

CHEN Wei

Chen Wei (b. 1980, Zhejiang province, China) constructs personal narratives using found objects, fabricated props and staged scenes, all of which are meticulously constructed and assembled inside his studio. Evoking recurring motifs, memories and dreams, every image is a fiction and a story in itself. In the fictional scenes of objects, interiors and nocturnal cityscapes, Chen exposes the psychological and socio-political characters of contemporary China: collective yearning for betterment, disillusionment of consumerist desires, and a nostalgia for a haphazardly erased past. Besides photography, Chen also creates multi-media installations that act as an extension of his studio practice; his LED sculptures are particularly reminiscent of urban living experiences.

Chen's solo exhibitions include "Sweet Dream" at Fotografiska Shanghai (Shanghai, 2024), "Make me illusory" at West Bund Art Museum (Shanghai, 2021), "The Last Night" at Blindspot Gallery (Hong Kong, 2021), "Good Night" at HOW Art Museum (Shanghai, 2021), "The Club" at Centre for Contemporary Photography (Melbourne, 2017), "Noon Club" at JNBY Foundation (Hangzhou, 2016) and "In the Waves" at K11 art museum (Shanghai, 2015). Chen has also participated in group exhibitions at Centre Pompidou (Paris, 2024), 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art (Kanazawa, 2024&2020), Tokyo Photographic Art Museum (Tokyo, 2024), Yuz Museum (Shanghai, 2023), White Rabbit Gallery (Sydney, 2023), He Art Museum (Guangdong, 2022), Wuhan Art Museum (Wuhan, 2021), Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung (Munich, 2020), Tai Kwun Contemporary (Hong Kong, 2019), Asia Society Texas Center (Houston, 2016), Museum Folkwang (Essen, 2015), Stavanger Art Museum (Stavanger, 2014), Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (Beijing, 2013) and Seoul Museum of Art (Seoul, 2006).

Chen currently lives and works in Beijing.

Education

2002 Bachelor, Zhejiang University of Media and Communications, China

Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 "Sweet Dream", Fotografiska Shanghai, Shanghai, China

- 2022 "Jamais Vu", Ota Fine Arts, Singapore

- 2021 "Make me illusory", West Bund Art Museum, Shanghai, China
"The Last Night", Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong
"Good Night", HOW Art Museum, Shanghai, China

- 2019 "Night Falls", Ota Fine Arts, Singapore
"Goodbye", ShanghART, Shanghai, China
"Drifting Along & Noon Club", Büro, Basel, Switzerland

- 2018 "Where Are You Going Tonight", chi K11 art space, Guangzhou, China
"Falling Light", Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich, Germany
"Fresh Dewdrop", OTA Fine Arts, Singapore

- 2017 “Chen Wei”, ShanghART Beijing, Beijing
 “The Club”, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne, Australia
- 2016 “Noon Club”, JNBY Foundation, Hangzhou, China
- 2015 “Noon Insomnia”, Ota Fine Arts, Singapore
 “In the Waves”, chi K11 Art Museum, Shanghai, China
 “Yesterday Shop”, Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich, Germany
 “Chaotic Sentences”, Stieglitz19, Antwerp, Belgium
 “Night Paris”, Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo, Japan
- 2014 “Slumber Song”, Ben Brown Fine Arts, London, UK
 “Chen Wei”, Gallery EXIT, Hong Kong
 “The Stars in the Night Sky are Innumerable”, Australia China Art Foundation, Sydney, Australia
- 2012 “Rain in Some Areas”, Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich, Germany
 “More”, Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai, China
- 2011 “The Augur's Game”, Galleria Glance, Turin, Italy
 “Tight Rope”, Yokohama Creative City Center, Yokohama, Japan
 “The Vase Fell To The Floor And Broke Into Fragment”, SH Contemporary 2011, Shanghai Exhibition Center, Shanghai, China
- 2010 “Chen Wei: Photography 2006-2009”, Full Art, Seville, Spain
 “House of Recovery”, Platform China, LISTE 15, Basel, Switzerland
- 2009 “Partial Melancholy”, Laboratory Art Beijing, Beijing, China
 “Everyday Scenery and Props”, Gallery EXIT, Hong Kong
 “Chen Wei's Photography Works from 2007 to 2009”, m97 Gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2008 “The Fabulist's Path”, Platform China Contemporary Art Institute, Beijing, China

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2024 “Collection Exhibition 2”, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan
 “目 China | A new generation of artists”, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
 “Pattern and Order”, 匚 Fāng, Shanghai, China
 “A Blue-Flowering Day”, Yuan Art Museum, Beijing, China
 “Growth in Motion”, ShanghART WB Central, Shanghai, China
 “These Men are from the Moon, An Examination toward Cultural Gender Subjectivity”, Dongyi No.6 Space of Art, Beijing, China
 “Riddle”, MOORDN ART, Foshan, China
 “X Collection 202: Portrait of a Man”, X Museum, Beijing, China
 “The Inner Side of the Wind” - Gallery Weekend Beijing 2024 Up&Coming Sector, Beijing, China
 “Shifting Sands Still”, ShanghART Singapore, Singapore
 “An Atlas of the Difficult World”, Macalline Center of Art, Beijing, China
 “Great Flux”, 1979 Gallery, Shenzhen, China
 “Listening paths: Contemporary Sound Art Practice in China”, Duolun Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, China

- “Inertia”, ShanghART Singapore, Singapore
 “Art Within Reach II”, APSMUSEUM, Shanghai, China
 The Exhibition of Annual of Contemporary Art of China (Macau) 2022, Macau
 “Reminder: Version Update Available”, Magician Space, Beijing, China
- 2023 “A Blueprint for Ruins”, White Rabbit Gallery, Sydney, Australia
 “Crossing the River by Feeling the Collectors”, David Chau's Collection, iag, Shanghai, China
 “A Theatre of Waiting”, The Cloud Collection, Nanjing, China
 “Bordercrossing: Possibilities and Interactions”, YUZ Museum, Shanghai, China
 “I AM THE PEOPLE”, White Rabbit Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2022 “Fuse”, Ota Fine Art, Singapore
 The second edition of “Golden Panda Photography Art Award” award-winning works exhibition, Chengdu Contemporary Image Museum, Chengdu, China
 “Steadfastly Revise for the Standards in Nonproductive Construction, Part 1: Solid Molds”, Long March Space, Beijing, China
 “40 Years of Chinese Photography”, Kulangsu Center for Contemporary Art, Xiamen, China
 “ON / OFF 2021: Carousel of Progress”, He Art Museum, Guangdong, China
- 2021 “Mirage or Reality”, chi K11 Art Museum, Shanghai, China
 “Affect—Jiang Han Stars Plan 2021-Young Artists Research Exhibition”, Wuhan Art Museum, Wuhan, China
- 2020 “When the Memory Has Not Been Forgotten”, X Photo Gallery, Changsha, China
 “The Exhibition of Annual of Contemporary Art of China 2019”, Duolun Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, China
 “Collection Exhibition: Scales”, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan
 “New Look”, Baiziting Art Center, Nanjing, China
 “On Sabbatical”, West Bund Museum, Shanghai, China
 “Layering and Composition, The Two Movements and Practice of Contemporary Chinese Photography”, Xie Zilong Photography Art Center, Changsha, China
 “终端>_How Do We Begin?”, X Museum Triennale, X Museum, Beijing, China
 “Cache: From B to Z”, ShanghART, Shanghai, China
 “ABOUT US. Young Photography from China”, Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung, Munich, Germany
- 2019 “Winter Exhibition”, ShanghART Beijing, Beijing, China
 “With/against the flow. Contemporary Photographic Interventions”, Guangzhou Museum of Contemporary Art, Guangzhou, China
 “Long Day”, Aranya Art Centre, Beidaihe, China
 “Phantom Plane, Cyberpunk in the Year of the Future”, Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hong Kong
 “Transformer: A Rebirth of Wonder”, 180 The Strand, London, UK
 “Pal ate/ette/”, SGA, Three on the Bund, Shanghai, China
 “The Racing Will Continue, The Dancing Will Stay”, Guangdong Times Museum, Guangzhou, China
 “Wunderkammer Oberösterreich. Wiar a Händerl sein Herrn”, OÖ Kulturquartier, Linz, Austria
 “Glow Like That”, K11 Atelier, Hong Kong
- 2018 “New Art History: 2000-2018 Chinese Contemporary Art”, MOCA Yinchuan, China
 “Replace with Fine Art”, Art Academy of Cincinnati, USA
 “A World in a Grain of Sand, Mapping Shapes and Sites for Social Geometries”, Atlantis,

- Sanya, Hainan, China
 "Photography Between Right and Wrong", Wanying Art Space, Shi Jiazhuang, China
 "Night Fever, Designing Club Culture 1960-today", Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany
 "#YOU#ME#OUR SELFIES, One World Exposition 2.2", Visual Arts Center, Hong Kong
- 2017 "Simultaneous Eidos", Guangzhou Image Triennial 2017, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
 "Lianzhou Photo 2017, Your Selfie Stick (and You)", Lianzhou, Guangdong, China
 "The Staged Club", Hong Kun Museum of Fine Art, Beijing, China
 "Physical Theatre", ShanghART, Shanghai, China
 "40 Years of Chinese Contemporary Photography (1976-2017)", The 10th Anniversary Special Exhibition of Three Shadows, Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, Beijing, Germany
 "PARADOXA, ART FROM PRESENT CHINA", Casa Cavazzini, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Udine, Italy
 "The Modern Look, Part I", Modern Art Base, Shanghai, China
 "Art|Basel Hong Kong 2017", Booth: Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong
 "One World Exposition: #Like4Like", Chi K11 Art Space, Hong Kong
 "After Party, Collective Dance and Individual Gymnastics", Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong
 "The Genius of the Crowd", Jendela Visual Arts Space, Singapore
- 2016 "We Chat: A Dialogue in Contemporary Chinese Art", Asia Society Texas Center, Houston, USA
 "WE: A Community of Chinese Contemporary Artists", chi K11 art museum, Shanghai, China
 "MIC / MAC", A2Z Art Gallery, Paris, France
 "Turning Point: Contemporary Art in China Since 2000", Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China
 "China: Grain to Pixel", Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne, Australia
 "New Voices: a dsl collection story", Klein Sun Gallery, New York, USA
 "Another Landscape", Yang Art Museum, Beijing, China
 "Chinese Whispers: Recent Art from the Sigg & M+", Sigg Collections, Kunstmuseum Bern, Bern, Switzerland
 "The Mud of Compound Experience", Mother's Tankstation & Leo Xu Projects, Hong Kong
- 2015 "Grain to Pixel: A Story of Photography in China", Shanghai Center of Photography, Shanghai, China
 "28°00'N 120°42' E", HOW Art Museum, Wenzhou, China
 "The System of Objects", Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China
 "28 Chinese", San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, USA; Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, USA
 "The Work in Progress, Photography from China in 2015", CHINA 8, Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany
 "Paradise B!tch", White Rabbit Gallery, Sydney, Australia
 "My Generation: Young Chinese Artists", Orange County Museum of Art, California, USA
 "Photography Now: An International Survey", Ben Brown Fine Arts, London, UK
- 2014 "Performance and Imagination: Chinese Photography 1911–2014", Stavanger Art Museum, Stavanger, Norway
 "Silence: The 1990s", Balice Hertling Gallery, Paris, France
 "My Generation: Young Chinese Artists", Oklahoma City Museum of Art, Oklahoma City, USA; Tampa Museum of Art & Museum of Fine Arts, Florida, USA

- 2013 "28 Chinese", Rubell Family Collection/ Contemporary Arts Foundation, Miami, USA
 "Degeneration", OCAT Shanghai, Shanghai, China
 "Reading", Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai, China
 "Rising Dragon: Contemporary Chinese Photography", San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, USA
 "Variations on an Icon", Max Mara's new flagship store at the Shanghai K11 Art Mall, Shanghai, China
 "Shanghai Surprise: A Group Show on Contemporary Art in Shanghai", K11 chi art museum, Shanghai, China
 "ON | OFF: China's Young Artists in Concept and Practice", Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China
- 2012 "Daily of Concept, A Practice of Life: The Fifth Shanghai Duolun Youth Art Exhibition", Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, China
 "The First 'CAFAM-Future' exhibition - Sub-phenomena: Report on the State of Chinese Young Art", CAFA Art Museum, Beijing, China
 "Rising Dragon: Contemporary Chinese Photography", Katonah Museum of Art, New York; Krannert Art Museum, Champaign, Illinois, USA
 "Things Beyond Our Control", Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Miami, USA
- 2011 "In The Heat of The Sun", Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, Korea
 "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)", Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai, China
 "One Man Theater", He Xiangning Art Museum, Shenzhen, China
 "Catch The Moon In The Water", James Cohan Gallery, New York, USA
 "Red", 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Hong Kong
 "In a Perfect World", Meulenstein Gallery, New York, USA
 "Parts and Whole", Hiromi Yoshii, Tokyo, Japan
 "Hypnosis", Other Gallery, Beijing, China
 "Habibi", Triple Exhibition, Yangtze River Space, Wuhan, China
 "Smile", Hemuse Gallery, Beijing, China
- 2010 "Alex: A Tribute to Alexander McQueen", James Cohan Gallery, Shanghai, China
 "MARK FLOOD, AGATHE SNOW and CHEN WEI: Group Show", Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich, Germany
 "Reflection of Mind—MoCA Shanghai Envisage III", Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai, China
 "TORA!TORA!TORA!: Photography Exhibition", Beijing Caochangdi Photo Spring, Beijing, China
 "Soldier Crab I: An Exhibition of The First Annual Caochangdi Photo Spring", Li-Space, Beijing, China
 "Jungle: A Close-Up Focus on Chinese Contemporary Art Trends", Platform China Contemporary Art Institute, Beijing, China
- 2009 "Seoul International Photography Festival 2009", Seoul, Korea
 "Santa's Workshop Shanghai", James Cohan Gallery, Shanghai, China
 "E-flux 'PAWNSHOP'", The Shop, Beijing, China
 "YiPai—Century Thinking: A Contemporary Art Exhibition", Today Art Museum, Beijing, China
 "Blackboard", ShanghART H-Space, Shanghai, China

- “The 3rd Guangzhou Photo Biennial”, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
 “China Now—The Edge of Desire”, Lillian Heidenberg Fine Art, Max Lang Gallery, New York, USA
 “New Work from China—Painting, Photography & Video”, Fortune Cookie Projects Singapore, HT Contemporary Space, Singapore
- 2008 “Exquisite Corpse: China Surreal”, M97 Gallery, Shanghai, China
 “Mediations Biennale 2008”, Poznan, Poland
 “Deep Pond and Float Chamber”, Nanjing Qinghe Current Art Center, Nanjing, China
 “China Pingyao International Photography Festival 2008”, Pingyao, China
 “Night on Earth —Spatial Constructions and Time based Collisions”, Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai, China
- 2007 “Amateur World: A Contemporary Art Exhibition”, Platform China Contemporary Art Institute, Beijing, China
 “Refresh: Emerging Chinese Artists”, Arario Gallery, Beijing; Zendai Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, China
 “Unpredictable: New Photography from China”, Morono Kiang Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
 “Against the Wall: Contemporary Chinese Artists”, Corkin Gallery, Toronto, Canada
 “On View: Selections from China, Fortune Cookie Projects”, Paul Morris Gallery, New York, USA
 “Shouting Truth: A Contemporary Art Exhibition”, Platform China Contemporary Art Institute, Beijing, China
- 2006 “The 4th Seoul International Media Art Biennale”, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
 “Poetic Reality: A Reinterpretation of Jiangnan”, RCM Art Museum, Nanjing, China
 “Restless: Photography and New Media”, Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai, China
- 2005 “GIFTS: Contemporary Art Exhibition”, H.N.U. Art Museum, Hangzhou, China
 “Four Seasons: Sound Performance”, BizArt Art Center, Shanghai; Cubic Art Center, Beijing, China
- 2003 “White Tower Mountain—Contemporary Art Exhibition”, Baitaling, Hangzhou, China

Awards

- 2023 Golden Panda Photography Art Award
 2011 Asia Pacific Photography Prize (SH Contemporary)

Collections

21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan
 Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung, Germany
 ASE Foundation, China
 Carmignac Foundation, France
 Centre Pompidou, France
 The Cloud Collection, China
 dslcollection, France
 K11 Art Foundation, Hong Kong
 KADIST, France & USA
 M+, Hong Kong

Rubell Family Collection, USA
Sammlung Goetz Collection, Germany
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, USA
Sigg Collection, Switzerland
Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Japan
UBS Art Collection, Switzerland
Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Switzerland
West Bund Art Museum, China
White Rabbit Collection, Australia
Yuz Foundation, Indonesia