

Artsy, 20 Chinese Emerging Artists You Should Know, text/ Frances Arnold, July 2016

ARTSY

Liu Chuang ⊕ Follow

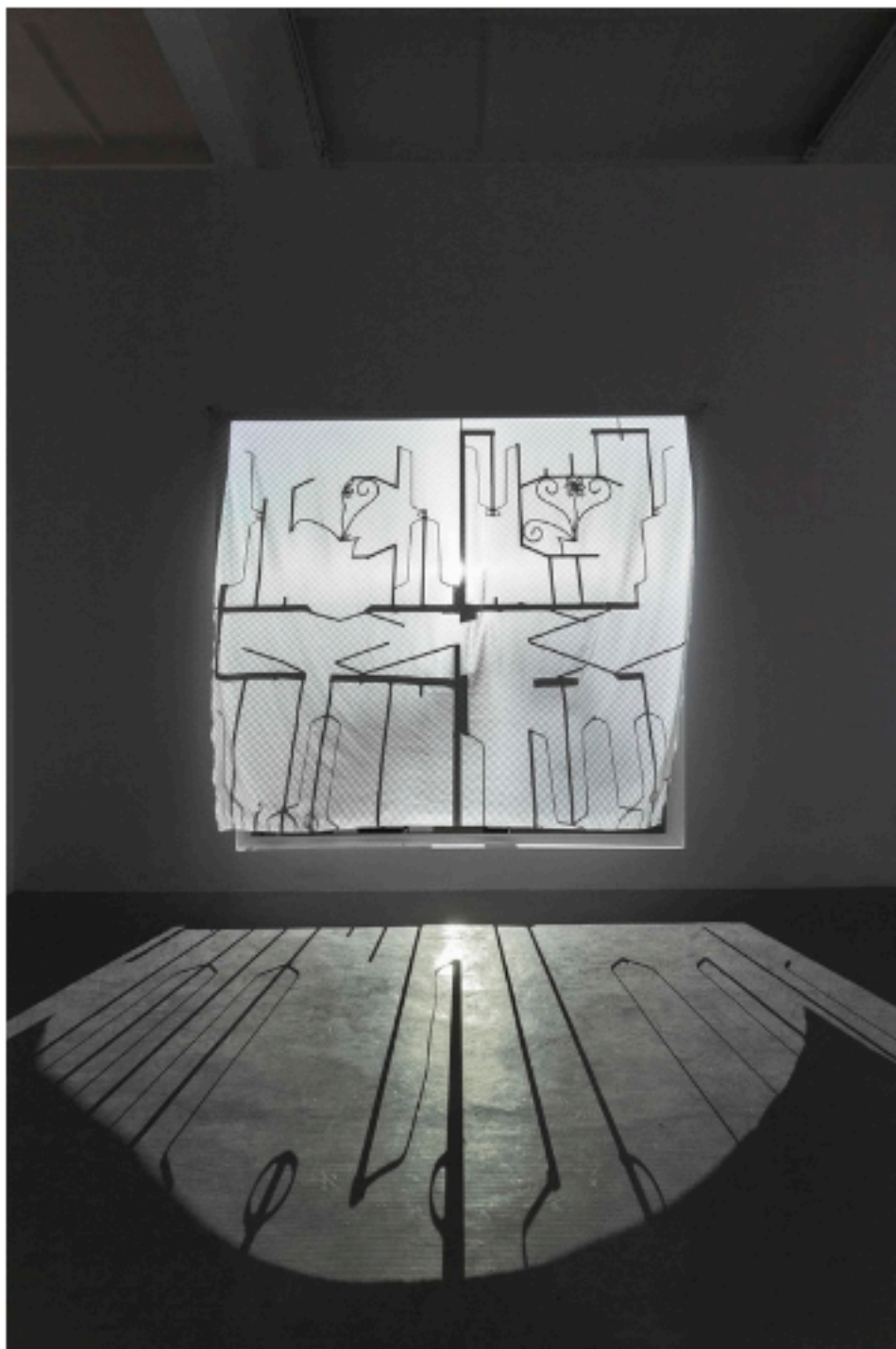
B. 1978, HUBEI. LIVES AND WORKS IN BEIJING.



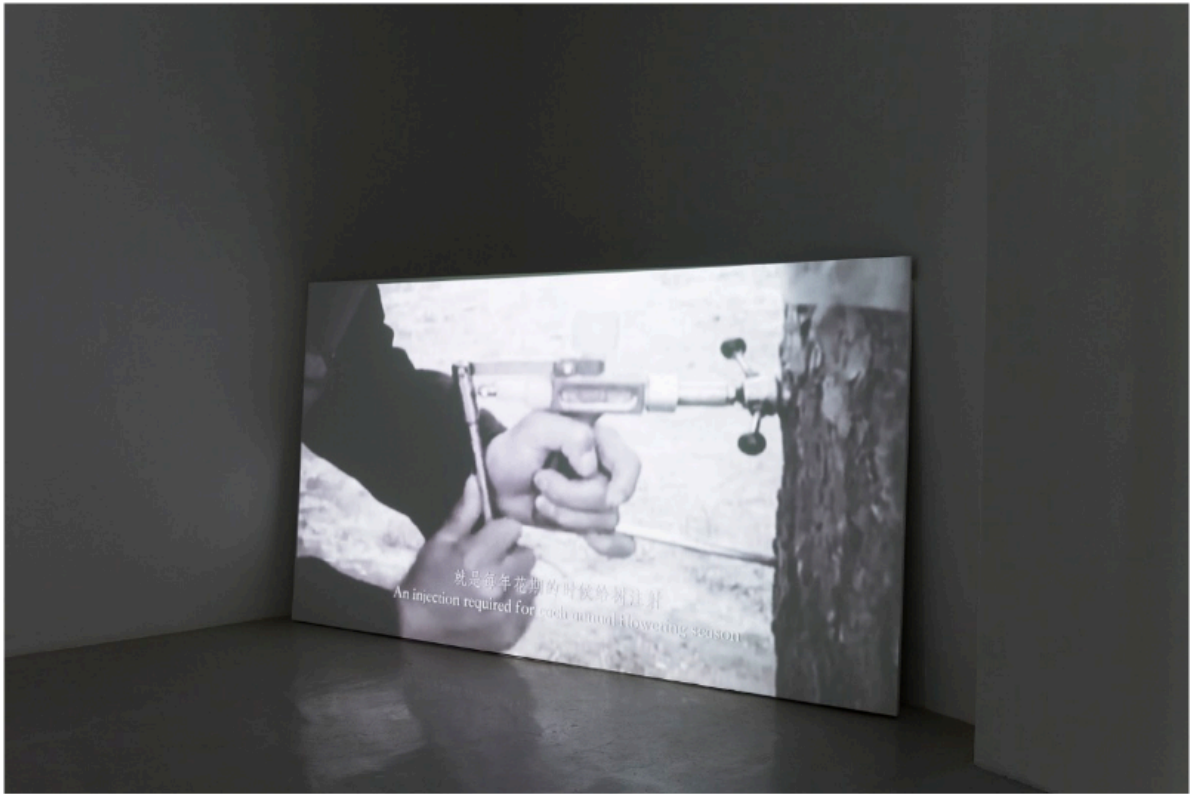
Liu Chuang, *BBR1 (No.1 Blossom Bud Restrainer (2015) No. 2, 2015)*. Courtesy of Magician Space.



Liu Chuang, *What is a Screen?*, 2015. Courtesy of Magician **1/4**
Space.



Liu Chuang, *What is a Screen?*, 2015. Courtesy of Magician **2/4**
Space.



Liu Chuang, *BBR1 (No.1 Blossom Bud Restrainer (2015) No. 2*, 2015. Courtesy of Magician Space.

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Liu Chuang, *BBR1 (No.1 Blossom Bud Restrainer (2015) No. 2*, 2015. Courtesy of Magician Space.

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Combining found footage, science, and a mesmerizing drift of falling catkins (flower clusters), Liu's short film *BBR1 (No.1 of Blossom Bud Restrainer)* (2015) describes the self-propagation of poplar and willow trees within the urban landscape. Recently included in Shanghai Gallery of Art's group show "Community of Celibates," it is typical of the artist's roundabout approach to urban, social, and economic realities via subtle interventions and everyday observations. For example, in 2010 he choreographed two cars to move silently and at minimal speed around Beijing's ring roads, which is documented in the video work *Untitled (Dancing Partners)*. His take on urbanization and social change is an informed one: Upon graduating from Hubei Institute of Fine Arts in 2001, Liu moved to Shenzhen, China's first Special Economic Zone, an all-round boomtown, which exemplifies the country's 1978 Open Door policy. Come October, his video work will feature in the Focus Section of Frieze London with Beijing's Magician Space, in the gallery's first outing at the fair.