

LI QING

Li Qing (b. 1981) was born in Huzhou, Zhejiang, and now lives in Hangzhou. Li Qing's art practices embrace various media having began with oil painting, to now including video, photography and installation. The subject his works deal with also developed in depth. Standing in front of his works, audiences are led into a visual game, conversing with and reflecting on the artworks. The imagery created by Li Qing is no more just a means of representing reality. As a pioneer of "Intellectual Painting", he presents his audience a familiar context, allowing concepts tell the story on their own.

Li Qing's early series usually take form in diptych, such as his 'Finding Differences' series (2005-) and 'Images of Mutual Undoing and Unity' set (2007-). He borrows the form of the familiar video game "Find the differences", adding pop culture motifs, such as politicians, celebrities, daily objects, everyday scenes and news. In his works, one of the two motifs will be altered at several spots to lead audiences into a visual game, starting up a conversation between the two works. His work also sees him pressing two wet paintings together face-to-face before separating them, playing between the truth and nothingness. In fact, the two juxtaposed paintings don't show differences merely in form; they are a playful statement by the artist to deliver the differing concepts behind them. Every single brushwork or "Undoing" bears a unique gesture of the artist. The line between the absolute identical and the different thus is blurred, and the literal meaning of images is also absorbed into the surface of the canvas. By comparing the two paintings, audience come close to artist's real intentions—connotations of complex humanity, changing social landscape, and shared experiences or collective emotions of a certain period. The entry point to understanding Li Qing's paintings therefore switch from the surface of imagery as a representation of reality to the comparison between the two. And the image is merely a path to the more profound level of understanding.

Drifting, nothingness and disillusionment permeate most of Li Qing's works. In his later photography, video and installation works, artist deals with several eternal themes or philosophical concepts, such as the presenting of things as a subject, humanity in social development and the feeling of anxiety extensively existing in the time the artist lives in. During the 80s, China went through huge social reform and opening-up as well as dramatic economic growth, bringing in an overwhelming expansion of consumerism. Everyday objects became distant to people. They are used and then abandoned very shortly. For the artist, objects are the embodiment of the living experience. They show a state of nothingness and detachment in people's living conditions. The Fridge as a motif appears in many of artist's works, including 'White Group Portrait' (2010) and 'Black Group Portrait' (2010). The Fridge in Li Qing's works is like Van Gogh's Shoes, standing solemnly like a group of tall buildings, with a sense of human dignity, not being consumed as daily objects anymore. In the video work 'Drifting Floss' (2010), floss covers every corner, becoming the subject matter in this clueless story. Textile workers wander around in trance, delivering to the audience a collective feeling of powerlessness and disillusionment.

For the solo show 'Li Qing: In the Vicinity' (2014, Leo Xu Projects), the artist created a group of site-specific works associated with the gallery's location. An installation series 'Neighbor's Window' (2013) borrows the trompe l'oeil technique, combining old wooden window frames with the paintings of colonial architecture behind glass. The visual illusion connects individual life with today's modern metropolis of Shanghai, which comes along with the feeling of anxiety in the westernized culture and memory of the past revolutionary time.

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Other works in this show also show the development of Shanghai at a similar angle: the coexistence and mingling of different notions and ideologies, opening up dialogues between the past and the present.

Li Qing graduated from the Oil Painting Department of China Academy of Art in 2007. He has had solo shows at Hanart TZ Gallery, Hong Kong, China; Tomás y Valiente Art Centre, Madrid, Spain; Duolun Museum Of Modern Art, Shanghai, China and Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China, among others. A number of prestigious art institutes have also included his works for group shows, such as The 55th Biennale Di Venezia Special Invitation Exhibition, Arsenale di Venezia, Italy; National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia; Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan; ART COLOGNE 2013, Cologne, Germany; São Paulo Museum of Contemporary Art, São Paulo, Brasil, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, San Francisco, USA and Square Gallery of Contemporary Art etc. His works are collected by many art institutes and foundations, such as M+ Art Museum, Hong Kong, China; Deutsche Bank, Germany; Institut Valencia d'Art Modern, Valencia, Spain; Art & Culture Foundation (IAC) of Spain, Madrid, Spain; Logan Foundation, San Francisco, USA; Zendai Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, China; Long Museum, Shanghai, China; Yuz Foundation; Budi Tek Collection, Shanghai, China; Square Gallery of Contemporary Art, Nanjing, China; and China Academy of Art, Hangzhou, China.

BIOGRAPHY

1981 Born in Huzhou, Zhejiang, China

2007 Graduated from the Oil Painting Department of China Academy of Art, China

Lives and works in Shanghai and Hangzhou, China.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2015 *Light Gap*, Lian Contemporary Art Space, Shanghai, China

A Suite of Eights Room, Arario Museum, Seoul, Korea

Li Qing: Big Cathedral, Hive Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China

2014 *Blow Up: Li Qing Independent Projects*, 9 M² Museum in Goethe Institute, Shanghai, China

2013 *In the Vicinity*, Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai, China

2012 *Interweaving*, The Orient Foundation, Macao, China

2010 *Drift*, Tomás y Valiente Art Centre, Madrid, Spain

Shattered Vision, Magee Art Gallery, Madrid, Spain

2009 *Ghosting*, Duolun Museum Of Modern Art, Shanghai, China

Curtain, Hanart TZ Gallery, Hong Kong, China

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2008 *Collision in the Air*, DF2 Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Ghosting, Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China

2006 *Finding Together*, F2 Gallery, Beijing, China

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2016 *Performing Time*, Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai, China
Dissensus Agitation - The Painting to Language, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China
Over the Wall - Paintings Tempted by installation, Tang Contemporary Art Beijing, Beijing, China
Unrealities in the reality - The Intellectual Dimension of Daily Life, Boxes Art Space of OCT Harbor, Shen Zhen, China
The Mud of Compound Experience, Mother's Tankstation & Leo Xu Projects, Hong Kong

2015 *Inter - Youth: Art Exhibition of International Art Institutes*, Museum of Contemporary Art of Caa, Hangzhou, China
Painting 20 x 20, Poly Art Museum, Beijing, China
Copyleft: Appropriation Art in China, Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China
Ruins of Reality, Misguided Visions, Amy Li Gallery, Beijing, China
The Cabinet of Wonder, The Cabinet of Wonder, Beijing, China
Garden, Splendors, Jinji Lake Art Museum, Suzhou, China
Breaking the Image, Sishang Art Museum, Beijing, China
The System of Objects, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China
Handmade, Mao Space, Shanghai, China
Within Sight: Chinese New Painting at Post Financial Crisis Era, Taylor Foundation, Paris, France
Dawn – New Art From China, Zhong Gallery, Berlin, Germany
Blow-Up: Chinese New Painting Post Financial Crisis Era, Taylor Foundation, Changjiang Museum of Contemporary Art, Chongqing, China
The 2nd "CAFAM Future" Exhibition Tracking Program: Future Formula, 789 Art Factory, Beijing, China

2014 *Labor & Time*, Chambers Fine Art, Beijing, China
Social Landscape, Chengdu, China
The Sociology of Oneself, Eslite Gallery, Taipei
Present-ing Recital Louder than Paint, Shanghai Gallery of Art, Shanghai, China
Art Basel Hong Kong 2015, Hong Kong, China

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Re-View: Opening Exhibition of Long Museum West Bund, Long Museum West Bund, Shanghai, China

The Being of Non-Being: A Kind of Personal Expression on "Meta-Painting", Linda Gallery, Beijing, China

Luoping International Photography festival, Luoping, China

On the Road, Guan shanyue Art Museum, Shenzhen, China

2013 *The 55th Biennale Di Venezia Special Invitation Exhibition: Passage to History-La Biennale di Venezia and Twenty Years of Chinese Contemporary Art*, Arsenale di Venezia, Italy / Museum of Contemporary Art, Chengdu, China

Bidirectional Punctum: As an Entry Point of Representation, One Kind of Painting, Hive Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China

Criss-Cross: Artworks of Young Chinese Contemporary Artists from Long Collection, Long Museum, Shanghai China

Seven Sunsets, Waiting Dawns, All in One. How to Kill a Wondrous Time...not Wanting a Thousand Hours, Shanghai Gallery of Art, Shanghai, China

Pure Views: Transformations of Chinese Contemporary Art, Centre d'Art Santa Monica, Barcelona, Spain

Evolution, Avant-Garde Contemporary Art Center, Nanjing, China

Mirror and Shadow: Contemporary Art from China, National Gallery of Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia

Green Box: Remapping - The Space of Media Reality, Hangzhou, China

Pure Views: New Paintings from China, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan

2012 *Reactivation: The 9th Shanghai Biennale Thematic Exhibition*, Shanghai, China

Water Stains on the Wall-The Carrier of Formation, Zhejiang Art Museum, Hangzhou, China

Dawn: New Art from China, Zhong Gallery, Berlin, Germany

Boy: A Contemporary Portrait, Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai, China

Lust and Love of the Young and Liberated, 798 Space, Beijing, China

Paesaggi Visioni Ricordi, Veneto Science & Technology & Art Museum, Venice, Italy

Merging ·Distances in Light, L-art Gallery, Chengdu, China

ARTHK2012, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong, China

Forms of the Formless, Kunstwerk Carlshütte, Büdelsdorf, Germany

Sub-phenomena : CAFAM-Future, CAFA Art Museum, Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, China

Round Table: The 9th Gwangju Biennale Special Exhibition: Ctrl+N ·Non-linear Practice, Gwangju

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Museum of Art, Gwangju, Korea

Magnanimity: Collection of Atypical Works by 21 Chinese Artists, White Box Museum of Art, Beijing, China

Looking Awry, Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China

2011 *Community of Tastes: Chinese Contemporary Art from 2000*, São Paulo Museum of Contemporary Art, São Paulo, Brasil

Expression of Chinese Contemporary Art, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China

19 Solo Shows about Painting, Platform China Contemporary Art Institute, Beijing, China

Pure Views: New Painting from China, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, San Francisco, USA

Painting Lesson I: Illusion or Delusion, Yang Gallrey, Beijing, China

A Wedding, Para/Site Art Space, Hong Kong, China

Urban Utopia- Deutsche Bank Collection, Hong Kong, China

Almost Tangible, Arario Gallery, Beijing, China

Fly through the Tropo-Sphere: Memo of the New Generation Painting, Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China

One Man Theater □ *Works by Post-80s Artists*, He Xiangning Art Museum, Shenzhen, China

Surplus Goodlookingness, Tang Contemporary Art, Beijing, China

Daybreak, Arario Gallery, Beijing, China/Cheonan, Korea

The Shape of Time: The Multi-narrative History in Contemporary Chinese Art, Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China

Changing Vistas Creative Duration: The 5th Chengdu Biennale, Chengdu, China

In The Heat of the Sun, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul, Korea

2010 *Asian Landmark* □ *Toyota Art Project*, Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China

Jungle: A Close-up Focus on Chinese Contemporary Art Trends, Platform China Contemporary Art Institute, Beijing, China

TORA TORA TORA: Chinese Cutting-Edge Photography Exhibition, Beijing, China

Here, There-The World in Motion, Li Space, Beijing ; Lu Xun Academy of Art, Shenyang, China

Reshaping History: Chinart from 2000 to 2009, China National Convention Center, Beijing, China

Community of Tastes: Chinese Contemporary Art from 2000, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Santiago, Santiago, Chile

Do You See What I Mean?, Fabien Fryns Fine Art, Los Angeles, USA

The Personal Dimension: Four Emerging Artists from China, Arario Gallery, New York, USA

Pure Views: New Painting from China, Louise Blouin Foundation, London, UK

2009 *What Has Been Happening Here? - The Inaugural Exhibition of Chinese Independent Film*

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- Archive*, Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China
Prague Biennale 4, Karlin Hall, Prague, Czech
Textbook: An Exhibition of Lively Chinese Paintings, Li Space, Beijing, China
Pawnshop, Vitamin Creative Space “The Shop”, Beijing, China
City-net Asia 2009, Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
- 2008 *Unpack-Chinese Experiment Art*, China Academy of Art, Hangzhou, China
Asia-The 3rd Nanjing Triennial, Nanjing Museum, Nanjing China
The Revolution Continues – New Chinese Art, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
Poetic Realism: A Reinterpretation of Jiangnan-Contemporary Art from South China, Tomás y Valiente Art Centre, Madrid, Spain
5 Days in Valencia - Chinese Art Meeting, Institut Valencia d’art Morden, Valencia, Spain
China Gold - Chinese Contemporary Art, Museum Maillol, Paris, France
Case studies of Artists in Art History and Art Criticism, S Z Art Centre, Beijing, China
Notes of Conception - A Local Narrative of Chinese Contemporary Painting, Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China
Game Is Not Over, Arario Gallery, Beijing, China
- 2007 *Time Difference - New Art from China and USA*, Initial Access, Wolverhampton, UK
Energy: Spirit, Body, Material – The 1st Today’s Documents, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China
Beyond Image - Chinese New Painting, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China
- 2006 *Conversation 10+10*, Zendai Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, China
Beyond Dimension - Chinese New Painting, Square Gallery of Contemporary Art, Nanjing, China
Potential Dialogue - The Party of Sino-Austria young artists, RCM Museum, Nanjing, China
- 2005 *Future Archeology - The 2nd Triennial of Chinese Art*, Nanjing Museum, Nanjing, China
Young Chinese Contemporary Art, Hanger-7, Salzburg, Austria
Let Some Ideas Be Seen, Modern art gallery of Art Academy of Hangzhou Teachers University, Hangzhou, China