

JANE LOMBARD GALLERY

Lu Yang

Doku: Digital Alaya

May 7 – June 19, 2021

Curated by Curator and Co-founder of *Art At A Time Like This*, Barbara Pollack



Lu Yang, *Asura*, 2021, Aluminum, LED lights, backlit fabric, 39 x 55 in.

Courtesy of Jane Lombard Gallery

Jane Lombard Gallery is pleased to present *Doku: Digital Alaya*, the first New York gallery exhibition of Lu Yang, a rising star in the global art world. Lu Yang is at the forefront of the generation of artists from China, born in the 1980s whose lives paralleled the growth of a global economy. In Lu Yang's world, cultures collide, the digital realm prevails, and religions must be reinterpreted. These artworks--packed with avatars, while grounded in the latest scientific inquiries—are wildly engaging and often disturbing, creating post-human life forms in a world dominated by Japanese anime and interactive video games.

Doku: Digital Alaya combines ancient Buddhist ideas about reincarnation with the latest technology of motion capture and live animation. Doku is Lu Yang's latest nonbinary avatar named after the phrase, "Dokusho Dokushi", meaning "We are born alone, and we die alone." *Digital Alaya*, the title of this show, is a reference to ālayavijñāna, the term for a storehouse of consciousness that is the basis of all mental, spiritual and physical

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development. In the course of the exhibition, Doku appears in six 3-D environments, each representing one of the six realms of rebirth in a Buddhist concept of reincarnation.

The central question is whether our lives in the digital realm—made so acutely apparent during the pandemic—has undermined or replaced ancient religious ideologies. Lu Yang bypasses meditation or more conventional means of improving karma and goes directly to the assistance of scientists and technicians to find new ways to keep the cycle of life going in cyberspace.

To create a life-like digital post-human, Lu Yang collaborates with a team of scientists, 3D animators and digital technicians using motion capture, detailing the features of her face and facial expressions so that the avatar, Doku, looks remarkably like its creator. Body movements are also generated through motion capture of dancers and musicians, providing Doku with a perfect androgynous body. The artist is reborn repeatedly as a nonbinary, androgynous, ever-present avatar, capable of talents beyond physical limitations. Doku appears in six different settings that Lu Yang creates herself using 3D digital techniques. The resulting work is displayed on lightboxes, videos, and installations. The video, *Doku: Digital Reincarnation* takes viewers behind-the-scenes to see a process straight out of sci-fiction, as fascinating as the final works themselves.

About Lu Yang

Born in 1986 in Shanghai where she is currently based, **Lu Yang** prefers to play with pronouns and insists she “lives on the internet” to further confuse fixed notions of identity. She attended the China Academy of Fine Art in Hangzhou, BFA and MFA, under the tutelage of Zhang Peili, the godfather of Chinese video art. A 2019 winner of the BMW Art Journey award, she has shown internationally including the M Woods Museum in Beijing, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art in Melbourne, and many other venues. She is currently in the Asia Society Triennial in New York.

About Jane Lombard Gallery

Jane Lombard Gallery, although (re)opened in 2015, has a 25 year history and an established reputation for bringing to the forefront artists who work within a global perspective/aesthetic relevant to the social and political climate of today. The gallery seeks to promote both emerging and mid career artists in a variety of media - painting, sculpture, installation and film - in the US, Europe and Asia. Formerly Lombard Freid Projects, founded in 1995 in Soho, the gallery later moved to Chelsea, first to 26th Street and later to 19th Street in 2010. The gallery is now located in Tribeca at 58 White St.

COVID 19 Procedures

The gallery is open (walk-ins accepted depending on current number in the gallery, during set hours). Please check the gallery website for hours of operation, as they are subject to change. Masks are required for entry and sanitizer will be provided through no-touch sanitizer station(s). Guests will be required to sign in with their name and a valid email to assist with our contact tracing efforts. Exhibition material is available for contactless viewing through the use of QR codes and at the front desk. In addition, the gallery has installed a special air duct system that isolates the different areas of the gallery creating zones of supply and return air to prevent air mixing between spaces. There are also UV-C lights inside every supply duct to prevent the build up of mold, viruses & bacteria.

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