

Press Release

The History of Southern Drama, Scene A

Solo Project by Tao Hui

Exhibition Date: July 7 – August 18, 2018

Opening Reception : 3-6pm, (Sat.), July 7



«A Young Leng Shuihua No.1» 2018, Photography, Digital Print, 64.6 x 45.5cm

“The History of Southern Drama, Scene A” is a site-specific solo-project by Chinese artist Tao Hui, executed in Taipei during an artist residency hosted by Chi-Wen Gallery. This is an ongoing project and will continue elsewhere with the realization of Scene B.

As a prelude to this project, Tao wrote a script for the video that centers around a fictional character, an elderly woman named Leng Shuihua, who authored a book titled *The History of Southern Drama* as her only literary work ever. Tao’s script depicts an interview that loosely connects Leng Shuihua’s life with the book and encapsulates a story behind it.

Chi-Wen Gallery

The History of Southern Drama, in itself a fictitious book, is not so much historical as it is in a sense biographical, based on the situation between China and Taiwan during the 20th to 70th year period of the Republic of China (ROC), approximately from the 1930s to the 1980s.

In Scene A, through a dramatic perspective and a tone of ordinary language, Leng Shuihua's background story comes alive by way of the video recorded interview, photographs and objects.

As becomes clear from the scripted interview, six chapters of the book have been adapted into film and television and the visual representation of these will be realized in Scene B through the production of short films that will evoke emotional release.

The collaboration between Tao Hui and Chi-Wen was conceptualized two years ago and finally realized in Chi-Wen Gallery's new space in Tianmu that used to house foreign embassy personnel stationed in Taiwan.

About the Artist

Tao Hui (1987) was born in Yunyang, Chongqing Province, China and currently lives and works in Beijing, China. He graduated in 2010 from Sichuan Fine Arts Institute with a BFA in Oil Painting. He won the special award of Contemporary Art Archive from Sichuan Fine Arts Institute in 2008, and won the Grand Prize at Contemporary Art Festival Sesc Videobrasil in 2015, and was shortlisted twice in two years' editions. Tao Hui is also the winner of Art Sanya & Huayu Youth Grand Award in 2015. His solo exhibitions include "New Directions: Tao Hui", UCCA, Beijing, China, 2015; and "1 Character & 7 Materials", AIKE-DELLARCO, Shanghai, China, 2015. Group exhibitions include: 'The mulberry forest becoming ocean', Esther Schipper, Berlin, Germany, 'Hack Space' at the K11 Foundation Pop-up Space in Hongkong, 'M+ Screening: Forty Years' at the Broadway Cinema in Hong kong, 'Why Not Ask Again: 11th Shanghai Biennale', PSA, Shanghai, China, 'Turning Point: Contemporary Art in China since 2000', Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China, 2016; 'Tutorial' Museum Pino Pascali, Polignano a Mare (Ba), Italy; "Bentu, Chinese artists in a time of turbulence and transformation", Foundation Louis Vuitton, Paris, France "Essential Matters – Moving Images from China", Borusan Contemporary, Istanbul, Turkey, 2015; "Contemporary Art Festival Sesc Videobrasil: Southern Panoramas", São Paulo, Brazil, 2013.