

Yin Xiuzhen

Artist Statement and Biography

Artist Statement

Su Shi, a Chinese scholar, mentioned that even Confucius himself had to learn through the reading of books. Books fuel the human spirit, providing an effective medium for its transmission. Everyone's personal experience is just like thick volume of books.

Over the past ten years, I have collected numerous old clothing from people in different countries, from friends, family members as well as strangers, each representing a different experience.

I always consider clothes the second skin of people. Since 1995, I have been using old clothes as material and elements to create *The Suitcase*. I sealed my old clothes from the past thirty years into the suitcase handmade by my father. These varying experiences cannot be forged, but when they are sealed together, a new adventure begins.

I collected the bookshelves from different places. They belonged to different book lovers who shared the love of books. These bookshelves are truly representative of objects that differ in terms of knowledge and experience.

In *Bookshelves*, I make use of collected old clothes again to dress up the bookshelves in 'new' clothes. These 'new' clothes are presented in the form of a collection of books which fill up the empty bookshelves. This work thus retains the experience of an individual, at the same time transmitting the warmth and essence of human spirit.

Artist Biography

Yin Xiuzhen China

b. 1963, Beijing, China

A leading female figure in Chinese contemporary art, Yin Xiuzhen began her career in the early 1990s following her graduation from Capital Normal University in Beijing, where she received a B.A. in oil painting from the Fine Arts Department in 1989. Her artworks have since been shown extensively in various international exhibitions. Yin Xiuzhen currently works and lives in Beijing.

Most well known for her works that incorporate second-hand objects, Yin uses her artwork to explore modern issues of globalization and homogenization. By utilizing recycled materials as sculptural documents of memory, she seeks to personalize objects and allude to the lives of specific individuals, which are often neglected in the drive toward excessive urbanization, rapid modern development and the growing global economy. The artist explains, "In a rapidly changing China, 'memory' seems to vanish more quickly than everything else. That's why preserving memory has become an alternative way of life." Yin uses memory as a critical tool to examine the political, social and environmental constructs that surround her.

Inspired by the quickly changing environment of her native Beijing, common themes in Yin Xiuzhen's work include memory, the past and the present, as well as the complex relationship between individuals and the constantly shifting society they live in. Through collection and assemblage of old materials in a new context, Yin is able to weave past experiences together with the present. In this way, she embraces the notion of memory and experience in an attempt to convey aspects of individual lives in relation to global transformation.

Yin Xiuzhen has participated in many international and domestic group and solo exhibitions. Solo exhibitions include *Nowhere to Land*, Pace Beijing, Beijing, China (2013), *DUCHAMP and/or/in China*, UCCA, Beijing, China (2013), *Yin Xiuzhen*, Groninger Museum, Groningen, Netherlands; Kunstmuseum Dusseldorf, Dusseldorf, Germany (2012), *Second Skin*, Pace Beijing, Beijing, China (2010) and *Project 92*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, U.S.A (2010). She has participated in various significant exhibitions around the world including the *5th Moscow Contemporary Art Biennale*, Moscow, Russia (2013), *the First Kiev International Biennale of Contemporary Art*, Mystetskyi Arsenal, Kiev, Ukraine (2012), *OUR MAGIC HOUR: Yokohama Triennale*, Yokohama, Japan (2011), *the 7th Shanghai Biennale*, Shanghai, China (2008), *the 52th Venice Biennale*, Venice, Italy (2007), *the 14th Sydney Biennale*, Sydney, Australia (2004), *the 26th Sao Paulo Biennale*, Sao Paulo, Brazil (2004) and *Inside Out: New Chinese Art* which was organized by the Asia Society Galleries, New York, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California (1998). The artist has received a range of prestigious awards including the China Contemporary Art Award (CCAA) and the UNESCO/ASCHBERG award in 2000. Her work has also been acknowledged in *The New York Times* in 2006 and *Art in America* in 2003.

Education

1989 BA, Oil Painting at the Fine Arts Department, Capital Normal University, Beijing

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2013 *Nowhere to Land*, Pace Beijing, Beijing, China
- 2012 *Yin Xiuzhen*, Groninger Museum, Groningen, Netherlands: Kunstmuseum Dusseldorf, Dusseldorf, Germany
- 2010 *Second Skin*, Pace Beijing, Beijing, China
Project 92, Museum of Modern Art, New York, U.S.A
- 2009 *Yin Xiuzhen*, Anna Schwartz Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2008 *Yin Xiuzhen: Introspective Cavity*, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China
Commune, The Moritzhof of Chemnitz and Gallery, Weltecho Chemnitz, Germany
All Inclusive: A Tourist World, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt a. M., Germany
- 2007 *Yin Xiuzhen in Beijing Commune*, Beijing Commune, Beijing, China
- 2006 *The Way of Chopsticks*, Chambers Fine Art; New York, U.S.A.
International Airport Terminal 1, Alexander Ochs Gallery, Berlin, Germany
Restroom W, Gallery at Redeal, Los Angeles, U.S.A.
- 2004 *Fashion Terrorism*, Town Hall, Friedrichshafen, Germany
- 2003 *Sars Times: Song Dong and Yin Xiuzhen*, ISE Foundation, New York, U.S.A.
- 2002 *Chopsticks: Song Dong and Yin Xiuzhen*, Chambers Fine Art, New York, U.S.A.
- 2001 *Clothes Airplane: Made in Siemens*, Siemens Art Project "What are They Doing Here?", Beijing, China
- 2000 *Building Materials*, 200 Gertrude Front Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 1998 *Brain*, Manchester Craft Centre, Manchester, UK
- 1997 *Sun Clothes*, Hua Yan Li, Beijing, China
Dining Table, Ruine for Arts, Berlin, Germany
- 1996 *Ruined City*, Capital Normal University Museum, Beijing, China
- 1995 *One-person Exhibition of Installations*, Beijing Contemporary Art Museum, Beijing, China

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2013 *5th Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art*, Moscow, Russia
Rewriting Landscape: Contemporary Art from China and India, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea
The First Hangzhou International Fibre Art Triennial, Zhejiang Art Museum, Hangzhou, China
DUCHAMP and/or/in China, UCCA, Beijing, China
- 2012 Skyscraper: Art and Architecture Against Gravity, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, U.S.A
The First Kiev International Biennale of Contemporary Art, Mystetskyi Arsenal, Kiev, Ukraine
- 2011 Half the Sky: Women in the New Art of China, Leonard Pearlstein Gallery at Drexel University, Philadelphia, U.S.A.
M-shaped society: 2011 Asian Art Biennial, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taiwan, China
OUR MAGIC HOUR: Yokohama Triennale, Yokohama, Japan
- 2010 Dreamlands, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
China in Four Seasons, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Zealand
Eleventh Small Sculpture Triennale, Fellbach, Germany
The River Project, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney, Australia
Popping Up: Revisiting the Relationship Between 2D and 3D, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong, China
- 2008 Our Future: the Guy & Myriam U/lens Foundation Collection, UCCA, Beijing, China
Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China
- 2007 Chinese Pavilion, Venice Biennale 2007, Venice, Italy
- 2005 The Biennale of Contemporary Chinese Art in Montpellier, Montpellier, France
- 2004 26th San Paulo Biennale, San Paulo, Brazil
Sydney Biennale, Art Museum of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
- 2002 The 2nd Fukuoka Triennale, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan
- 2002 Guangzhou Triennial, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangdong, China
- 2002 Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea
- 2001 1st Architecture Biennale, China National Gallery of Art, Beijing, China
- 1999 The Third Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery,

Brisbane, Australia

1998 Inside Out: New Chinese Art Exhibition, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York, U.S.A.