

PIXY LIAO

Always shrouded in a layer of wit, **Pixy Yijun Liao** constantly blurs the lines between her personal and public spheres. Using mainly photography - on top of her wide range of readymade sculpture and performative video work - Liao challenges the perceived identities of various modern entities, be it the “female experience”, the “couple”, or the “artist”. Taking incidents from her real life as her foundation for thought and artistic creation, Liao stages carefully composed photographs often featuring her own person or those close to her - such as her husband in her long-term project *Experimental Relationship* (2007-present) - in her signature playful, humorous and sometimes even slightly dark images. Influenced by the 20th century’s New American Color Photography, her inquisitive creative nature lends itself a means to question the issues of interpersonal hierarchy and gender identity within the cross-cultural societies and communities within her life.

Born and raised in Shanghai (b.1979), Pixy Yijun Liao is currently based in Brooklyn, after moving to the USA to complete her MFA in Photography at the University of Memphis. Liao is a recipient of the NYFA Fellowship in photography, and in 2013 she received the 1st Place Prize in the Lucie Awards’ Self Portrait category, and in the same year won the Lens Culture Exposure 2nd Prize. Her works have been collected by the Franklin Furnace Archive, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Fort Wayne Museum of Arts, The Kinsey Institute, and The Center of Photography at Woodstock among others.

Pixy Liao’s photographs have been exhibited internationally with various institutions and museums. Selected group exhibitions include “Bagism”, Chi K11 Art Museum, Shanghai (2016); “WECHAT - A Dialogue in Contemporary Chinese Art” curated by Barbara Pollack, Asia Society Texas Centre, Houston and Wesleyan University’s Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery, Middletown (2016); “The Real Thing”, Flowers Gallery, New York (2016); “EVIDENCE”, FORMAT Festival, Derby (2015); “Double Vision” curated by Boyi Feng, He Xiangning Art Museum, Shenzhen (2014); “Span of Vision” from VT Gallery, Taipei (2012), etc,. Her recent solo exhibitions include “Some Words Are Just Between Us”, First Draft Gallery, Sydney (2016); “Experimental Relationship”, Circuitous Succession Gallery, Memphis (2015); “Let’s Make Love”, Camera Club of New York, New York (2013); “Memphis, Tennessee”, Chinese America Art Council, New York (2011); “Experimental Relationship”, Adam Shaw Gallery, Memphis (2008).

BIOGRAPHY

1979 Born in Shanghai, China

2008 Graduated from the Department of Photography, University of Memphis (MFA)

Lives and works in Brooklyn, NY

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2016 "Some Words Are Just Between Us", First Draft Gallery, Sydney

2015 "Experimental Relationship", Circuitous Succession Gallery, Memphis

2013 "Let’s Make Love", Camera Club of New York, New York

"The Second Story of Two Stories", Kips Gallery, Seoul

2011 "Memphis, Tennessee", Chinese American Art Council, New York

2008 "Experimental Relationship", Adam Shaw Gallery, Memphis

LEO XU PROJECTS

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 "When We Become Us", CAPSULE Shanghai, Shanghai
"Bagsim", chi K11 Art Museum in Shanghai, Shanghai
"WECHAT - A Dialogue in Contemporary Chinese Art" curated by Barbara Pollack, Asia Society Texas Center, Houston and Wesleyan University's Ezra and Cecile Zilkha Gallery, Middletown
"The Real Thing", Flowers Gallery, New York
- 2015 "No Holds Barred—Young Contemporary Art from China" curated by Boyi Feng and Lars Jonsson, OPEN ART Biennial, Örebro
"EVIDENCE", FORMAT Festival, Derby
- 2014 "Double Vision", curated by Boyi Feng, He Xiangning Art Museum, Shenzhen
"An Ocean of Possibilities", Noorderlicht Photo Festival, Fries Museum, Leeuwarden
- 2013 15th China Lishui International Photography Cultural Festival, Lishui
"En Foco's New Works Photography Fellowship Awards Exhibition", Longwood Gallery, New York
- 2012 "Span of Vision", VT Gallery, Taipei
"Song of Ordinary Madness", Running Horse Contemporary Art Space, Beirut
"This Must Be the Place: Contemporary Photography in Memphis", Dixon Gallery, Memphis
- 2011 "Flash Forward", Magenta, Toronto
"nextkunst.licht", Kunst Licht Gallery, Shanghai
- 2010 "Making the Leap: Crossing Borders", A.I.R Gallery, Brooklyn
"Irrelevant: Local Emerging Asian Artists Who Don't Make Work About Being Asian", Arario Gallery, New York
- 2009 "Photography Now 2009" juried by Charlotte Cotton, Center of Photography at Woodstock, Woodstock
- 2008 "Girl and Her Camera", Lianzhou Photo Festival, Lanzhou
"4th Wall", 2008 China Pingyao International Photography Fest, Pingyao
"Girl's Club", L Ross Gallery, Memphis

AWARDS GRANTS & RESIDENCIES

- 2016 Artist Residency, Pioneer Works
- 2015 Artist Residency, Light Work
- 2014 2nd Prize winner, LensCulture Exposure Awards 2013
- 2013 Fellowship in photography, New York Foundation for the Arts
Darkroom Residency, Camera Club of New York
1st Place in Self-Portrait, IPA | Lucie Awards
Artist Residency, LMCC Workspace Residency Program
- 2012 New Works Awards Fellowship, En Foco
- 2011 Finalist, ITS#PHOTO, Trieste, Italy
- 2010 Artist Residency, Center for Photography at Woodstock

LEO XU PROJECTS

PUBLIC COLLECTION

Franklin Furnace Archive

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Fort Wayne Museum of Arts

Light Work, Syracuse, NY

The Kinsey Institute

The Center for Fine Art Photography, Fort Collins, CO

The Center of Photography at Woodstock, Woodstock, NY