

刘雨佳：故事山脉

MadeIn^{AM}

Liu Yujia

Mountains Tell Mountains Boo

2023.10.28-2024.5.10

策展人：王洪喆

Curator: Wang Hongzhe

MadeIn Art Museum is honored to present Liu Yujia's solo exhibition "Mountains Tell Mountains Boo" on Oct 28, 2023, featuring representative video works from different stages of her practice. Curator and scholar Wang Hongzhe hereby directs our attention to the narrative potential of the non-human elements in Liu's creations, where the abstruse meaning of life looms.

"We are like butterflies who flutter for a day and think it is forever."

— — Carl Sagan, Cosmos

Mountains of storytelling are the watershed between day and night, exhaustion and regeneration. In a quest to rid of the fatigue of individual existence, the artist sets off on a voyage, ventures into the hinterland, plucks and savors anecdotes, absorbing energy along the way. Inadvertently, she acquires the power to produce the pharmakon of our collective illness.

Liu Yujia's work has long derived from film shooting during her travels, which, through prose and poetized moving image, arrives at the marginal landscape folded in between history and geography. The traveler sets foot as if in a painting, where the the Gobi desert, forests, rivers, and mountains unfold like a scroll. On a closer look, humans and spirits in the painting begin to develop and have a life of their own. They walk out of the two-dimensional canvas to tell their stories, tirelessly and plaintively.

In the exhibition, "mountains" serve as both reality and metaphor, pointing to the "counter-entropy" accumulated over a prolonged life time. "Counter-entropy" can automatically write stories that outperform any human narrator. In the mountains of storytelling, ginseng, hunters, as well as Taoist priests and shamans are nurtured and feed on "counter-entropy", releasing spirit mediums to decompose the sufferings of the world of meaning and rescue the aging Princess of Kuqa from the reincarnation of discourse.

Entering the mountains of storytelling, with moving images as her art of hunting, the artist metamorphoses into a hunter, plucking ginseng; into a Taoist, comprehending life and death; into a shaman, calling for cure. Perhaps she has traveled never on foot but only in spirit, thus hearing the mountains' narration, insight, and prophecy. She is then enlightened that reality is precisely the incubus, and that one must rip open the daylight and struggle to waken.

Together, let us venture into the mountains of storytelling, "leave before getting old", wake up before getting old.

— Wang Hongzhe
Oct 13, 2023

About Liu Yujia

Liu Yujia graduated from Sichuan Fine Arts Institute and obtained her master's degree from London College of Communication, University of the Arts London. She currently lives and works in Beijing.

Recent solo exhibitions include Tang Contemporary Art Center, Beijing (2023 , 2017 , 2016); Surplus Space , Wuhan (2021); DRC No.12 , Beijing (2021) ; Shanghai Gallery of Art, Shanghai (2015).

Group exhibitions include the Being Theoria— 4th Hangzhou Triennial of Fiber Art in 2022, Hangzhou; 2022 Beijing Biennial, Beijing; Extreme Mix—2019; Guangzhou Airport Biennale, Guangzhou; Why Not Ask Again—the 11th Shanghai Biennial in 2016, Shanghai; University Art Gallery-University of Pittsburgh, USA; Moss Art Center, Virginia, USA; Ulsan Art Museum, Ulsan, Korea; Julia Stoschek Collection, Dusseldorf, Germany; White Rabbit Museum, Sydney, Australia; CFCCA, Manchester, UK; Troy House Art Foundation, London, UK; Kadist Foundation, USA; Arad Contemporary Art Centre, Israel; CAFA Art Museum, Beijing; HOW Art Museum, Shanghai; Power Station of Art Museum, Shanghai; Fosun Foundation, Shanghai; He Art Museum, Shunde, Guangdong; M Woods Museum, Beijing; UCCA DUNE Art Museum, Beidaihe; OCAT Shanghai; OCAT Shenzhen, OCAT Beijing; Lianzhou Photo Museum, Lianzhou; Museum of Contemporary Art Yinchuan, Yinchuan; Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai; China Port Museum, etc. Her video works and films have been screened in Centre Pompidou, Paris and Hongkong M+ Museum and other museums and institutes around the world. She has been nominated for the 2018-2019 Porsche "Young Chinese Artist of the Year" Award and "2022 OCAT x KADIST Emerging Media Artist Program".

About Wang Hongzhe

Wang Hongzhe (b. 1983, Anshan, China) is a media historian and an associate professor in the Department of Journalism and Communication at Peking University. He has a Ph.D. in communication from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. His research interests include the history of media technology, the history of the Cold War, the information society, and labor studies. He has long been involved in advanced studies in media-centered humanities, social sciences, and artistic works. He is the founder of Beijing Media Group and Game Manual, co-founder of Assembly. He lives and works in Beijing.