

LEO XU PROJECTS

PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises, 2013 - present

Pixy Liao (b. 1979 in Shanghai, China)

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 real-life partner 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. 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 and 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).

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 LensCulture 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.

A Collection of Penises
2013 - present

“A Collection of Penises” operates as a semi-collaborative work between the artist and her partner Moro, who creates the ‘penises’ which make up Liao’s collection. After providing Moro with materials such as fabric, pillow fillings, and thread, Liao asked for 100 penises to be created under the rule that they were all to be soft. Each different and individual, Liao presents the viewer a survey of risqué imagination and of ‘adult playfulness’. Through this playful piece, the artist not only laughs at the bawdy subject at hand, but also at the exploration of her partner’s labor and creations, questioning power-balances within relationships, and the issue of creative ascription.



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises

2013 - present

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads, vintage box

Dimension variable



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises · Fat Boy

2016

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads

10 x 10 x 10 cm



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises · Crepe

2016

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads

6 x 8 x 2 cm



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises · Mini

2016

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads

2 x 2.5 x 1 cm



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises · Banana

2013

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads

22 x 8 x 4 cm



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises · Bend Over

2013

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads

5 x 8 x 5 cm



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises · Carrot

2013

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads

21 x 5 x 4 cm



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises · Elephant

2013

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads

8 x 8 x 4 cm



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises · Finger

2013

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads

4 x 11 x 2.5 cm



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises · Guitar

2013

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads

14 x 5 x 3 cm



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises · Heart

2013

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads

18 x 36 x 7 cm



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises · Hope

2013

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads

1.5 x 3.5 x 1 cm



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises · Knife

2013

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads

22 x 6 x 3 cm



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises · Mr. Brain

2013

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads

12 x 10 x 5 cm



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises · Old Man

2013

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads

12 x 10 x 3 cm



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises · Sausage

2013

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads

34 x 16 x 4 cm



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises · Short Boy

2013

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads

7 x 9 x 4 cm



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises · Sperm

2013

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads

3 x 11 x 2 cm



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises · Tortuous

2013

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads

7 x 30 x 3 cm



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises · Volcano of love

2013

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads

8 x 14 x 2.5 cm

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2013 - present

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads, vintage box

Installation view at LMCC Workspace Residency Program, 2013



PIXY LIAO

A Collection of Penises

2013 - present

Stretchy fabric, pillow fillings, threads, vintage box

Installation view at Pioneer Works Artist Residency Program, 2016

PIXY LIAO

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

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2016 "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

LEO XU PROJECTS

- 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

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