana Biennial of Graphic Arts (Ljubljana, 2019) and the 12th Gwangju Biennale (Gwangju, 2018).

Xiyadie currently lives and works in Shaanxi province, China.

Solo Exhibition

- 2024 “Xiyadie: Butterfly Dream”, Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2023 “Queer Cut Utopias”, The Drawing Center, New York, USA
- 2012 “Metamorphosis of a Butterfly: A Kaleidoscope Vision of Life by a Gay Chinese Artist”, Flazh!Alley Art Studio, Los Angeles, USA
- 2010 “Xiyadie”, Beijing LGBT Center, Beijing, China

Selected Group Exhibition

- 2024 The Main Exhibition of the 60th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia “Stranieri Ovunque – Foreigners Everywhere”, Venice, Italy
- 2023 “Walking China: Stories yet to be told”, ICA NYU Shanghai, Shanghai, China

- “DANCING FORWARD, LOOKING BACKWARD”, Kunsthal Gent, Gent, Belgium
- 2022 “Myth Makers — Spectrosynthesis III”, Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hong Kong
“Ceremony (Burial of an Undead World)”, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany
“Soy Dreams of Milk”, Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong
“Transactions with Eternity”, Kraupa-Tuskany Zeidler, Berlin, Germany
- 2020 “Crack Up — Crack Down”, Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art, Warsaw, Poland
- 2019 The 33rd Ljubljana Biennial of Graphic Arts “Crack Up – Crack Down”, Tivoli, Mansion, Ljubljana, Slovenia
“SPECTROSYNTHESIS II – Exposure of Tolerance: LGBTQ in Southeast Asia”, Bangkok Art and Culture Centre, Bangkok, Thailand
“An Opera for Animals”, Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai, China
- 2018 The 12th Gwangju Biennale “Imagined Borders”, Gwangju, South Korea
- 2017 “Spectrosynthesis: Asian LGBTQ Issues and Art Now”, Taipei MOCA, Taiwan
“In Search of Miss Ruthless”, Para Site, Hong Kong
- 2015 “Antwerp Queer Arts Festival”, Galerie Verbeeck – Van Dyck, Antwerp, Belgium
“Secret Love”, Topenmuseum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- 2013 “Secret Love”, Museum of World Culture, Gothenburg, Sweden
- 2012 “Secret Love”, Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities, Stockholm, Sweden

Collections

Sunpride Foundation, Hong Kong

Tate, United Kingdom