## LEO XU PROJECTS

Leap, Chen Wei: The Last Man, Leo Xu Projects, No 160, 2016 Jan & Feb, P195



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陈维: 最后一人

Chen Wei: The Last Man

从去年在chi K11美术馆的展览"在浪里" 开始,陈维将作品的展现方式从二维拓展到 三维,不过对他来说这其中并不存在太大的 跳跃,因为他原本就需要在创作中应对空间问 题。事实上,那次展览他确实把为拍摄搭建的 迪斯科舞厅直接搬到了美术馆里。这一系列探 索九十年代以来中国酒吧变迁、跳舞音乐和青 年亚文化的作品发展到在Leo Xu Projects的"最 后一人"个展,陈维已经把全部画廊空间都纳入 了自己的创作场域。

但他并非将画廊整体改造成酒吧和迪厅,无论是摄影还是装置,他仍然仅使用一个或两个平面,仅提供有限的局部元素—彩色墙面、球灯、亚克力幕帘、亮闪闪的楼梯、晃动的人影……而展览同名作品则是一件孤单挂着的皮衣。不得不说在再现迪厅给人带来的恍惚、空虚、放纵等等交织的感受方面,这个展览做得非常到位。而且如果在白天去看展,还会产生夜晚和白昼的世界倒错的幻觉,因为当你从一个角落的迷幻灯光中抬起头来,往往迎面撞上画廊巨大玻璃窗外明晃晃的天色。上海Leo Xu Projects 2015.11.04-2016.01.20

It is interesting to track the evolution of form and trace the lines of logic across Chen Wei's work from different periods. The construction of elaborate studio sets—essential to Chen's photographic practice—endows his images with a striking, ritualistic quality. Even falling dust seems precisely orchestrated. Earlier photographs are mostly framed with the perspective of the human eye. An image of a room, for example, might include three walls and a perpendicular floor. Later on, Chen switched his focus to partial details and objects, such as a folding chair wearing an old t-shirt leaning against a discolored wall, or a dusty hat resting on a mossy floor. Now, his pictures often only show two intersecting planes.

Since last year's exhibition "In the Waves" in Shanghai, Chen's presentation has taken on a third dimension. Given the treatment of space inherent in his practice, this doesn't appear to be too great a leap. He transported a disco club built for a photo shoot directly into the museum. This series of works exploring the vicissitudes of clubs, dance music, and youth subculture since the 1990s culminates in the solo exhibition "The Last Man," where the artist incorporates the entire gallery space into his creative field.

Instead of transforming the gallery into a disco, Chen sticks to one or two planes of presentation in his photos and installations, offering only partial, restricted views of colorful walls, disco balls, acrylic curtains, shiny stairs, and blurry figures. The show's titular work is a photograph of a leather jacket hanging by itself. The exhibition does an excellent job of conveying the sense of delirium, void, and abandonment experienced at the club. Visiting during the day, one is likely to hallucinate a little when the eye turns away from psychedelic lighting to meet the broad sunlight coming in through the gallery windows. (Translated by Connie Kang) Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai 2015.11.04 - 2016.01.20

《醉舟(上海)》 2015年 亚克力、LED屏幕、镜子、钢化玻璃、镜胶、 荧光灯, 尺寸可变

The Drunken Boat (Shanghai)
Acrylic, LED screens, mirrors, reinforced glass, silicone mask, fluorescent tube
Dimensions variable

PHOTO: JJY Photo Courtesy Leo Xu Projects and the artist

