

# LEO XU PROJECTS

## WEI JIA 韦嘉

**Wei Jia** was born in 1975 in Chengdu, Sichuan. He attended Sichuan Fine Arts Institute, where he majored in printmaking and graduated in 1999. Since his early career, Wei Jia's works, including not only his highly acclaimed prints but also the oil on canvas in his transformative years, recreate with simple, smooth lines and bright, flat and graphic colors the restlessness and innocence of the new generation of urban youth who are just stepping into the real world. His signature series *An Uncivilized Spring*, depicts the confrontation between teenagers among trees, flowers, cliffs and sparse urban landscapes. These images demonstrate the confusion and cruelty of growing up, and turned later on into darker and colder ones. Paintings produced in this period retain the portrayal of teenagers – among them the self-image of the artist appears repeatedly- and are swept into scenes of self-denial, questioning, destruction and a renewed search for selfhood. The classicizing and theatricalization of scenes and human figures, as well as a heavy sense of religious ritual entailed in the plot, are all rendered by the inner turmoil of the young generation who are approaching maturity and are trapped in the rapid transformation of urban and youth culture. The series also made Wei one of the few persistent creators among today's young artists who continue the exploration of the individual experience and mood via the poetics of painting and the classical representational vocabulary.

Wei Jia has exhibited extensively and internationally, including “Please fasten your seat belt as we are experiencing some turbulence” (Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai, 2017), “Within Sight–Chinese New Painting” at Post Financial Crisis Era (Taylor Foundation, Paris, 2015), “Spectacle Reconstruction-Chinese Contemporary Art”(MODEM Centre for Modern and Contemporary Arts, Debrecen, 2013), “Spin: The First Decade of the New Century”(Today Art Museum, Beijing, 2012), “The Frank-Suss Collection”(Saatchi Gallery, London, 2012), “CHINA MANIA”(Arken Museum of Modern Art, Copenhagen, 2009), “The Power of Practice – the Second Document Exhibition of Contemporary Chinese Prints”(Nanjing Museum, Nanjing, 2008), “Visual Experiences First Exhibition”(National Art Museum of China, Beijing, 2007), “China's Neo Painting, A Triumph Over Images”(Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, 2007), “Energy: Spirit, Body, Material— The First Today's Documents”(Today Art Museum, Beijing, 2007), etc. His recent solo exhibitions include “Sudden Brilliance”(Michael Ku Gallery, Taipei, 2017), “Mildly Biting, Encountering Spring”(Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai, 2015), “PORTRAIT”(Michael Ku Gallery, Taipei, 2012), “Dim Light on the Opposite Shore: Wei Jia Solo Exhibition”(Star Gallery, Beijing, 2011), “In the Distant Fields and Smoky Woods”(Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, 2009), etc.

### BIOGRAPHY

- 1975 Born in Chengdu, Sichuan
- 1999 Graduated from the Central Academy of Fine Arts
- Teaching at Sichuan Fine Arts Institute, Department of Printmaking

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *Wei Jia: Sudden Brilliance*, Michael Ku Gallery, Taipei
- 2015 *WEI JIA: MILDLY BITING, ENCOUNTERING SPRING*, Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai
- 2012 *PORTRAIT*, Wei Jia solo exhibition, Michael Ku Gallery, Taipei
- 2011 *Dim Light on the Opposite Shore: Wei Jia Solo Exhibition*, Star Gallery, Beijing
- 2009 *In the Distant Fields and Smoky Woods*, Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
*Doors to an Alternative World-Wei Jia's Recent Works*, Galerie Frank Schlag & Cie, Germany
- 2008 *Wei Jia 2004-2008*, Star Gallery, Beijing  
*Illuminating the Endless Night*, Michael Ku Gallery, Taipei
- 2007 *If You Could Fly, Where Could You Go?* Aura Gallery, Shanghai
- 2006 *An Uncivilized Spring*, Star Gallery, Beijing

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## GROUP EXHIBITION

- 2017 *Please fasten your seat belt as we are experiencing some turbulence*, Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai
- 2015 *In Memory of a Landscape II: Lu Song, Wei Jia and Xie Fan*, James Cohan Gallery, Shanghai  
*Within Sight — Chinese New Painting at Post Financial Crisis Era*, Taylor Foundation, Paris
- 2014 *Landscape of Man*, Michael Ku Gallery, Taipei  
*The Immortal Scenery*, Hive Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing
- 2013 *City Phantasm 2013 Chongqing Youth Art Biennale*, Chongqing Art Museum, Chongqing  
*SPECTACLE RECONSTRUCTION – CHINESE CONTEMPORARY ART*, MODEM, Centre for Modern and Contemporary Arts, Debrecen
- 2012 *Spin: The First Decade of the New Century*, Today Art Museum, Beijing  
*Water stains on the wall — The carrier of formation*, Zhejiang Art Museum, Zhejiang  
*Shedding — New Art From China*, Zhong Gallery, Berlin
- 2011 *Born in the 70s*, LIN & LIN Gallery, Taipei  
*From scenes to scenes of culture After seventies artist research*, Wuhan Art Museum, Wuhan
- 2010 *The Mirror of Time*, Michael Ku Gallery, Taipei  
*RESHAPING HISTORY: China Art from 2000 to 2009*, China National Convention Center, Beijing  
*Thirty Years of Chinese Contemporary Art 1979-2009*, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai  
*The Franks-Suss Collection*, The Saatchi Gallery, London  
*Trans-Realism: Contemporary Art from China*, Christie's Rockefeller Plaza, New York  
*Ten Cases Studies of Post-70s Art*, Hong Kong Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong
- 2009 *CHINA MANIA*, Arken Museum Of Modern Art Danish, Copenhagen  
*The Kingdom of Denmark Paradise Lost*, F.FINE Gallery, Beijing  
*China From Zero to Hero*, Star Gallery, Beijing
- 2008 *3rd A+A Exhibition*, PIFO New Art Gallery/ Duolun Museum Of Modern Art, Beijing/ Shanghai  
*The Disappearance of Nature*, J & Z Gallery, Shenzhen  
*The Game is Not Over*, Arario Gallery, Beijing  
*Corresponding: Nanjing-Chengdu*, Nanjing Qinghe Current Art Center, Nanjing  
*Looking for Me*, Minsheng Center for Contemporary Art, Shanghai  
*Strength of Practice – the Second Document of Contemporary Chinese Prints*, Nanjing Museum, Nanjing  
*Ah! We*, The National Grand Theatre, Beijing
- 2007 *Taking off From The West — Contemporary Art of China's Southwest*, Guangdong Art Museum, Guangzhou  
*New Interface — Searching the Future*, Liu Haisu Art Museum, Shanghai  
*Chen Ke Li Jikai Wei Jia*, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York  
*Visual Experiences — Firstly Exhibition*, National Art Museum of China, Beijing  
*China new painting*, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai  
*Contemporary presentation-Shanghai Wu jiaochang 800 Art Space Opening Exhibition*, Shanghai Wujiaochang 800 Art Space, Shanghai  
*Adidas Gong Zhen Sport in Art*, MOCA Shanghai, Shanghai  
*Animamix: From Modernity to Eternity*, MOCA Shanghai, Shanghai  
*Energy — Spirit, Body, Material Today Documentary Exhibition*, Today Art Museum, Beijing
- 2006 *Variant Pictures*, China Contemporary Oil Painting Invitation Exhibition, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai  
*Vision changing — The 2nd Contemporary Chinese Young Printers Nominating Exhibition*, Guan-Shan-Yue Art Museum, Shenzhen  
*The Self-Made Generation — A Retrospective of New Chinese Painting?*, Zendai Moma, Shanghai  
*Naughty Kids*, Star Gallery, Beijing
- 2005 *Next Station, Cartoon?*, Star Gallery/He Xiangning Art Museum, Beijing/Shenzhen  
*Scapes: the 'Century' and 'Paradise' — The Second Chengdu Biennial*, Century City, Chengdu

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*Fushan International Print Painting Invitational Exhibition, Fushan, Korea*

- 2004 *Ideal of A New Generation – the Chinese New Generation, Gallery of Central Academy of Fine Arts/ He Xiangning Art Museum, Shenzhen*  
*11th International Biennial Print and Drawing Exhibition, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung*  
*Eighth Copperplate, Stoneplate, Silk Plate Print Painting Exhibition, Chongqing Art Museum, Chongqing*  
*First Beijing International Print Painting Biennial Exhibition, Yan Huan Art Museum, Beijing*
- 2002 *Sixteenth National Print Painting Exhibition, Anhui International Exhibition & Conference Center, Nanjing*  
*The Space Group — the 12th Space International Print Biennial, Seoul, Korea*  
*Entering into Modern Times: Eight Young Printmakers Exhibition, Guan Shan Yue Art Museum, Shenzhen*
- 2001 *7th National Exhibition of Etching, Lithography and Silkscreen, Wuhan*  
*15th National Print Painting Exhibition, Guangzhou*
- 2000 *V Triennale Mondiale d'Estampes Petit Format in Chamalieres, France*

## **ACHIEVEMENT AND AWARD**

- 2010 BMW CHINA
- 2009 Art Power "Most Improved Artist"
- 2008 AAC2007 The Most Influential Participants of Chinese Art
- 2003 Gold Award and "Liao Xiuping Print Painting Fund Award" by the Eighth Copperplate, Stoneplate, Silk Plate  
Print Painting Gold Award by the First Beijing International Print Painting Biennial Exhibition