CHEN Wei

Chen Wei (b. 1980, Zhejiang province, China) constructs personal narratives using fabricated props and cinematically staged scenes, all of which are meticulously assembled inside his studio. Every image is a fragmented time space caught in suspension, evoking social conditions and memories through recurring motifs. Through these fictional scenes of objects, interiors and cityscapes, familiar yet surreal, 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: his LED sculptures and videos are reminiscent of urban living experiences.

Chen's solo exhibitions took place at ARTRO & Manshu-in Temple (Kyoto, 2026), G Museum (Nanjing, 2026), Blindspot Gallery (Hong Kong, 2025 & 2021), Fotografiska (Shanghai, 2024), West Bund Art Museum (Shanghai, 2021), HOW Art Museum (Shanghai, 2025 & 2021), Centre for Contemporary Photography (Melbourne, 2017), and K11 chi art museum (Shanghai, 2015). Chen has also exhibited at international institutions and biennales including By Art Matters (Hangzhou, 2026), GOLD by Serakai Studio (Hong Kong, 2026), Auckland Art Gallery (Auckland, 2026), Tai Kwun Contemporary (Hong Kong, 2026 & 2019), Chengdu Biennale (2026), Tokyo Photographic Art Museum (2025 & 2024), M+ (Hong Kong, 2025), TANK (Shanghai, 2024), Centre Pompidou (Paris, 2024), 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art (Kanazawa, 2024 & 2020), MACA Art Center (Beijing, 2024), Yuz Museum (Shanghai, 2023), White Rabbit Gallery (Sydney, 2023), and Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung (Munich, 2020).

Chen currently lives and works between Beijing and Tokyo.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2026 "Surplus Lotus", ARTRO, Kyoto, Japan; Manshu-in Temple, Kyoto, Japan
"Rehearsal in the Mist", G Museum, Nanjing, China

2025 "Temporary Theater", SIGMA SHOWROOM, Shanghai, China
"The Invisible Road", Ota Fine Arts, Shanghai, China
"Breath of Silence", Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong

2024 "Sweet Dreams", Fotografiska Shanghai, Shanghai, China
"Sleepless Tonight", Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo, Japan

2023 "Chen Wei + Hiraki Sawa", Ota Fine Arts, Singapore

2022 "7CHOM", 7CHOM - Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo, Japan
"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

2020 "Night Falls", Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo, Japan

2019 "Night Falls", Ota Fine Arts, Singapore

"Goodbye", ShanghART, Shanghai, China
"Drifting Along & Noon Club", Exhibition and Book Launch, 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
"Fresh Dewdrop", Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo, Japan
"The Club", Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne, Australia

2016 "Noon Club", JNBY FESTIVAL No.1, Hangzhou, China

2015 "Night Paris", Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo, Japan
"In the Waves", chi K11 Art Museum, Shanghai, China
"Yesterday Shop", Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich, Germany
"Chaotic Sentences", Stieglitz19, Antwerp, Belgium
"Noon Insomnia", Ota Fine Arts, Singapore

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

2026 "Where Sea Becomes Clouds", By Art Matters, Hangzhou, China
"Soft Frequencies", ShanghART M50, Shanghai, China
"dreamedcore", GOLD by Serakai Studio, Hong Kong
"Forever Tomorrow: Chinese Art Now", Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, Auckland, New Zealand
"Gentle Monuments", Ota Fine Arts, Shanghai, China
"Stay Connected: Supplying the Globe", Tai Kwun Contempory, Hong Kong
Chengdu Biennale: "Pulse of Life", Chengdu Art Museum, Chengdu, China

2025 “Pink”, Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo, Japan
“Culture Valley of Ou River”, HOW Art Museum, Shanghai, China
“Border(line)”, David Zwirner, Hong Kong
“TOP 30th anniversary TOP Collection: transphysical”, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
“M+ Sigg Collection: Inner Worlds”, M+, Hong Kong
“Breaking the walls, Dino appears.”, Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle, Munich, Germany
“Stone”, Orange Caves, Taizhou, Zhejiang Province, China
“From Hen to Egg”, ShanghART WB Central, Shanghai, China
ARTnews 2025 Annual Exhibition “The Essence of Shanghai”, THE BUND • CITY HALL PLAZA, Shanghai, China

2024 “Pictures of the Post-80s Generation — Generational Leap”, TANK Shanghai, Shanghai, China
“Shanghai Fantasy”, LEVANTART, Shanghai, China
“Collection Exhibition 2: Drifting in the City”, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan
“目 Chine | A new generation of artists”, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
“Pattern and Order”, 匸 Fāng, Shanghai, China
“Growth in Motion”, ShanghART WB Central, Shanghai, China
“A Blue-Flowering Day”, Yuan Art Museum, Beijing, China
“These Men are from the Moon, An Examination toward Cultural Gender Subjectivity”, Dongyi No.6 Space of Art, Beijing, China
“TOP Collection: The Resonance of Seeing”, Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
“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
“Inartia”, 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
“Petite Grounds”, Ota Fina Arts, Shanghai, 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 Chines 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 Hünderl sein Herrn", OÖ Kulturquartier, Linz, Austria
"Glow Like That", K11 Atelier, Hong Kong

2018 "Dance with It", Taikang Space, Beijing, China
"Replace with Fine Art", Art Academy of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
"Culture City of East Asia 2018 Kanazawa - Altering Home", 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan
Daegu Photo Biennale 2018, Daegu, South Korea
Gwangju Biennale 2018: "Imagined Borders", Gwangju, South Korea
"New Art History: 2000-2018 Chinese Contemporary Art", MOCA Yinchuan, Yinchuan, China
"White Flash", ShanghART Beijing, Beijing, China
"Brilliant City", David Zwirner, Hong Kong
"A World in a Grain of Sand, Mapping Shapes and Sites for Social Geometries", Atlantis, Sanya, Hainan, China
"Witness", Pilar Corrias Gallery, London, UK
"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
"Supernatural", White Rabbit Gallery, Sydney, Australia

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
"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", Motheŕs 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", Meulensteen 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
2015 Prudential Eye Awards for Contemporary Asian Art - Shortlist
2011 Asia Pacific Photography Prize (SH Contemporary)

Collections

21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan
Alexander Tutsek-Stiftung, Germany
ASE Foundation, China
Burger Collection, Hong Kong & Switzerland
Carmignac Foundation, France
Centre Pompidou, France
The Cloud Collection, China
De Ying Foundation, China
Dib Bangkok, Thailand
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
UESHIMA MUSEUM COLLECTION, Japan
Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Switzerland
West Bund Art Museum, China
White Rabbit Collection, Australia
Yuz Foundation, Indonesia