

From the Mundane World: Launch Exhibition of He Art Museum

2020.10.01 -2021.02.28



Organizer: HEM

Chairman of Exhibition: He Jianfeng

Chief Curator: Feng Boyi

Curators: Hu Bin, Wang Xiaosong, Liu Gang, Shao Shu

Assistant Curators: Yang Qing, Gou Xianxu, Yuan Zhao, Lai Zhiqiang, Wang Qi

Curatorial Statement

From the Mundane World: Inaugural Exhibition of He Art Museum consists with two parts: the collection exhibition including Milieu in Change: He Art Museum Chinese Modern Collection Exhibition and On the Rise: He Art Museum Contemporary Art Collection Exhibition; and the thematic exhibition which has three sessions: Experience All Things, Doctrine for "Sole" Material Development and Mundane Canteen.

From the Mundane World is about all-encompassing, random, uncertain, but interdependent variables. The three thematic sessions are artistic scales for measuring people and nature, material, ecology, and even food. Through the artist's focus on the material media and the concreteness of real life, the exhibition tries to examine and explore the situation of human civilization in the laws of nature in the process of modernization. When the content of From the Mundane World extends to the awareness of issues such as society, production, consumption, desire, and environmental protection, material energy is artistically transformed into an existence that transcends material, which becomes the contemporary expression of the spirit of the time. At the same time, the artist's creation carried by the material medium reflects a special modernity characteristic in the contexts of social development, which suggests the crisis and vigilance of natural ecological identity. Thus, this inaugural exhibition empowers contemporary artists, both local and abroad, to express the necessary value of natural material and daily life experience, and present a realm of material and visual culture worth thinking about.

Feng Boyi, Chief Curator

December, 2020

Introduction to Thematic Exhibition

The exhibition attempts to develop on two aspects: "Mundane World" and the things from said world. "Mundane World" or the human world, includes the space inhabited by human beings, and time, material, energy, speed, etc. The rest of it, the tangible items like landscapes make up the things From the Mundane World. It is a study of how tangible "things" develop through the nebulous nature of the "Mundane World" and the resulting issues of production, consumption, ecology, etc. In the context of the on-going public health threat, this topic has become more specific and realistic.

Experience All Things

"All things" is the broad concept of all objects and beings, including the unpredictable enigma of nature and its inexhaustible energy. Experience is both the starting and end point for humans, gaining greater perception through a process of coming in contact with these various objects and beings. In the field of contemporary art, material mediums are of paramount importance. Our interaction with nature is constructed and reconstructed by exploring, utilizing the quality and energy of materials, as well as by accumulated creative experiences. Artistic experiments extend beyond mere experience, they record the direction of our understanding of natural materials, reveal the limitations of the visual experience, and deconstruct, while transforming the original form of materials. As artists "experience all things," this gradually shapes their perceptions, thoughts, and transformations of art in material and visual culture, and brings out a transcendental visual tension.

Doctrine for "Sole" Material Development

Modern development directly impacts all fields of human life. Humanity's infinite worship of energy on an epistemological level and the overexploitation of natural resources have led to resource depletion. This depletion lays the foundation, on which the doctrine of "sole" material development is built. It represents the rampant destruction of the Earth's natural ecology and lack of control as a result of social production, consumer culture, and personal desires. Hence, through an artist's anxious expressions of the ecological changes, they are alerting the world and protecting the environment. Perhaps this exhibition will give insight to the profound social problems that affect the world through the artists' expressive displays. Although this explanation and criticism involve social

systems and realistic demands of them, the exhibit tries to arouse the audience's awareness of the crisis of human survival and the sense of reverence for nature.

Mundane Canteen

In traditional Chinese history, Shunde is one of the most culinarily rich cities. Eating is a human instinct and is closely related to our body and survival. The food chain can also be one of the indicators for measuring the diversity of natural ecology. The change and integration of food culture has not only become a major source of national and religious taboos, but also reflects the conflicts in social history, events, power, and class. The participating artists transform this indispensable sustenance into a creative resource, build a metaphorical canteen in the exhibition space for communicating the deeper themes of cooking, and trace the food-related memories about life based on the traditional diet and cultural experience from different countries and ethnic groups. Food art re-interprets the basis of our existence and extends it to the realm of material culture. This art is formed through experiences of cooking, consuming, desire, and the diverse eating cultures of the artists and audiences, thereby presenting the symbiotic relationship between our living environment and our food systems.

Artists

Experience All Things

Francis Alÿs, Atelier NL, Lucia Bru, Chen Wenji, Mona Hatoum, Huang Yongping, Li Jinghu, Liu Wei, Liu Xin, Yuko Mohri, Sun Yue, Tong Kunniao, Bernar Venet, Xu Bing, Yin Xiuzhen

Doctrine for "Sole" Material Development

Ann Böttcher, Edward Burtynsky, Subodh Gupta, Camille Henrot, Damien Hirst, Charlotte Jarvis, Anish Kapoor, Kohei Nawa, Anu Ramdas & Christian Danielewitz, Tong Wenmin, Wang Ningde, Yang Xinguang, Robert Zhao Renhui, Zheng Bo

Mundane Canteen

Asunción Molinos Gordo, Hanne Nielsen & Birgit Johnsen, Craig Au Yeung Ying Chai, Song Dong, The Center for Genomic Gastronomy, Rirkrit Tiravanija

Milieu in Change: He Art Museum Chinese Modern Collection Exhibition

Unit 1

Wu Changshuo, Huang Binhong, Chen Shuren, Gao Qifeng, Wu Hufan, Chang Dai-Chien, Lin Fengmian, Guan Liang, Fu Baoshi, Zhao Shao'ang, Li Keran, Li Xiongcai, Guan Shanyue, Lai Shaoqi, Wu Guanzhong, Zao Wou-ki, Chu Teh-Chun, Liu Haisu

Unit 2

Ju Lian, Ren Bonian, Wu Changshuo, Qi Baishi, Gao Jianfu, Gao Qifeng, Yu Fei'an, Xu Beihong, Chang Dai-Chien, Lin Fengmian, Zhao Shao'ang, Li Keran, Guan Shanyue

Unit 3

Qi Baishi, Chang Dai-chien, Lin Fengmian, Guan Liang, Fang Rending, Fu Baoshi, Yang Shanshen, Wu Guanzhong, Huang Zhou, Yang Zhiguang

On the Rise: He Art Museum Contemporary Art Collection Exhibition

Ding Yi, Fan Bo, Leng Jun, Pang Maokun, Kishio Suga, Shang Yang, Xu Zhen, Xue Song, Zhou Chunya