

涑涑:小游塬

Kōng Kōng

Stroll Around The Plateau

策展人:杨紫 Curator Yang Zi
2024.10.24 – 12.31

微信 Wechat @没顶美术馆 MAM
Instagram @madeinmuseum
地址 上海市崇明区绿华镇环湖西路没顶美术馆
Address MadeIn Art Museum
Huanhu West Rd., Lvhu Town,
Chongming District, Shanghai
网站 Website madeinmuseum.art

MadeIn Art Museum will launch the artist Kōng Kōng's solo project "Stroll Around The Plateau" on October 24, 2024, featuring the artist's latest video works. The exhibition is curated by Yang Zi.

In my recent creations, I have used digital clay, or 3D technology, to create various non-historical, obscure "characters" from scratch. Unlike a specific "image," these digital models are inherited, optimized, and interpreted across different works, offering me endless possibilities to assign them new meanings, thus forming expressive elements.

In "Xiao You Yuan" (Stroll Around the Plateau), the term "Xiao" is borrowed from the naming method of traditional Chinese musical scores, distinguishing it from "Da Diao" (major tunes). Similar to standalone "Xiao Ling" in Sanqu or Zaju, these are presented with distinctive locality through non-mainstream melodies, aligning with the theatrical scenes of this work. It reflects the protagonist wandering through pre-modern ruins in the Guanzhong region, showcasing a native lifestyle that existed before foreign cultures almost completely flooded China, and is now gradually disappearing with the passing of the last generation of stay-behinds. My recent works focus on my surroundings, revisiting the peripheral memories of rural culture. These cultural remnants, born from my life experiences, interpenetrate with the inescapable marks of modernization. As vegetation gradually obscures the deep and shallow imprints of human civilization, the open state of unity between heaven, earth, and humans during the agricultural era has become unrecoverable, dissipating, and becoming hidden amidst the rampant growth of nature.

--Kōng Kōng, October, 2024

Kōng Kōng often thinks of a creature. At the turn of spring and summer, this creature travels through the ruins of her hometown, passing through the nearly forgotten places of her past life. Only bees and snakes still choose to live there, and it becomes both bee and snake. Snakes have poor eyesight but are sensitive to movement. They can also sense heat, recognizing when a warm object is moving through the ruins without causing the ground to vibrate as footsteps would, suggesting that the body is floating or crawling along the ground. Bees have a pair of compound eyes and three simple eyes. The compound eyes, with their 6,000 facets, can locate the sun and see the vast world. The simple eyes can discern time: whether it's spring or winter; day or night. To the bee, the slowly advancing large object does not seem threatening; it simply searches for something lost.

That body originates from the future. In this future, the internal organs are hollow, and the skin is replaced by digits and concepts, forming only a thin layer. The body cannot produce a beautiful whistle. However, this does not mean it cannot nurture offspring with souls. It carries entrusted things, searching for a place to settle. Or perhaps that's not it—it might be performing a farewell ritual or seeking a place where its form of life can transform—somewhere before the future fully arrives.

--Yang Zi

About Artist Kōng Kōng

Kōng Kōng was born in Xian, Shaanxi. The works involve installation, video, painting, image and text. In the creation of three-dimensional animated images, we pay attention to the poetic distance between three-dimensional simulations and real scenes, gradually forming symbolic narrative images, and pay attention to the mutual pull between the author and the tool, the presupposition and the Occasionally occur simultaneously.

About Curator Yang Zi

Yang Zi is a Beijing-based researcher and independent curator. From 2012 to 2014, he was an editor of LEAP. In 2015, after joining the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), he acted as executive editor on a series of catalogues and curated exhibitions and public programmes; he became a curator and the head of public programmes in 2018. His curatorial projects include La Chair, Secret Chamber, Pity Party, Land of the Lustrous, In Younger Days, and numerous solo exhibitions. He was a finalist for the Hyundai Blue Prize in 2017, a judge of the Huayu Youth Award in 2019, and the recipient of the inaugural Sigg Fellowship for Chinese Art Research in 2020.

About MadelIn Art Museum

Located in Lvhua Town, Chongming District on the outskirts of Shanghai, MAM stretches over 26,000 square meters of land, adjacent to the Xisha Pearl Lake Scenic Area at the watershed of the Yangtze River. Occupying a former chicken farm, it was first built in the 1970s with a construction area of about 3,000 square meters. MAM welcomes every practitioner of contemporary art and person with curiosity, and strives to establish itself as a cutting-edge base of contemporary culture.

MadelIn Art Museum (MAM) is a multi-function art institution dedicated to promoting and exhibiting contemporary art, creating and realizing artistic imaginations of the new era. It is home to vibrant exhibitions, events, and artist-in-residence programs that connect with the local community and natural landscape. We are excited to share with you the energy of contemporary art and together celebrate the birth of creativity.