

LEO XU PROJECTS

AAAJIAO

Active online as a media artist, blogger, activist and programmer, aaajiao is the virtual persona of Shanghai-based artist Xu Wenkai, who offline is celebrated as a founder of co-working project Xindanwei—which tests a new way of nomadic living and working in cosmopolitan Shanghai—and as an inspiring teacher of New Media art.

Born in 1984 in one of China's oldest cities, Xi'an, aaajiao's art and works are marked by a strong dystopian awareness—his year of birth being the synonym of George Orwell's classic allegorical novel—, literati spirits and sophistication. Many of aaajiao's works speak to new thinkings, controversies and phenomenon around the Internet, with specific projects focusing on the processing of data, the blogosphere and China's Great Fire Wall. aaajiao's recent projects extend his practice to various disciplines (among them architecture, electronic music, performance, product design, and medicine) to capture the pulse of the young generation consuming cyber technology and living in social media.

aaajiao's work has been featured in numerous exhibition around the world: for instance, *Temporal Turn: Art and Speculation in Contemporary Asia*, Spencer Museum of Art, Kansas (2016); *Take Me (I'm Yours)* (curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist, Jens Ho mann and Kelly Taxter), Jewish Museum, New York (2016); *Overpop*, Yuz Museum, Shanghai (2016); *Hack Space* (curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist and Amira Gad), K11 Art Foundation Pop-up Space, Hong Kong (2016); "Globale: Global Control and Censorship", ZKM | Centre for Art and Media, Karlsruhe (2015); *Thingworld International Triennial of New Media Art*, The National Art Museum of China, Beijing (2014); *The West Bund Architecture and Contemporary Art Biennale*, Shanghai (2013); *One World Exposition - Chinese Art in the Age of New Media*, Videotage, Hong Kong (2011); and *Transmediale*, Berlin (2010). His solo exhibition includes: *Remnants of an Electronic Past*, Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art, Manchester (2016); *OCAAT Contemporary Art Terminal Xi'an, Xi'an* (2016), among others. He was awarded the Art Sanya Awards in 2014 Jury Prize and was nominated for the first edition of OCAAT-Pierre Huber Art Prize in 2014.

aaajiao (Xu Wenkai) was born in 1984 in Xi'an, and later moved to Shanghai, where he continues to live and work. aaajiao is one of China's foremost media artists, bloggers and free culture developers. In 2003, he established sound art website, cornersound.com, and in 2006 he founded the Chinese take on the blog *We Make Money Not Art: We Need Money Not Art*. He is devoted to *Processing*, an open source visual programming software, *Dorkbot*, a non-profit initiative for creatives, and *eventstructure*, a Shanghai-based interdisciplinary centre for art, media technology and academic research. In his work, aaajiao focuses largely on the use of data and its various forms of display, and how meaning is understood through the process of transforming the movement from reality to data, and back again. His most significant aesthetic contribution to new media in China is a social one, acting as a vector for the interpretation and communication of both international and local software usage trends in artistic practices.

BIOGRAPHY

1984 Born in Xi'an, Shaanxi, China

Lives and works in Shanghai, China.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2016 *ORG.A*, ReformerArt, Shanghai, China
aaajiao: Remnants of an Electronic Past, Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art, Manchester, UK
aaajiao: Remnants of an Electronic Past, OCAAT Contemporary Art Terminal Xi'an, Xi'an, China

LEO XU PROJECTS

- 2015 *aaajiao: Untitled*, Gallery Yang, Beijing, China
Alias: aaajiao, Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai, China
- 2014 *The Screen Generation@9m² Museum*, 9m² Museum (Goethe Open Space), Shanghai, China
- 2013 *The Screen Generation*, chi K11 art space, Shanghai, China
The Screen Generation – Prequel, C-Space, Beijing, China
- 2011 *Placebo*, Other Gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2010 *Cybernetics*, V Arts Centre, Shanghai, China

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 *Temporal Turn: Art and Speculation in Contemporary Asia*, Spencer Museum of Art, Kansas, USA
Take Me (I'm Yours), curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist, Jens Ho mann and Kelly Taxter, Jewish Museum, New York, USA
Overpop, Yuz Museum, Shanghai, China
Inner Universe, Gallery Yang, Beijing, China
Banana Banana, JNBY Foundation, Beijing, China
Void - Special Project by aaajiao & Miao Ying, Modern of Contemporary Art, Shanghai, China
The Exhibition of Annual of Contemporary Art of China, Minsheng Art Museum, Beijing, China
Zero for Conduct, Tabula Rasa Gallery, Beijing, China
Hack Space, curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist and Amira Gad, K11 Art Foundation Pop-up Space, Hong Kong, USA
The Mud of Compound Experience, Mother's Tankstation & Leo Xu Projects, Hong Kong, USA
Heavy Artillery, White Rabbit Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2015 *Globale: Global Control and Censorship*, ZKM | Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, Germany
Stereognosis Zone, Redtory Museum of Contemporary Art, Guangzhou, China
The Exhibition of Annual of Contemporary Art of China, Minsheng Art Museum, Beijing, China
Fusion: Chinese Museum and Contemporary Art Since 1930s, Wanlin Art Museum of Wuhan University, Wuhan, China
The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even, Pekin Gallery, Beijing, China
No Apple No Show - Part II, We Gallery, Shanghai, China
The Tell-Tale Heart, Chi Art Space, Hong Kong, China
Void - There's nothing more left, but a little trace from human beings, Ginkgo Space, Beijing, China
The 2nd "CAFAM Future" Exhibition: Observer-Creator · The Reality Representation of Chinese Young Art, Central Academy of Fine Arts Art Museum, Beijing, China
Naissance, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China

LEO XU PROJECTS

- 2014
- The Truth About Entropy*: OCAT - Pierre Huber Art Prize Shortlist Exhibition, OCAT Contemporary Art Terminal Shanghai, Shanghai, China
 - Ministry of Truth II - The Factitious and its Realm*, Boers-Li Gallery, Beijing, China
 - Cosmos - Limited and Limitless, Existence and Co-existence*, 21st Century Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China
 - The 12th National Artworks Exhibition, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China
 - Metamorphosis of the Virtual 5+5*, chi K11 art museum, Shanghai, China
 - Silence: the 1990s*, Galerie Balice Hertling, Paris, France
 - ThingWorld*, International Triennial of New Media Art Beijing, The National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China
 - Pandamounium*, Media Art from Shanghai, Momentum, Berlin, Germany
 - Transience, Intractable Objects*, Taikang Space, Shanghai, China
- 2013
- The West Bund Architecture and Contemporary Art Biennale, Shanghai, China
 - Reading*, Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai, China
 - Lost In The Labyrinth*, Harvestworks, New York, USA
 - Truth, Beauty, Freedom and Money - Art After Social Media Era* Shanghai, K11 art Space, Shanghai, China
 - Shanghai Surprise - A Group Show on Contemporary Art In Shanghai*, chi K11 art space, Shanghai, China
- 2012
- Art Dialogue City - 2nd Edition N-Minutes Video Art Festival*, Shanghai, China
 - Solar Plexus*, Space Station Sixty Five, London, UK
 - Whatever You Want - New Media Art Show*, Beijing, China
 - Solar Plexus*, V Arts Centre, Shanghai, China
 - Overlook*, Magda Danysz Gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2011
- One World Exposition - Chinese Art in the Age of the New Media, Videotage*, Hong Kong, China
 - Augmented Senses - A China-France Media Art Exhibition*, The Oct Art & Design Gallery, Shenzhen, China
 - TransLife: Media Art China 2011 - International Triennial of New Media Art*, The National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China
 - Augmented Senses - A China-France Media Art Exhibition*, The Oct Suhe Creek Gallery, Shanghai, China
 - Be With Me*, Liste 16, Basel
 - +Follow*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai, China
 - From Interaction to Micro-Sociology: The Dual Thread of Media Intervention into Art in The Netherlands and China*, Art ISSUE Projects, Beijing, China
 - Words and Dreams*, 18 Gallery, Shanghai, China

LEO XU PROJECTS

- 2010 *Resonance*, 18 Gallery, Shanghai, China
Creators Project, 798, Beijing, China
A World Which is Being Built!, V Arts Centre, Shanghai, China
Transmediale Berlin, Germany
- 2009 *Sweet Future*, 436 Jumen Road, Shanghai, China
Fantastic Illusions - Media Art Exhibition of Chinese and Belgian Artists
Belgium, Shanghai, China
New Media Archaeology, DDM, Shanghai, China
Art Beijing 2009 Thematic Exhibition - *Art Unforbidden*, Art Beijing, Beijing, China
- 2008 Shift Festival, Switzerland
eArts Festival, Shanghai, China
Virtual City (New Power – China Contemporary Art Biennale 2008)
Synthetic Times Public Education Project, Beijing, China
Mini Summit on New Media Arts Policy & Practice, Singapore
SEWN Segment Space, Shanghai, China
- 2007 Microwave International Media Art Festival, Hong Kong, China
Long March, Beijing, China
eArts Festival, Shanghai, China
SEWN Segment Space, Beijing, China
Lange Nacht, Beijing, China
Get it Louder, Beijing, China
Zhangjiang science, technology and culture festival, Shanghai, China
THE MOBILE LAB Borderline Festival, Beijing, China
CIGE multi media arts international lab forum, Beijing, China
Sustainable Imagination, Arario Gallery, Beijing, China
Deaf07, Netherlands

AWARDS AND PRIZES

- 2014 Jury Prize, Art Sanya Awards
Nominated for the first edition of OCAT - Pierre Huber Art Prize