

Slideshow: Li Qing's "In the Vicinity"

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Work from Li Qing's "In the Vicinity" at Leo Xu Projects.
(Courtesy Sam Gaskin)

SHANGHAI — Windows inside **Leo Xu Projects** look out on buildings you'd expect to see in Western Europe, not in the gallery's Xuhui neighborhood. In his new exhibition, "In the Vicinity", artist **Li Qing** uses trompe l'oeil techniques to create transporting works, painting scenes he displays behind glass and old wooden window frames.

Li has previously described himself as a "computer programmer", creating paintings he thinks of as video games. In his "**Point out the Differences**" series, Li painted two versions of various scenes, such as an iconic photo of Prince Charles and Princess Diana's marriage, each of which includes deliberate errors.

In addition to the window works, "In the Vicinity" includes paintings with carved wooden 3D elements, and more abstract works. One such piece is a white box containing cactuses, with half faces protruding from the interior walls. There's also video of a bronze bust being doused in a dark, viscous fluid, something like blood, or crimson sealing wax.

The second floor of the gallery is decorated with wallpaper depicting a tough, weathered tree in purple on a black background. Papering the walls has become a favorite practice at Leo Xu Projects, where the third floor still sees large floral print paper by **Michael Lin** on display.

Born in 1981, Li Qing is based in Hangzhou. He studied at the **China Academy of Art**, graduating from the oil painting department in 2004. He previously showed as part of Leo Xu Projects' "Boy: A Contemporary Portrait" group show in 2011, and his earlier solo shows include "A Note — Fontana in His Later Years" at Platform China Space, Beijing, in 2011 and "Curtain" at Hanart TZ Gallery, Hong Kong in .

*Li Qing's "In the Vicinity" continues at **Leo Xu Projects** through January 17, 2014.*

