

Eye of the Storm

TAIWANESE ART TODAY

EXHIBITION
07 OCT 2022 → 08 JAN 2023

le lieu unique

From Tuesday to Saturday: 2:00 pm > 7:00 pm,
Sunday: 3:00 pm > 7:00 pm
Closed on Monday
Free entrance

In spite of an unstable context in which serious crises can arise at any time, Taiwan has open up to new artistic perspectives, constructing and deconstructing its history and culture through a broad range of creative forms.

Eye of the Storm refers to the artistic, political and geopolitical situation of a country where major disruptions in the near future are a very real possibility.

Organized jointly by the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts and le Lieu Unique, this exhibition brings together works by artists who, each in their own way, show the many facets of life in Taiwan today

Curators:
Iris Shu Ping Huang, curator, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts ; **Patrick J. Gyger**, director of Plateforme 10, Lausanne ; **Eli Commins**, Le Lieu Unique's director, Nantes.



TAIWAN in a few keydates

• 1885 > 1945

Taiwan belonged to the Chinese Empire until 1895. In 1895, the Chinese Empire lost the war against Japan and ceded Taiwan to it: a period of colonization that lasted 50 years, until the defeat of Japan at the end of the Second World War. In 1945, the Republic of China took over Taiwan.

• 1949: separation

Mao Zedong's communists take power in Beijing in October 1949 after defeating Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang (KMT) nationalists in a civil war. The KMT flee to the island of Taiwan and form their own government in Taipei in December, cutting off contacts with mainland China.

• 1971: Beijing gets UN nod

In October 1971, Beijing takes over China's seat at the United Nations, previously held by Taipei. In 1979, the US establishes diplomatic relations with China but also commits to assisting the defence of Taiwan. It backs the policy of "one China", with Beijing as the legitimate government, but establishes trade and military ties with Taipei.

• 1987-2016: fragile reconciliation

In late 1987, Taiwan residents are for the first time permitted to visit China, allowing families to reunite and leading to a boom in trade. In 1991, Taiwan lifts emergency rule, unilaterally ending a state of war with China. The first direct talks between the two sides are held in Singapore two years later. In 1996, China tests missiles off Taiwan to deter voters in the island's first democratic presidential election.

• 2008: reopening dialogue

In 2008, Taiwan and China resume high-level talks after the KMT's Ma Ying-jeou is elected president on a Beijing-friendly platform. In 2015, the leaders of both sides meet in Singapore, shaking hands and waving enthusiastically to a huge press throng but refraining from any joint statement.

• 2016: end of the honeymoon

In January 2016, opposition candidate Tsai Ing-wen, from the traditionally pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party, wins elections to become Taiwan's first female president. Her victory was on a platform of standing up to China. In June, China suspends all official communications with Taiwan.

• 2021: record incursions into airspace

In 2021, China appeared to ramp up pressure by sending military aircraft into Taiwan's Air Defence Zone, a self-declared area where foreign aircraft are identified, monitored, and controlled in the interests of national security. Last year, the numbers of aircraft reported peaked in October 2021, with 56 incursions in a single day, with Taiwan's defence minister saying relations were the worst they had been for 40 years. Relations between Taiwan and China appear to have deteriorated sharply following Ms Pelosi's visit, which Beijing condemned as «extremely dangerous».

The National Museum of Fine Arts of Taiwan (NTMoFA)

The National Museum of Fine Arts of Taiwan was founded in 1988. Its activity is the promotion of visual arts. It places great emphasis on collecting works by Taiwanese artists, and exploring unique characteristics of modern and contemporary Taiwanese arts. As a national art museum, its mission is to protect the artistic heritage and develop the Fine Arts of Taiwan.

Its philosophy is based on three axes: building and sustaining an ecosystem favourable to creation and promoting cultural diversity; including communities and embracing both modernity and traditions; Promote Taiwan's brand and participate in the development of international cooperation.

CHANG Li-Ren

Born in 1983, lives and works in Tainan, Taiwan.

Battle City — Scene, 2010-2017

Model. 760 x 810 x 260 cm

Battle City 1 — The Glory of Taiwan, 2010-2017

Video, 26'21"

Battle City 2 — Economic Miracle, 2018-2021

Video, 45'42"

Battle City 3 — Formosa Great Again, 2022

Comic book

Battle City-Scene is a huge model of a city that Chang Li-Ren built over several years. Not basing his work on any existing model, he instead sought to transcribe his impressions as a city dweller and his childhood memories.

Chang Li-Ren graduated from the Graduate Institute of Plastic Arts at the National University of the Arts in Tainan. His work consists mainly of installations, videos and animations whose narratives feature a virtual world that exists somewhere between imagination and reality.

SU Hui-Yu

Born in 1976 in Taipei. Lives and works in Taipei, Taiwan.

Future Shock, 2019

Videos, 19'30"

Installation of variable dimensions

Future Shock is based on the Alvin Toffler's iconic book. This visionary work warns of a future society that is coming too fast, a disposable society drowned in information overload developing unethical technologies.

Su Hui-Yu's work focuses on the strong links between images, media and new ways of life in our contemporary societies. He is recently interested in "re-shooting the 1980's films and re-making the interpretation of classic movies and books whose theories guide him to a different understanding of history, existence and our physicality.

YAO Jui-Chung

Born in 1969 in Taipei. Lives and works in Taipei, Taiwan.

Brain Dead Travelogue, 2015

Handmade Indian paper, black ink and gold leaf. 193 x 1232 cm

Collection of the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts.

Brain Dead Travelogue depicts the famous mountain and water landscapes typical of traditional Shanshui painting, using revisited ancient techniques. This immense polyptych of more than 12 metres in length recounts 20 years of the artist's drifting life and creative wanderings.

As an artist, curator and critic, Yao Jui-chung is known for his incisive, provocative and often humorous texts on Taiwan's contested and complex history and culture, as well as on the legacies of colonialism and authoritarianism.

YUAN Goang-Ming

Born in 1965, currently lives and works in Taipei, Taiwan.

Everyday Maneuver, 2018

Video, 5'57"

Since its inception in 1978, the annual Wan'an Air Raid Exercise has been conducted in Taiwan. Its purpose is to reduce the potential damage caused by air raids in the event of an enemy strike. It also serves as a reminder that the threat is always present on the other side of the strait. *Everyday Maneuver* documents the day of the exercise, between 1:30 and 2:00pm, using drones that fly over the five main streets of Taipei.

Dwelling, 2014

Video, 5'

Yuan Goang-Ming has an eye for detecting the cracks in everyday life which he then manipulates in an almost unspeakable way, seeking to stimulate and test the audience's visual perception. *Dwelling* is a continuation of his work on ruins and housing, which he began to explore in 2007.

A graduate of the National University of the Arts in Taipei, Yuan Goang-Ming then studied in Germany at the Karlsruhe Design Academy. He currently teaches at the New Media Art Department of the National University of the Arts in Taipei. Internationally recognized, Yuan Goang-Ming creates digital visual illusions that convey complex mental and psychological perceptions that question our living conditions in an image society.

Yu-Chen WANG

Born in 1978 at Taichung, Taiwan.

Lives and works in London, UK.

If there is a place I haven't been to, 2020-22

Video (5 projections), 11 works on paper, photographs, wooden construction, metal, mirror, LED, decommissioned lenses and filters from CERN. Installation of variable dimensions.

If there is a place I haven't been to is a multifaceted installation emerging from Yu-Chen Wang's personal archives and materials collected from international artist-in-residence and field research over the past decade. With a particular focus on exploring the artist's relationship with places and associated individuals, the documentations are recontextualised and integrated with fictional and autobiographical narratives.

Yu-Chen Wang's work asks fundamental questions about human identity at a key point in history, where ecosystems and technosystems have become inextricably intertwined. At the same time, her Taiwanese origins, combined with a London-based career, have created a vision that is personal and autobiographical.

HUANG Hai-Hsin

Born in Taipei in 1984, she lives and works in Taipei, Taiwan, and New York, USA.

River of Little Happiness, 2015

Huile sur toile. H 203 x L 489 cm

The Game Goes On, 2021

Huile sur toile. L 162 X H 130 cm

Untitled Pink, 2013

Huile sur toile. 63,5 x 51 cm

Expect the unexpected #2, 2012

Huile sur toile. 51 x 41 cm

Family Time, 2014

Huile sur toile. 61 x 76 cm

Weekend practice #5, 2012

Huile sur toile. 76 x 63,5 cm

Expect the unexpected #3, 2012

Huile sur toile. H 51 x L 41 cm

Hai-Hsin Huang's paintings depict scenes of contemporary life, highlighting the emptiness, solitude and hedonism of capitalist society. To do this, the artist takes images that she finds on institutional websites (government, schools, media) and diverts them in a humorous and ironic way.

Hai-Hsin Huang graduated from the National Taipei Teachers College (now National Taipei University of Education). She then joined the New York School of Visual Arts to study fine arts.

WANG Lien-Cheng

Born in 1985. Lives and works in Taipei, Taiwan.

Reading Plan, 2016

Books, wooden board, iron pillar, servo motor, electronic chips, LED. 120cm x 1100cm x 1200cm

This artwork is a metaphor for a typical Taiwanese classroom, with the 23 desks referring to the average number of students per class in primary school. Far from fostering humanistic thinking and self-exploration, the curriculum conveys values of competitiveness and efficiency linked to industrial production.

Currently a lecturer at the New Media Art Department of the National University of the Arts in Taipei. Wang Lien-Cheng's research and projects revolve around interactive devices and real-time video and sound performances for which he uses open source software.

