Pixy Liao

Pixy Liao (b. 1979, Shanghai, China) is a multidisciplinary artist who works with photography, installation, and performance to create works that undermine patriarchal stereotypes in a heterosexual relationship, humorously revealing the multitude of ways to be together. Liao is known for her staged photography where she poses with her Japanese partner and collaborator, Moro. Her carefully constructed tableaus culminate into her long-term and on-going photographic project, *Experimental Relationship* (2007-present). These self-portraits are performative and occasionally bawdy, in which Liao intentionally subverts traditional hierarchies in gender relations.

Liao's recent solo exhibitions were held at the Center for Photography at Woodstock (New York, 2026), Art Institute of Chicago (2025), MORE Museum (Gorssel, 2024), Blindspot Gallery (Hong Kong, 2024), Centre for Contemporary Photography (Melbourne, 2023), Lightwork (New York, 2022), Fotografiska (Tallinn, 2022; Stockholm, 2021; New York, 2021), and the Rencontres d'Arles (2019). Liao took part in group exhibitions at Auckland Art Gallery (2026), White Rabbit Gallery (Sydney, 2025), M+ (Hong Kong, 2025), Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung (Munich, 2025 & 2021), Power Station of Art (Shanghai, 2025), West Bund Artistic Center (Shanghai, 2024), WestLicht Photography Museum (Vienna, 2024), Shanghai Centre of Photography (2023), Art Gallery of Western Australia (Perth, 2022), Fotomuseum (Winterthur, 2022), and National Gallery of Australia (Sydney, 2020), among others. She was awarded the 2026 Guggenheim Fellowship.

Liao currently lives and works in Tokyo.

Education

2008 MFA, Photography, University of Memphis, USA

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2026 "Relationship Material", The Center for Photography at Woodstock, New York, USA
"Always Keep an Eye on the One You Love", Florit/Florit Gallery, Palma, Spain

2025 "Relationship Material", Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA

2024 "Between Us", Museum MORE, Gorssel, Netherlands
"Opening", L21 Gallery, Palma, Spain
"Comfort Zone", Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong

2023 "Experimental Relationship", Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne, Australia

2022 “Your Gaze Belongs to Me”, Fotografiska, Tallinn, Estonia
“Futari (Two Persons)”, Light Work, Syracuse, New York, USA

2021 “Your Gaze Belongs to Me”, Fotografiska, Stockholm, Sweden
“Your Gaze Belongs to Me”, Fotografiska, New York, USA

2020 “Choose Your Own Adventure”, SCOPE Hannover, Hannover, Germany
“Experimental Relationship (for your eyes only, or maybe mine, too)”, Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Vancouver, Canada

2019 “UNE RELATION EXPÉRIMENTALE”, the Rencontres d'Arles, Arles, France
“Experimental Relationship”, Biel/Bienne Festival of Photography, Biel/Bienne, Switzerland
“Experimental Relationship”, FOTOGRAFIA EUROPEA, Reggio Emilia, Italy
“Temple for Her”, Flyweight Project, New York, USA

2018 “Pixy Liao: Experimental Relationship”, Jimei x Arles International Photo Festival, Xiamen, China

2016 “Some Words Are Just Between Us”, Firstdraft, Sydney, Australia

2013 “Let’s Make Love”, Camera Club of New York, New York, USA

2011 “Memphis, Tennessee”, Chinese American Art Council, New York, USA

Selected Group Exhibitions

2026 “PHOTOGRAPHY IN POWER: MAKING THE WORLDS VISIBLE”, Fotografiska Tallinn, Tallinn, Estonia
“Forever Tomorrow: Chinese Art Now”, Auckland Art Gallery, New Zealand
“Dolce Far Niente”, Foundry, Seoul, South Korea

2025 “Tender Comrades”, White Rabbit Gallery, Sydney, Australia
“The Hong Kong Jockey Club Series: Picasso for Asia—A Conversation”, M+, Hong Kong
“Facial Recognition”, Jane Lombard Gallery, New York, USA
“Love, Maybe”, Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung, Munich, Germany
“Roll with Punch(line)”, JW Projects, Singapore
“Snake Pints”, Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China

2024 “Shanghai: Capital of Photography 1910-2020s”, Shanghai Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China
“Love is Louder”, Bozar, Brussels, Belgium
“Hidden Stories”, Alisan Fine Arts, New York, USA
“Cartier’s Trinity 100 Journey Exhibition", West Bund Artistic Center, Shanghai, China
“Redefine: Contemporary Portrait Photography”, Fujifilm X-space, Shanghai, China
“Inside Views – Contemporary Photography from China”, WestLicht Photography Museum in cooperation with Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung, Vienna, Austria

"We're Home", Pace University Art Gallery, New York, USA
"Awakening", Capsule Shanghai, Shanghai, China
"WHEN WE BECOME US²" at Capsule Venice, Venice, Italy

2023 "Each, Other", Griffith University Art Museum, Brisbane, Australia
"X MUSEUM TRIENNIAL 2023: HOME IS WHERE THE HAUNT IS", X Museum, Beijing, China
"Between Performance and Documentation: Contemporary Photography and Video from China", Johnson Museum of Art, New York, USA
"FAMILY (OF CHOICE). THOSE WHO WE ARE", Kunstmuseum Ravensburg, Germany
"Personal: A New Form of Documentary Photography", Shanghai Centre of Photography, Shanghai, China

2022 "I have not loved (enough or worked)", Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, Australia
"Unmasking Masculinity for the 21st Century", Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Michigan, US
"I LOVED YOU", White Rabbit Gallery, Sydney, Australia
"Mirror Image: A Transformation of Chinese Identity", Asia Society, New York, USA
"CHOSEN FAMILY – LESS ALONE TOGETHER", Fotomuseum Winterthur, Switzerland
"You can call it love", Photolux Festival, Lucca, Italy
"Focus on Women Photographers", Foto Wien Festival, Vienna, Austria

2021 "WIDE OPEN. INS OFFENE Contemporary Photography & Sculpture in Glass", Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung, Munich, Germany
"Rediscovery: A Selection of Jimei x Arles Awards", Shanghai, China
"This Mortal Coil", Zuckerman Museum of Art, Kennesaw, Georgia, USA
"WHAT A GENDERFUL WORLD", Wereldmuseum, Rotterdam, Netherlands
"The Things I Tell You Will Not Be Wrong", Scope-Hannover Biennale, Hannover, Germany
"Closer", Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong

2020 "Propositions for Alternative Narratives", Photoworks Festival, Brighton, UK
"Home Sweet Home" at Darmstadt Tage Der Photographie in Darmstadt, Germany
BredaPhoto2020 - "China Imagined", Grote Kerk, Breda, The Netherlands
"A Room of HER Own", How Museum, Shanghai, China
"Collective Care: A House with Many Guests", M Woods Museum, Beijing, China
"The Body Electric", National Gallery of Australia, Sydney, Australia
"RISO BAR", SMU Pollock Gallery, Dallas, USA

2019 "Holy Mosses", Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong
"PARIS PHOTO 2019", booth: Blindspot Gallery, Grand Palais, Paris, France
"Photography in Memphis", Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, USA
"WHAT A GENDERFUL WORLD", Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
"The Kind Stranger", UNArt Center, Shanghai, China
"Tender Touches", AMP Gallery, London, UK
"Kinship", Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool, UK
"Chinese Contemporary Photobook works: Visual Narrative in Paper and Beyond", China Academy of Art, Hangzhou, China
"Elegy: Five Desire Mechanisms of Nostalgia", A+ Contemporary, Shanghai, China

2018 “San Gennaro 2018”, Baxter Street Camera Club, New York, USA
“The California Sunday Magazine Presents - At Home: In the American West”, Aperture Gallery, New York, USA
“Monroe/Monroe”, Shang Ba Art Gallery, Beijing, China
“Be Strong and Do Not Betray Your Soul”, Light Work, New York
“MUSE MUSE”, Czech Center New York, New York, USA
“Disobedient Daughters”, Metro Arts, Brisbane, Australia

2017 “Socially Engaged”, ACP Festival, Atlanta, USA
“Discursive Selves”, Westbeth Gallery, New York, USA
“NSFW: FEMALE GAZE”, Museum of Sex, New York, USA
“Mallory/Wurtzburger: A Retrospective”, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis, USA

2016 “EXPECTATION”, SVA-NYC Art Platform, Shanghai, China
“Out Frames”, Museum of Modern Art in Bologna, Bologna, Italy
“Bagsim”, chi K11 Art Museum in Shanghai, Shanghai, China
“WECHAT–A Dialogue in Contemporary Chinese Art”, Asia Society Texas Center, Houston, USA

2015 “No Holds Barred–Young Contemporary Art from China”, OPEN ART Biennial, Örebro, Sweden

2014 “Double Vision”, He Xiangning Art Museum, Shenzhen, China

2012 “Span of Vision”, VT Artsalon, Taipei, Taiwan
“Song of Ordinary Madness”, Running Horse Contemporary Art Space, Beirut, Lebanon
“This Must Be the Place”, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis, USA

2011 “Flash Forward”, Magenta Foundation, Toronto, Canada

2010 “Making the Leap: Crossing Borders”, A.I.R Gallery, Brooklyn, USA

2009 “Photography Now 2009”, Center for Photography at Woodstock, Woodstock, USA

2008 “Girl and Her Camera”, Lianzhou Photo Festival, Lianzhou, China
“4th Wall”, 2008 China Pingyao International Photography Fest, Pingyao, China

Selected Awards and Residencies

2026 Fellowship in photography, Guggenheim Foundation, New York, USA

2023 Artist in residence, La Residencia, Deia, Mollorca, Spain

2019 Artist in residence, SVA RisoLAB, New York, USA

2018 Individual Artist Awards, The Santo Foundation

M adame Figaro Women Photographers Award, Jimei x Arles International Photo Festival
Jury's Special Mention for Aperture/Paris Photo First PhotoBook Award
Artist Residency, University of the Arts London in collaboration with NYFA

2016 Artist Residency, Pioneer Works

2015 Artist Residency, Light Work

2014 2nd Prize winner, LensCulture Exposure Awards 2013

2013 Fellowship in photography, New York Foundation for the Arts
Darkroom Residency, Camera Club of New York

2012 New Works Awards Fellowship, En Foco
Artist Residency, LMCC Workspace Residency Program

2010 Artist Residency, Center for Photography at Woodstock

Collection

Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung, Germany
Art Gallery of Western Australia, Australia
Franklin Furnace Archive, USA
Fundació Carmen & Lluís Bassat, Spain
Fundación MEDIANOCHE0, Spain
Fort Wayne Museum of Arts, USA
He Xiangning Art Museum, China
Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, USA
Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, USA
Light Work, USA
M+, Hong Kong
Memphis International Airport's permanent collection, USA
Møllersamlingen (Møller collection), Norway
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA
The Kinsey Institute, USA
The Center for Fine Art Photography, USA
The Center for Photography at Woodstock, USA
Vontobel Art Collection, Switzerland
White Rabbit Collection, Australia
White Villa Collection, France