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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Beijing-based artist Guan Xiao presents first solo museum project in US at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis



Guan Xiao, *Weather Forecast*, installation view, K11 Art Foundation Shanghai, in association with Institute of Contemporary Arts London, 2016. Courtesy the artist; Kraupa-Tuskany Zeidler, Berlin; and Antenna Space, Shanghai. Photo: Christian Schwager, Winterthur.

November 20, 2019 (St. Louis, MO) - The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) announces the first solo museum exhibition in the United States by Beijing-based artist Guan Xiao, providing audiences with the opportunity to encounter the work of one of the leading members of a new generation of Chinese artists. *Guan Xiao: Fiction Archive Project* will be on view at CAM from January 18 through April 21, 2019.

Through her multimedia practice involving sculpture, installation, and video, Xiao combines discordant objects, words, images, and sounds. Her artwork is a study in contrasts, piece-by-piece assemblages of physical forms or digital images. Whether as installations or multi-channel video, her work is representative of how the mind processes information in the age of the internet. Browsing, for example, is a cognitive process through which we encounter vastly different visual, aural, and written data. Xiao believes “raw awareness” is an accurate description of this process, a state of awareness that flattens perspective. Her juxtaposition of ancient and contemporary forms—a bust of Nefertiti and an automobile headlight—are removed from history and functionality, distilled as a “lump of recycled things in changing packages.”

To make art for audiences who have grown accustomed to the delivery of information in a second, Xiao is intuitive, radically free-form, and attentive to people’s “shifting habits” in our complex environment. “Everything has collapsed” she has observed, and she seeks avenues through which audiences may make associations where distinctions have dissolved. She provides her audiences context, allowing them to discern the subject matter, and through the use of rhythm—whether in visual montage, sound, music, or the line, color, and shape of objects—Xiao offers intersections where the senses may best experience transitions between forms.

Guan Xiao (b. 1983, Chongqing; lives and works in Beijing) has exhibited internationally at the OCT Contemporary Art Terminal, Shenzhen; Victoria & Albert Museum, London; National Museum of Contemporary Art, Korea, Seoul; and the Shanghai Art Museum. Selected exhibitions include: *Individuality has completely vanished—only traces become memories that linger in the recesses of consciousness*, Kunsthalle Winterthur, Switzerland, 2018; *Viva Arte Viva*, 57th

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CAM is free. Visit often!

Venice Biennale, 2017; *Elastic Sleep*, ICA London, 2016; *Weather Forecast*, Jeu de Paume, Paris, 2016; *the shortlisted exhibition of Hugo Boss Asia Art Award*, Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai, 2015; *13th Biennale de Lyon: La vie modern*, Lyon, 2015; *2015 Triennial: Surround Audience*, New Museum, New York; *Rare Earth*, Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Vienna, 2015; *Degeneration*, ACAF, Sydney, 2014; *Don't You Know Who I Am? Art After Identity Politics*, M KA Museum, Antwerp, 2014; Agnes B Cinema, Hong Kong, 2014; *Die 8 Wege*, Uferhallen, Berlin, 2013; *Difference Engine*, Magician Space, Beijing, 2013; and *Floating - New Generation of Art in China*, National Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, 2007.



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Guan Xiao: Fiction Archive Project is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Wassan Al-Khudhairi, Chief Curator, with Misa Jeffereis, Assistant Curator.

Related Events

Press & Patron Preview

Friday, January 18, 10:00–11:00 am

Join artists and curators for an exclusive introduction to the exhibitions. *RSVP to Eddie Silva at 314.535.0770 x313 or esilva@camstl.org.*

Opening Night

Friday, January 18

Member Preview

Public Reception

6:00–7:00 pm

7:00–9:00 pm

All programs, dates, and time are subject to change.

About the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (CAM) presents, supports, and celebrates the art of our time. It is the premier museum in St. Louis dedicated to contemporary art. Focused on a dynamic array of changing exhibitions, CAM provides a thought-provoking program that reflects and contributes to the global cultural landscape. Through the diverse perspectives offered in its exhibitions, public programs, and educational initiatives, CAM actively engages a range of audiences to challenge their perceptions. It is a site for discovery, a gathering place in which to experience and enjoy contemporary visual culture. CAM is located in the Grand Center Arts District.

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