

Zero Gravity 零重力

Art, Technology and New Altitudes of Consciousness
A Multimedia exhibition at Sun Gallery

Participating Artists: Christophe Demaître, Zhang DeLi 张德丽, Wang Dongma 王东马, Thomas Charveriat, Yang Longhai 杨龙海, Zane Mellepe, Zhu Ye 朱晔, Zou Susu 邹林峰

Curator: Thomas Charveriat

Artistic Direction: Zane Mellepe & Zou Susu 邹林峰

Coordinator: Zhu Jing

Production and Organization: Hugo Bourgade, Thomas Begault, Zhu Yumei 朱余妹, Virginie Leroux Michel, Xu Guangping

Venue: Sun Gallery, Shanghai

Exhibition: February 2nd to April 2nd 2008

After opening "Plug It" in Hong Kong, curator/artist Thomas Charvériat and art directors Zane Mellepe & Zou Susu embark their exhibition on the theme of gravity.

island6 curatorial team asserts that new technologies have created an effect of contemporary weightlessness that resembles the spatial-temporal suspensions produced by the absence of gravity.

The transparency of the technology used, meticulously hidden inside the frames, along with the precise choice of imagery creates a condition in which the spectator blends with the work.

A blink of light, a shatter of movement and a glimpse of voices: all points to an illusion.

Inspired by the human's sensation of flying, falling and floating, this group show reflects on emotions of delight, anxiety and stillness.

Combining physical objects, digital videos and LED animations, the works presented in "Zero Gravity" become an ensemble of breathing textures in which the video content materializes from the void of the frame and appear to challenge or capitulate gravity.

This illusion creates a contemplative space in which focus shifts between the repetition of light movements formed by the light-emitting diodes and the nuances of material used to deform the video image. Are we caught up in a collective consciousness or a mass hypnosis?

Yang Longhai and Zou Susu's "LED collages" describe the scientific world of sleep paralysis. Roger Highfield wrote that during sleep paralysis, people experience a kind of breakdown between states of consciousness, which takes place on the fringe of sleep, either when falling asleep or waking. Because the brain turns off the body's ability

to move during dreaming, muscles can lose their tone, or tension, causing paralysis.

The details of sleep paralysis vary from person to person. Some hear vague sounds, indistinct voices and demonic gibberish. Others see hallucinations of humans, animals and supernatural creatures. There is a striking inability to move or to speak, or a weight on the chest. Also common are feelings of rising off the bed or flying. In addition, people report out-of-body experiences, sometimes accompanied by "autoscopy" when they look down on themselves. People who suffer sleep paralysis report sensations of floating, flying, falling or leaving one's body. It ranges from relatively tranquil floating experiences to horrible feelings of falling or rising at high speed.

Not surprisingly, in traditional Chinese cosmological views, the ability to overcome gravity was not necessarily due to the existence of external mechanism or faculties such as wings, but rather through the inner state of being - highly refined qi.

Zhang Deli and Wang Dongma, two of the multimedia artists presented in "Zero Gravity", asserts that other ways to achieve similar transmutation of substance of the physical self and be able to fly was also available through special elixirs, such as what Chang'E was said to have taken and thus gone up to the moon. "Chang'E", is one of the most talked about names among the Chinese, this is not only because it is the name of a beautiful woman in ancient Chinese legend, who is living on the moon, but also because it has become the name of the lunar probing satellite designed and made by the Chinese themselves.

"Going to clasp the moon in the Ninth Heaven" should have always been a lingering dream in China's centuries-old traditional culture. In 2007, the lifting-off of the "Chang'e I" lunar probing satellite is supposed to draw the Chinese closer to the moon.

In this exhibition, art director Zou Susu will present his new series of lunar videos reminding us that back in 1970, China became the fifth nation in the world to launch an artificial moon to orbit above Earth. That satellite, Mao-1, rode atop a Long March-1 rocket from Jiuquan. Yang Liwei was China's first citizen in space. His launch into orbit aboard Shenzhou-5 on 15 October 2003 marked the entry of China into an elite group, consisting only of Russia and the United States, who had the capability to launch human beings off the planet. Yang's name therefore was placed in history next to those of Yuri Gagarin and Alan Shepard.

In this exhibition, the medium has no gravity and traditional paintbrushes are lost in a black hole of space. Will Chinese art be as avant-garde as the country's aeronautic profile?

Some people say that there is nothing more beautiful than a mathematical formula but as a matter of illustrating natural phenomena, art can often capture and describe more precisely than any scientific theorem.

Get festive during Chinese New Year and immerse yourself in this sublime, dream-like exhibition at Sun Gallery starting Saturday 2nd of February 2008.