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VERA YIJUN ZHOU

Publisher, book designer, photographer, filmmaker and mostly a human being, and many more.

Vera Yijun Zhou is an interdisciplinary artist, researcher, and designer whose work is focused on the production and circulation of images in the new media environment. Her work and research deconstruct and translate the symbolic language created by conceptual theories, by documenting and analyzing individuals' narratives. Vera was born and raised in China in the early page of its globalization and moved to the Netherlands at the onset of the pandemic. Her work follows and reflects the multiple social contradictions of the post-globalization era she is experiencing, she uses the consumption and circulation of images as a metaphor to capture the alienated reality within and underlying images of neoliberalism, identity politics, and censorship surveillance. As an art practitioner, Vera's work forms in multiple shapes as paintings, publications, still and moving images, and installations. She graduated from the Master of Photography & Society at the Royal Academy of Arts, the Hague in 2022. And her work is awarded the 12th Three Shadows Photography Award (TSPA) in 2019. As a graphic designer and publisher, Vera has diverse experiences working with different institutions and artists; she co-founded the photobook publication studio Imageless (2014-2019), and she worked as the graphic designer for the magazine Leap, the Art Newspaper China. She participated in designing publications for Maison Européenne de la Photographie. Her design works have been presented at Art Basel, Paris Photo, Photo Shanghai, Frieze London, and the Guggenheim Museum. Vera Yijun Zhou started her image and visual based career as the co-founder of Imageless Studio, which is devoted to promoting photography culture and photographers, publishing independent publications, and organizing photography exhibitions. Which also won the First Photobook Prize at Paris Photo by Aperture in 2019. Besides Imageless Studio, Vera has also been developing her own practice in the visual field.

WEBSITES

Personal Website

zhouyijunvera.com

Studio Website

mutualoffice.cargo.site/

SOCIAL MEDIA

www.instagram.com/vera_zhouyijun/

EDUCATION

- 2020 - Master of Fine arts and design, Photography
& Society, Den Haag, Koninklijke Academie
van Beeldende Kunsten diploma
- 2013 - bachelor of art, visual communication
2017 design, Jlangnan University diploma

EXHIBITIONS

PROJECTS

2024	Returning Home Verhalenhuis Belvédère Rotterdam, Netherlands Solo	2021	Nice Meating You KABK Den Haag , Netherlands zhouyijunvera.com/Nice-Meating-You Nice Meating You is a project based on my daily confusions around the identity and ideology. As one born and grown up in China, and now living in a surrounding of whiteness. The longer I live in Europe, the more I question my identity and career. Way too many voices have been shouted out, and so little people pay attention to listen. People talk about the world they have no idea about - people protest on the street, raise up debates and type comments on the social media. I am standing the middle don't know how to react, I am not white enough, nor Asian enough, but just a human being, like every other unique human being, struggling in the existing system trying to put everyone into a simplex standard. The project is to visualise my voice/opinion: regardless of the identity, gender, nationality, convention, boundaries, we are just a piece of meat - heading back to the very beginning.
2023	Self Life CHAxART Amsterdam , Netherlands Solo		
2023	HHÖØMMÈË CHAxART Rotterdam , Netherlands Group		
2023	MIEMBRO FANTASMA Hydra + Fotografía Mexico City , Mexico Solo		
2021	US: There, There Roots Film Festival Den Haag , Netherlands Film screening Group		
2021	US: There, There Stroom Den Haag , Netherlands Film screening Group		
2021	Witness Evidence HDL Art Musuem Chendgu, China As the museum's first exhibition in 2020, this exhibition is curated by Zhang Xiaotao, with the museum's He Duoling as artistic director and Zhao Huan as curator. The exhibition features the creations of eight female artists, namely Fu Xi, Hu Jiayi, Lu Kang You, Liu Zhi Xing, Wang Coix, Zhu Kexiang, Zhou Wen Jing, and Zhou Yi Jun. Regarding the curatorial thinking of this exhibition, Zhang Xiaotao said, "The eight artists in this exhibition come from Beijing, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Paris, The Hague and other international cities, and their identities are diverse. Their work is a sample survey of the situation of the young generation of Chinese contemporary artists today, and even a symptom and revelation of the future direction of contemporary art. With this exhibition, I hope to present the work of eight female artists in the midst of the dramatic changes of the 2020s, as a way to discuss their relationship with the spirit and flesh of a rapidly changing era, how personal and public experiences meet, how their concepts and methods are formed, and how they transcend the dilemmas of the moment. news.artron.net/20201226/n1089742.html Group	2020	Bubble Shanghai, China zhouyijunvera.com/Traveling-series The rotation of hometown and outland is recognition of the sense of belonging. I take this purposeless short-term migration as a common status of my life, putting myself, and my own observations and thoughts into the narrative of travel. I try to create stories with every insignificant experience. These stories are about the difference of landscapes of long-distance regional span and the convergence of phenomena under the trend of globalization, as well as the tininess and incapability of individuals. Travel is connected to myself, to my weakness, dreams and illusions. Travel and its stories are imagined, they are just a fragile bubble.

2020 The 12th Three Shadows Photography Award (TSPA) Exhibition three shadows photography art center Beijing , China
www.threeshadows.cn/
Group

2020 Resonance three shadows photography art center Xiamen, China
www.threeshadows.cn/
Group

COMMISSIONS

2023 CHA x ART dutchinese foundation Amsterdam, Netherlands CHA x ART is a intercultural gallery in Amsterdam and Rotterdam, Vera was commissioned to collaborate in a motion visual content with CHA x ART.
www.instagram.com/chaxartxams/

2020 022397bluff Paris, France 022397bluff is a Paris-based fashion brand that just launched at Paris Fashion Week in 2021. Vera Yijun Zhou was committed to cooperating with them on textile pattern design, graphic and website design, etc. 022397bluff.fr/

2019 Rainbow disco club Toyko, Japan Vera was commissioned to work on the installation and graphic design for the festival.
www.rainbowdiscoclub.com/en/

PUBLICATIONS

2021 Witness Evidence Book HDL Art Museum Zhang Xiaogang Chengdu, China

2020 Resonance Book three shadows art center Three shadows art center Beijing, China
www.artland.com/exhibitions/resonance-2020-the-12th-three-shadows-photography-award-exhibition-9e868f

2020 Girl.cn Northing Multiple Bergen, Norway
www.northing.no/girlcn GIRL.CN consists of 102 photos of Chinese girls by 73 photographers, with introductions by Lin Ye (well-known Chinese photographer) and Xu Chungang(poet, photographer, translator) in both English and Chinese. This is not just a pretty Syasinsyu, not even a common photo book.

REVIEWS

2022 Photography + issue 17 Photowork Magazine Diane Smyth London, United Kingdom photoworks.org.uk/vera-yijun-zhou/

2020 Obstacle Blog/Vlog He Bo China
mp.weixin.qq.com/s/kGsWEQxogHi5FstSVpaL1w
Interview and online exhibition curated by He Bo

2020 Zhou Yijun "Bubble": Travel is a bubble that bursts at the slightest Magazine Three Shadows China
www.thepaper.cn/newsDetail_forward_6878331

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2024 Talents Development 2024-2025 Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve Industrie Rotterdam , Netherlands

2024 Sailor Project Award Beijing, China OwSpace foundation

2023 Afdeling Cultuur Municipality of Rotterdam (Gemeente Rotterdam) Rotterdam , Netherlands

2023 Design Regulations Stimuleringsfonds Creatieve Industrie Rotterdam , Netherlands

2020 Interview | Yijun Zhou: Our trip came entirely from our imagination Website Mu Ge China mp.weixin.qq.com/s/He2V_BmuA6vQOUhnm0mlyQ

2020 The 12th Three Shadows Photography Award (TSPA) three shadows art center Beijing, China As part of its dedication to the support of emerging Chinese photographers, Three Shadows established its annual Three Shadows Photography Award program (TSPA) in 2009. Every year, the Three Shadows staff and a rotating panel of international judges review hundreds of portfolios from photographers of Chinese descent, identify 20 finalists, and select one winner, who receives a prize of 80,000 RMB. The TSPA has given significant boosts to the careers of its winners and finalists, and it has emerged as one of the premier platforms for young photographers in China.

SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

2019 - -- Photobook publication On-going

2019 - -- Graphic Design On-going



HANG THE PIG: Exploring the culturally situated notion of failure using image representation in different ideologies, 2022 2'09"



Imageless , 2022



ABSENCE, 2022
CMYK printing



PHATOMPAIN, 2022
CMYK printing



UN-IDENTIFIED, 2022
CMYK printing



Hang the Pig, 2022
Greyscale, Size: 210 x 150mm ; 60 pages, 13,500 words



Nice Meating You, 2022
Giclee print, 75 x100cm



Nice Meating You, 2022
Giclee print, 75 x100cm



Nice Meating You, 2022
Giclee print, 75 x100cm



Nice Meating You, 2022
Giclee print, 75 x100cm

