

Yao Jui-Chung & Lost Society Document (LSD)

Artist Statement and Biography

Artist Statement

When the new semester began in February 2010, Yao Jui-Chung, presiding over the first classes of the fine arts departments at Taipei National University of the Arts and the National Taiwan Normal University, asked the students about their expectations for this class: did they "Wish to follow the normal class format, where the teacher would teach related knowledge, or would they like to use the class to do a "mosquito hall" investigation? Over one hundred students at the two universities decided to make a Taiwan-wide "mosquito hall" survey as their assignment. After four years of investigation across the island, the students identified over 300 "mosquito hall" locations, compiling three books *Mirage - Disused Public Property in Taiwan*, which outlines an absurd situation in Taiwanese society, embodying the fact that "misguided policy is worse than corruption". It was widely reported in the media, and attracted a high level of attention from the government, and a visit from the Premier of the Executive Yuan, who advised all relevant departments to engage in an inspection of said facilities, ordering them to revive all mosquito halls within a year or consider demolishing them. The students' art action was like a stone thrown into a pond, sending ripples outwards, shaking a presumably calm society and forcing them to face reality. The significance and value of this "participation" lies in the fact that it is both a collective action by Yao Jui-Chung and his students, and in that it used artistic methods to highlight a social issue for scrutiny and raised the awareness of the public with regards to that issue.

Artist Biography

Yao Jui-Chung Taiwan

Yao Jui-Chung was born in 1969. Lives and works in Taipei. He graduated from The National Institute of The Arts (Taipei National University of the Arts) with a degree in Art Theory. His works has been widely exhibited in numerous international exhibitions. In 1997, he represented Taiwan in "Facing Faces-Taiwan" at the Venice Biennale. After that, he took part in the International Triennale of Contemporary Art Yokohama (2005), APT6 (2009), Taipei biennial (2010), Shanghai Biennale (2012), Beijing Photo Biennale (2013), Shenzhen Sculpture Biennale (2014), Venice Architecture Biennale, Media City Seoul Biennale (2014) and Asia Triennial Manchester (2014). Yao is the winner of The Multitude Art Prize in 2013. We can also find him widely involved in the fields of theatre and films.

Yao specializes in photography, installation and painting. The themes of his works are varied, but most importantly they all examine the absurdity of the human condition. Representative works include *Action Series*. We can find the clue he explores the question of Taiwan's identity in *Military take over* (1994), subverts modem Chinese political myths in *Recovering Mainland China* (1997), and examines post-colonialism in *The World is for All* (1997-2000) as well as *Long March-Shifting the Universe* (2002). In recent years, he has created photo installations combining the style of "gold and green landscape" with the superstitions that permeate Taiwanese folklore, expressing a false and alienated "cold reality" that is specific to Taiwan. Representative works include the series of *Celestial Barbarians* (2000), *Savage Paradise* (2000) and *Heaven* (2001). Another photo installation series *Libido of Death* (2002) and *Hill* (2003) tries to probe into the eternal issue of body and soul. Recently, Yao Jui-Chung has assembled all the black-and-white photos of ruins he took in the past fifteen years, grouped under the themes of industry, religious idols, architecture and military bases. They reveal the enormous ideological black hole in Taiwan hidden behind the trends of globalization and Taiwan's specific historical background as a continuation of the main theme of his work: the absurdity of the historical destiny of humanity. Since 2007, Yao has started to create a series of works including *Wonde1jiti* (2007), *Dust in the Wind* (2008-2010), *Dreamy* (2008-2010), *Romance* (2009) and *Honeymoon* (2010-2011). He appropriates masterpieces from Chinese art history and recreates them in his own way, transforming them into his personal history or real stories in an attempt to turn grand narratives into the trivial affairs of his individual life. Yao intends to usurp so called orthodoxy with his recreated landscapes. In 2010, Yao grouped his students into a team of photography workshop called "Lost Society Document"(LSD). He encouraged them to photograph and survey in their hometowns. Through the way of field survey, they attempt to draw the outline of "mosquito houses" which have been widely criticized, publish three books named "*Mirage: Disused Public Property in Taiwan*", and practice the possibility of observing the society by the meaning of art.

Apart from creating art, Yao Jui-Chung has curated exhibitions including *The Realm of Illusion-The New wave of Taiwan Photography* (2002), *King-Kon Never Die -The Contemporary Performance & Video art in Taiwan* (2003) and *Spellbound Aura-The New Vision of Chinese Photography* (2004). His essays have been published in many art journals. He has also

published several books, including Installation Art in Taiwan since 1991-200 I (2002), The New Wave of Contemporary Taiwan Photography Since 1999 (2003), Roam The Ruins of Taiwan (2004), Performance Art in Taiwan 1978-2004 (2005), A Walk in the Contemporary Art : Roaming the Rebellious Streets (2005), Ruined Islands (2007), Yao Jui-Chung (2008), Beyond humanity (2008), Nebulous light (2009), and Biennial-Hop (2010). His works have been collected by the Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan; the Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung, Taiwan; the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung, Taiwan; Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia; Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art Collection, Cornell University, USA; Bibliotheque National de France, Paris, France (French National Library, Paris). And many other private collectors. Now, Yao Jui-Chung works as an artist and teacher at the National Taiwan Normal University Department of Fine Arts.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2014 The Space That Remains: Yao Jui-Chung's Ruin Series, Church of Santa Maria della Pieta, Venice
 Good Times, Tina Keng Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2013 Long, long Live, Tina Keng Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
 Something Blue, TKG+ Projects, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2012 Long Live/ Landscape, Tina Keng Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan; Beijing, China
- 2011 Honeymoon, MOT/ARTS, Taipei, Taiwan
 Fresh from Taiwan, Goedhuis Contemporary, London, UK
- 2010 Dreamy, Goedhuis Contemporary, London, UK
 Honeymoon, Hanarts, Hong Kong, China
- 2009 Romance, Inart Space, Tainan, Taiwan
- 2008 Phantom of History, Galerie Grand Siecle, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2007 Wonderful, IT Park, Taipei, Taiwan
 Cynic Republic, VT Art salon, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2006 Eve1ything will Fall into Ruin, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2005 The Cynic, Chi-Wen Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2004 Long March-Shifted the Universe, IT Park, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2003 Elysium, Aspex Gallery, Portsmouth, UK
- 2002 Libido of Death, Lee Ka-Sing Gallery, Toronto, Canada

- 2000 Savage Paradise, Lee Ka-Sing Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 1998 The Introduction of Taiwan's Contemporary Art val. 4, MOMA Contemporary, Fukuoka, Japan
- 1997 Recover Mainland China-Prophecy & Action, Dimension Endowment of Art, Taipei, Taiwan
- 1996 Recover Mainland China-Preface & Do Military Service, IT Park Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
- 1994 Territory Maneuver, IT Park, Taipei, Taiwan

Selected Group Exhibition

- 2014 *{INSERT 2014}, Mati Ghar Indira Genahi National Center for the Arts, New Delhi, India*
ALTERing-NATIVism, MoNTU, Taipei; Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Pop Art Factory-Heating · Cooling · Contemporary Art in Taiwan, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Something in space escapes our attempts at surveying, Wurttembergischer Kunstverein Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany
Asia Anarchy Alliance, Tokyo Wonder Site (Hongo, Shibuya), Tokyo, Japan
Beijing Photo Biennial, Hubei Museum of Art, Hubei, China
Shenzhen Sculpture Biennale, OCT Contemporary Art Terminal, Shenzhen, China
Seoul International Media Art Biennale, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
Asia Triennial Manchester 2014, Manchester, UK
- 2013 *True Illusion, Illusory Truth-Contemporary Art Beyond Ordinary Experience, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan*
MULTITUDE Art PRIZE, UCCA, Beijing, China
Rolling! Visual Art in Taiwan, Seoul Museum of Arts, Seoul, Korea
Zhongshan Park Project- Shanghai Biennale, MOCA Shanghai, Shanghai, China
{CON}TEMPORARYSPACE-TIME, Stattberlin, Berlin, Germany
Horizon Realm: Contemporary Art from Taiwan, Tenri Cultural Institute, New York, USA
OPEN 16. International Exhibition of Sculptures and Installations, Venice Lido and Island of San Servolo, Venice, Italy
CARGO EAST project- Gazing into Freedom: Taiwan Contemporary Art Exhibition, Museum of Contemporary Art of Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia
From subvert to create the reality: Taiwanese contemporary art after 80s, Asia Museum of Modern Art, Taichung, Taiwan
Beijing Photo Biennale, China Millennium Monument, Beijing, China
MUSEUM OF ARTE UT/L: Working Document Structure, Rooms, Examples and Live Projects, Vanabbe Museum, Netherland

- 2012 Busan International Film Festival, Busan Cinema Center, Busan, South Korea
Predicting Memories: Vienna Art Week 2012, Vienna, Austria
Shanghai Biennale, Museum of Contemporary Art Shanghai, Shanghai, China
INK: The New Ink Art from China, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
Unhamely-Tales of the Island, Chinese Arts Centre, Manchester, UK
Boundaries on the Move Taiwan-Israel a Cross-culture Dialogue, Herzliya Museum
of Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv, Israel
- 2011 Dual Senses and Dynamic Views-Contemporary Art Exhibition across the Taiwan
Straits of 2011, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China
- 2009 Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane,
Australia
- 2005 International Triennale of Contemporary Art YOKOHAMA 2005-Art Circus-Jumping
from the Ordinary, Yokohama, Japan
- 1997 La Biennale di Venezia, Palazzo delle Prigioni, Venice, Italy
- 1996 The 6rh Iranian Photo Biennial, Niavaran Cultural Center, Tehran, Iran
- 1994 The Taipei Biennial of Contemporary Art, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
Busan Biennial, Susan, Korea
- 1992 The Taipei Biennial of Contemporary Art, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan