

Yang Jiechang *very romantic*

18 October – 22 November 2018

Opening: 17 October, 6 pm

An Introduction by Heinz-Norbert Jocks

The work of Yang Jiechang, born in 1956 in Foshan, Guangdong Province, China, is one of the great discoveries by world-renowned exhibition organizer Jean-Hubert Martin (b. 1944, Strasbourg, FR). Inspired by the intellectual depth and sensual power of this art, he invited him to Paris. In 1989, shortly before the massacre on Tian'anmen Square in Beijing, he exhibited his works in the French capital as part of the legendary group exhibition *Les Magiciens de la Terre*. Since Yang as an artist was welcomed with open arms by the beautiful metropolis on the Seine, he decided to take up permanent residency there and still lives there today. Last year at The Guggenheim Museum in New York, USA, Yang was included in the exhibition entitled *Art and China after 1989: Theater of the World*, presenting the crème de la crème of contemporary artists from China. He has also participated in various biennials such as Gwangju (2002), Venice (2003), Liverpool (2006), Istanbul (2007), Lyon (2009) and Shanghai (2012).

Yang, who belongs to the second generation of contemporary art in China, grew up during the Cultural Revolution (1966–1976). The beginnings of his artistic career coincide with China's political opening in the late 1970s and early 1980s. From 1973 to 1978, he was trained at the 'Folkart Institute' in Foshan in paper mounting, calligraphy and traditional Chinese painting, which he further developed over several decades and redefined in the light of the present-day. All in all, timeless ink painting forms the central practice of his thematically and aesthetically diverse art, which also includes drawings, video works, sculptures, installations, and ceramics. From 1978 to 1982 he continued his studies at the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts. There, years later, as an unorthodox professor who reformed teaching methods, he enjoyed great popularity among his students.

very romantic is curated by Heinz-Norbert Jocks and offers a small but concentrated overview of the immense diversity and incredible productivity of Yang's artistic work, which, consisting of several interwoven chapters, subtly addresses both Western and Eastern art as well as the turmoil of history and current issues of our time.

Heinz-Norbert Jocks

Born in Düsseldorf in 1955, Heinz-Norbert Jocks studied German literature, philosophy, and history at the 'Heinrich Heine University Dusseldorf' after which he began working as a writer, curator, and interviewer and spent a significant amount of time in Beijing over the past 12 years.

Co-founder of the international meta collective 'The Collective Eye' and the author of the books: *Archäologie des Reisens. Ein anderer Blick auf Uecker* (1997), *Dialog: Literatur: Kunst* (2001), *Das Ohr am Tatort* (2001). Since 1979 he has written for the magazine 'Kunstforum International' and been editor of various thematic volumes on Chinese subjects (*Ankunft in Peking, Künstler aus Peking*). He has taught at 'Muthesius-Kunsthochschule', 'Fachhochschule Düsseldorf', 'Kunstakademie Düsseldorf', 'HfG Karlsruhe', 'CAFA Beijing' and is currently teaching at the 'Academy of Fine Arts' in Tianjin, China.

He curated the exhibitions: *The Medium is a Medium is a Medium* (2005), Städtische Galerie Erlangen, Artists: Gerhard Vormwald, Vincent Voillat, Christelle Lheureux; *Die Innenwelt der Außenwelt* (2006), Städtische Galerie Erlangen. Artist: Benoît Broisat; *Video & Literature* (2007), Städtische Galerie Erlangen. Artists: Christelle Lheureux, Thierry Kuntzel and Juan Castro; *El Ojo Colectivo, en búsqueda de otra subjetividad* (2011), curated together with Dominique Garaudel, Sebastian Alonso and Martin Craciun. 30 collectives from Belgium, Chile, China, USA, France, Germany, Argentina, Brazil, Denmark, among others, SUBTE, Montevideo, Uruguay; *Tong Kunniao. When dog's mouth spits ivory* (2017), SETAREH GALLERY, Düsseldorf; First solo exhibition in Germany; *Liu Xiaodong. Slow Return Home* (2017), SETAREH GALLERY, Düsseldorf; First retrospective worldwide simultaneously in the Kunsthalle Düsseldorf and the NRW-Forum Düsseldorf, 2018.

YANG JIECHANG

(b. 1956 in Foshan, Guangdong Province, CN, lives and works in Paris, FR and Heidelberg, DE since 1989)

EDUCATION

- 1974–78 Study of paper mounting, folk-art and traditional Chinese painting at the Foshan Folk Art Institute, Guangdong, CN
- 1982 Graduated from the Chinese Painting department of the Guangzhou Fine Arts Academy, Guangzhou, CN
- 1982–1988 Teacher at the Guangzhou Fine Arts Academy, Guangzhou, CN
- 2003 Residency at Kunstwerke, Berlin, DE
- 2005 Visiting artist at Stanford University Medical School, Stanford, CA, US
- 2008 Sterling visiting Professorship at the Stanford University Medical School, Department of Chemical and Systems Biology, Stanford, CA, US

SOLO SHOWS (Selection)

- 2018 Yang Jiechang. sehr romantisch, Setareh Gallery, Dusseldorf, DE
Six Two Zen, Tang Contemporary, Beijing, CN
Presence and Absence – Mustard Seed Garden, Boxes Art Museum, Shunde, CN
- 2017 The Whip, Chambers Fine Arts, New York, NY, US
This is Still Bird and Flower Painting, Alisan Fine Arts, Hong Kong
Mustard Seed Garden – Mayland Lake, Art House, Guangzhou, CN
Yang Jiechang: Earth Roots, Ink Studio, Beijing, CN
- 2016 Like in Heaven So on Earth, Galerie Jeanne Bucher Jaeger, Paris, FR
- 2015 Good Morning Hong Kong, French May, Alisan Fine Arts, Central Library, Hong Kong
- 2014 Yang Jiechang – Die Rechnung, bitte, Galerie Arndt, Berlin, DE
Yang Jiechang – These are still Landscapes, Ink Studio, Beijing, CN
- 2012 King of Canton – Yang Jiechang, Hanart TZ Gallery, Hong Kong
Tale of the 11th Day, OCT Art & Design Gallery, Shenzhen, CN
- 2011 Stranger than Paradise, La Criée centre d'art contemporain, Rennes, FR
Tale of the 11th Day, Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris, FR
- 2010 Yang Jiechang, Galerie Conrads, Dusseldorf, DE
Underground Flowers, Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Rouen, FR
- 2009 On Ascension, Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris, FR
Territoria, special project, Associazione Culturale Cantiere d'Arte Alberto Moretti-Galleria Schema, Prato, IT
- 2008 No – Shadow Kick, Duolum Museum, Shanghai, CN
Venice Biennale, Tibetan Pavilion, Edicola Notte, Rome, IT
In God We Trust, Stanford University Medical School, Stanford, CA, US
- 2007 The Most Beautiful Country of China, HanArtTZ Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2006 Tomorrow Cloudy Sky, Hanart TZ Gallery, Hong Kong
Idylls, Grace Li Gallery, Zurich, CH

SETAREH GALLERY

- 2005 Memorandums, Gallery Jeanne Bucher, Paris, FR
Hei Ji Sheng Xiang, Shenzhen Painting Institute, CN
Who Occupies the Space?, Isola d'Arte, Milan, IT
- 2003 Lookchat, Centre A, Vancouver, BC, CA
For Emily, 4A Gallery, Sydney, AU
- 2002 Der längste Tag, Kunstverein Nürtingen, Nürtingen, DE
- 2001 Enlightened Blackness (French May), Hong Kong University Museum/Alice King Gallery, Hong Kong
Double View, Gallery Jeanne Bucher, Paris, FR
100 Layers of Ink, Cherng Piing Gallery, Taipei, TW
- 2000 You – Double view, Project Room, ARCO 2000, Madrid, ES
- 1999 Another Turn of the Screw, Gallery of Central Fine Arts Academy, Beijing, CN
Rebuild Dong Cunrui, Cherng Piing Gallery, Taipei, TW
- 1998 Your Customs – Our Customs, Altes Zollamt, Frankfurt, DE
- 1996 Gallery Jeanne Bucher, Paris, FR
- 1995 Gallery Samuel Lallouz, Montreal, CA
Gallery Alice Pauli, Lausanne, CH
- 1994 Cut the Fingernails from My Body, Espace d'Art Contemporain Le Faubourg, Strasbourg, FR
- 1993 Rencontres dans un couloir, private apartment of Hou Hanru, Paris, FR
- 1992 Troisième demeure mondiale, Frankfurt, DE
Gallery Jeanne Bucher, Paris, FR
Gallery Turbulences, New York, NY, US
- 1991 Works on Paper, Frith Street Gallery, London, UK
- 1990 Salon de Mars, booth of the Gallery Jeanne Bucher, Paris, FR
Gallery Jeanne Bucher, Paris, FR
Voyage au Mexique, Centro Cultural Arte Contemporaneo, Mexico City, MX
- 1988 Milky Way Exhibition No 9, Central Park Gallery, Canton Artists 4 Association, Canton, CN

GROUP SHOWS (Selection)

- 2018 Art and China after 1989: Theater of the World, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA, US
Art and China after 1989: Theater of the World, Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, ES
Sprachgefühl, Parasite, Hong Kong
Splendors of the Sun and Moon, Museo Querinei Stampalia Fondazione, Venice, IT
Beyond the Scenery, OCT Loft exhibition, Shenzhen, CN
- 2017 Art and China after 1989: Theater of the World, Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY, US
Passion de l'art, Musée Granet, Aix-en-Provence, FR
BRICS Conference, Xiamen, CN
- 2016 Fragmentary Narratives, Stanford Art Gallery, Stanford, CA, US
Carambolages, Grand Palais, Paris, FR
Ink and the Mind, Ink Studio, Beijing, CN
Question de peinture, Galerie Jeanne Bucher Jaeger, Paris, FR

SETAREH GALLERY

- 2015 La Chine ardente. Sculptures monumentales contemporaines. Mons – European Cultural Capital, Le Abbatoires, Mons, BE
Harmony and Transition. Chinese Landscapes in Contemporary Art, MARTA Herford, Herford, DE
Quinte-Essence, air, water, earth, fire, ether, Galerie Jeanne Bucher Jaeger, Paris, FR
- 2014 Advance through Retreat, Art Museum, Shanghai, CN
China's Changing Landscape, Nordiska Akvarellmuseet, Skärhamn, SE
- 2013 Zizhiqu/Autonomous Regions, Times Museum Guangzhou, Guangzhou, CN
From Gesture to Language, Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai, CN
Yuandao, Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong
Ink Art, Past as Present in Contemporary China, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, US
- 2012 Reactivation – Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai, CN
Sehnsucht, Castel Gaasbeeck, Gaasbeeck, BE
Clouds, The Museum of Sketches – Archives of Public Art, Lund, SE
- 2011 The World Belongs to You, Palazzo Grassi, Fondation F. Pinault, Venice, IT
Death Matters, Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam, NL
Tracing the Milky Way, Tang Contemporary, Beijing, CN
- 2010 Hareng Saur: Ensor et l'art contemporain, MSK and S.M.A.K., Ghent, BE
L'Océan, Espace Bellevue, Biarritz, FR
Le Jardin Emprunté, Jardin du Palais-Royal, Paris, FR
Thirty years of Contemporary Chinese Art, Minsheng Museum, Shanghai, CN
- 2009 Against Exclusion – 3rd Moscow Biennial, Garage, Moscow, RU
Lyon Biennial, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Lyon, FR
Qui a peur des artistes? Une sélection d'œuvres de la Fondation François Pinault, Musée de Dinard, Dinard, FR
Becoming Intense, Becoming Animal, Becoming..., Heidelberg, DE
- 2008 Onda Anomala – Manifesta 7, Trento, IT
Too early for vacation, RV&A, Limerick, IE
3rd Guangzhou Triennial, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, CN
Our future, special project, UCCA, Beijing, CN
Expansion – Résonance, Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris, FR
- 2007 Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, TR
Metamorphosis – The Generation of Transformation in Chinese Contemporary Art, Tampere Art Museum, Tampere, FI, US
Made in China, Louisiana Museum, Copenhagen, DK
New Wave '85, UCCA, Beijing, CN
- 2006 Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool, UK
Laboratoires pour un avenir incertain, La Force de l'Art – 1st Paris Triennial, Grand Palais, Paris, FR
La rivoluzione siamo noi, Isola Art Center, Milan, IT
Micro-Macro Politics, Macao Art Museum, Macao
Taste, 5th Shenzheng International Ink Painting Biennial, Shenzheng, CN
Capolavoro, Palazzo di Primavera, Terni, Rome, IT
Infiltration – Idylls and Visions, Guangdong Museum of Art, CN

SETAREH GALLERY

- 2005 Beyond, Second Guangzhou Triennial, Guangzhou, CN
Layered Landscapes, Stanford Art Gallery, Stanford, CA, US
Biennial of Emergency, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, FR
Experimental Ink, Museum of the University of Science, Taipei and Taichung, TW
- 2004 La Nuit Blanche, Paris, FR
Stop over Hong Kong, Hanart TZ Gallery, Hong Kong
Le moine et le démon, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Lyon, Lyon, FR
A l'est du sud de l'ouest, Villa Arson, Nice/Credac Sète, FR
Odyssey(s) 2004, Shanghai Gallery of Art, Shanghai, CN
All Under Heaven, Muhka, Antwerpen, BE
- 2003 Zone of Urgency, 50th Venice Biennial, Venice, IT
Shenzhen Ink Painting Biennial, Shenzhen Painting Institute, CN
The Fifth System, 5th International Shenzhen Sculpture Exhibition, Shenzhen, CN
- 2002 Guangzhou Triennial, Guangzhou, CN
Pause – Kwangju Biennial, Kwangju, KR
- 2001 20 Main Chinese Painters, National Gallery Beijing, Beijing/Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, CN
China: 20 Years of Ink Experiment, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, CN
- 2000 Paris pour Escale, Musée d'art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, FR
Continental Shift, Musée d'art Moderne et d'art Contemporain, Liège, BE
A Portrait, Agnès B. Gallery, New York, NY, US
Fuori Uso – The bridges, Pescara, IT
- 1999 Art in March – Legend 99, Nantou, TW
Asiart 99 – Biennale d'arte contemporanea, Museum of Contemporary Art Genova, Genova, IT
- 1998 Les magiciens de la terre, Anina Nosei Gallery, New York, NY, US
2nd International Biennial Shanghai, Shanghai, CN
- 1997 In Between Limits, Sonje Museum of Contemporary Art, Kyongju, KR
Uncertain Pleasure, Art Beatus Gallery, Vancouver, CA
- 1995 West-östliche Kontakte – Yang Jiechang, Young-Hyang Lee, Teruko Hiramatsu,
Heidelberger Kunstverein, Heidelberg, DE
- 1994 Out of the Centre, Museum of Modern Art, Pori, FI, US
- 1993 Coalition, Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow, UK
Silent Energy, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, UK
Construction in Process Nr. 4 – My Home is your Home, The Artists' Museum, Lodz, PL
Mao's Untamed Children, Museum für Kunsthandwerk, Frankfurt, DE
- 1992 The Artists' Museum, Lodz, PL
History of the Rocket, The Tree of Life – A Journey to Asian Contemporary Art,
Saitama Museum of Modern Art, Saitama, JP
- 1991 Exceptional Passage, Museum City Project, Fukuoka, JP
- 1990 Centro Cultural Arte Contemporaneo, Mexico City, MX
Chine demain pour hier, Pourrières, FR
- 1989 China/Avantgarde, National Gallery, Beijing, CN
Les magiciens de la terre, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, FR
Today, Gallery Tokyo, Tokyo, JP