



Art

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Liu Dao's *Mademoiselle Mao*



Absolute Zero

Artist collective **Liu Dao** takes time to conceptual depths

► Mind-bending concepts mingle with a playful flippancy at "Absolute 0:00," island6 Art Center's new exhibition.

The show focuses on mankind's "willingness to invest emotion and thought into [questioning] human perception of time" according to the reference-heavy, highly analytical essay penned by curator Pete Bradt. The collective of artists, technicians and engineers who call themselves Liu Dao have created pieces in the gallery's adjoining studio interpreting that theme.

Absolute 0:00 is a reference to zero degrees Kelvin, the temperature at which motion and time theoretically stop. "I like the connotations of stopping and controlling time," explains Bradt. "It's as if all energy is [reduced] to its absolute essence."

Most pieces tackle this concept's weighty complexity in a lighthearted spirit. *Slurp* is an LED display of a pixelated man and woman playing piggyback. Their childishness is augmented by cartoony flashing neon lights. As if spitting at the idea of maturity, their juvenile game becomes a defiant stance against the normal progression of time.

In some instances, the artwork incorporates technology in order to demand human interaction.

In *Mademoiselle Mao*, the image of a woman coquettishly preening appears in a mirror when motion is detected by a sensor. Another piece, *Cranky Little Fellas*, cunningly invites viewers to lift cloth flaps slung over cages. Light sensors are triggered, which prompt robotic birds inside to squawk insults and obscenities.

The exhibition is most effective in encouraging a re-examination of the process of consciousness. All the gadgets involved—sensors, motion-tracking devices, GPRS and sonar range finders—create an eerie feeling of surveillance. By interacting with the motion sensors, one becomes conscious of one's body, then perception turns inwards and one becomes aware of consciousness itself.

It's all very meta, but, lest the mood get too abstruse, quotes wittily referencing time are scrawled on the wall. "Your wife likes to spend time shopping because you don't," is one we liked.

Our favorite? "Shanghai is the future for 19 time zones." ■ **Michelle Ong**

Through Absolute 0:00 at island6 Art Center, 2/F, Bldg 6, 50 Moganshan Lu 莫干山路50号6号楼2楼, through Aug. 11, Tel: 6227-7856, www.island6.org

Opening

THURSDAY, JULY 29

Laurina Paperina

Young Italian artist Laurina Paperina unveils her first solo show in China at this exhibition. Her work is a series of animations featuring ironic protagonists and it synthesizes Internet culture, TV, comic strips, video games, sci-fi and cartoons, and showcases her wit, sense of humor and immediacy.

18Gallery 6323-7066 ext. 3102, artatbund18.com

FRIDAY, JULY 30

Gas Station3-Soft Landing, Hard Landing

Get pumped for Gas Station's third exhibition featuring the images, videos and installations of artists Cheng Ban, Li Ming, Li Wenqiang, Lu Jiawei, Xu Shijun and Ye Linghan. Unlike pieces from earlier exhibitions, the works of these young artists are typical of China's post-'80's generation, placing a heavy emphasis on the role of the self in the observation and inspection of society.

Vanguard Gallery 5252-2551, 6299-3523, www.vanguardgallery.com

Closing

THROUGH FRIDAY, AUG. 6

The Summer Solstice

Including photographs of rural life in China, this show featuring up-and-coming Chinese artists encompasses controversial topics with subtlety. Depicting nudity, Islamic symbols and travel images, the collection makes note of the simpler side of life in China. Prominent works include the black and white photographs by Peng Xiangjie.

OFOTO Gallery 6298-5416, www.ofoto-gallery.com

THROUGH SUNDAY, AUG. 8

The Phoenix and the Dragon

Swedish-French artist Katarina Hällback-Monnier's exhibition is the first to take place inside Yu Gardens. Her pieces form a series of colorful banner paintings that complement the colorful and verdant garden backdrop. Grab a parasol and head over. ¥40.

Yu Gardens 6528-2455

Quickscan NL

Enjoy this contemporary Dutch photography exhibition courtesy of The Nederlands Fotomuseum. A selection of young artists will be showcasing their pieces. The work of each confronts issues like the personal experience of history and psychological stress.

Dutch Culture Centre 150-2657-5372, www.dccenter.com

THROUGH TUESDAY, AUG. 10

It's a Strange, Strange World!

This young artists group show exhibits the work of Liu Dao, Shu Tang, Yuan Yuan, He Huang, Tao Zhou and Youxun Le. Head over for a look at a swath of oil paintings from Shanghai's young and emerging artists.

1918 ArtSPACE 6276-9100, www.1918artspace.com

www.cityweekend.com.cn

THROUGH WEDNESDAY, AUG. 11
Neon Paradise

This is a solo show by German artist Peter Bialobrzeski. This is the first time the artist's award-winning *Neon Tigers* series has been shown in Shanghai. Bialobrzeski's photographs depict the urban landscapes and concrete jungles in metropolises across Southeast Asia over the past 10 years.
m97 Gallery 6266-1597, www.m97gallery.com

Ongoing

THROUGH SUNDAY, AUG. 15
New Nordic Landscapes

This exhibit from Copenhagen's Danish Architecture Centre shows visitors that landscape architecture is more than just "making things look pretty"—it can offer solutions and promote healthier and better living conditions for people both in cities and more rural areas.
Nordic Lighthouse 136-5187-7467, www.nld2010.com

Xing Xin: Meditation on Floating Ice

Xing Xin drove a truck and hiked to the source of the Yangtze River, schlepped up a Tibetan glacier, got a piece of ice and put it in his truck. He drove to the mouth of the river and tried to jump off a bridge but was stopped by security guards. Check out a video of the escape, photographs and an installation.
Art Labor 5451-7782, www.artlaborgallery.com

THROUGH FRIDAY, AUG. 20
Elementary Spectacle

This exhibition features Shi Qing and Shao Yi's first collaborative installation. Both artists challenge the audience's understanding of the physical world, as Shi Qing alters the shape of his construction materials and Shao Yi approaches the subject of witchcraft.
Shanghai Gallery 6359-9925, tele-shanghai-gallery.com

THROUGH SUNDAY, AUG. 22
Reverse

Each picture in this Beijing-born artist's show was exposed directly onto a silver print with a large-format camera. Each shoot is a made up of eight or more separate prints that have been combined, making them completely original works.
Don Gallery 5475-1533, diongxin@gmail.com, www.donggallery.cn

THROUGH SUNDAY, AUG. 29
Faces

Leo Gallery got its hands on a lovely Ferguson Lane villa and they're turning the lofty space into an exhibition area. "Faces" is a group show of portraiture, composed of sculpture, oil paintings and paper work from a handful of Chinese and international artists.
Leo Gallery 3465-8785, info@leogallery.com.cn, blog.leogallery.com.cn

Yun-Fei Ji

Beijing-born and Hangzhou-raised Ji takes the symbols found in classical

Chinese paintings and contemporized, drawing from his life experiences and his time as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Arkansas.

James Cohan Gallery Shanghai
5466-0825, luo@jamescohan.com

Here, There, Where?

Artists Sim Chan and Sun Yu explore the relationship between architecture and human lives, humans and their inner selves and the nature of human existence. Yu does portraiture, working with neutral colors and a soft background. Chan paints skylines that feature distorted high-rise buildings. Both focus on humans who live in urban environments and how this affects their nature.
FQ Projects 6466-2940, www.fqprojects.com

Listings

Galleries

18Gallery 外滩18号创意中心 Within the confines of the more experimental Creative Center at Bund 18 is this newly launched gallery. Aiming to live up to this new creative arts space's motto, living with art, Danysz will bring in young, emerging, international artists with a focus on new media. There will be monthly shows and weekly events through the Creative Center such as book signings and art talks. 10am-midnight, Huangpu > Bldg 4, 18 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu (near Sichuan Zhong Lu) 中山东一路18号4楼(近四川中路) Tel: 6323-7066 ext. 3102, info@bund18.com, artatbund18.com

1918 ArtSPACE The gallery's spacious, quiet warehouse setting is ideal for viewing the progressive multimedia art produced by some of the most daring young artists in Shanghai. A showcase exhibition generally shares space with resident pieces. Mon-Sun 10:30am-6:30pm, Futuo > 20 Moganshan Lu (near Xi Suzhou Lu) 莫干山路20号(近苏州西路) Tel: 62769100, info@1918artspace.com, www.1918artspace.com

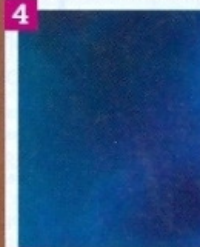
Art Labor Shanghai's turbulent search for a new identity makes for great art at Canadian Director Martin Kemble's French Concession gallery. An emphasis on free expression draws many artists trying to discard traditional notions of national and cultural identity. Submissions of artwork are accepted. Tue-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 12-6pm, French Concession > 36 Yongjia Lu (near Maoming Lu) 永嘉路36号(近茂名路) Tel: 6451-7782, martin@artlaborclub.com, www.artlaborgallery.com

Art Scene Warehouse 艺术景仓库 One of Shanghai's earliest established art galleries and a founder of MSO, this sleek 1,800 sq. meter space aim to present a platform for Chinese contemporary artworks and to promote dialogue between Chinese and international artists. It also hosts an annual Chinese Art Prize competition juried by international museum directors. Tue-Sun 10am-6:30pm, Futuo > 2/F, Bldg 4, 50 Moganshan Lu (near Changhua Lu) 莫干山路50号4号楼2楼(近昌化路) Tel: 6277-4940, info@artscenewarehouse.com, www.artscenewarehouse.com

Art+Shanghai 艺术+上海 The European founders aim to initiate greater contact between artists and the general Shanghai public through an impressive rotation of artworks by up-and-coming Chinese artists. This gallery also provides art consultations in addition to its contemporary exhibits. Tue-Sun 11am-7pm or by appointment, Jing An > 22 Pujin Lu, House 2 (near Yanan Lu) 2弄22号(近延安路) Tel: 6248-4368, contact@artplusshanghai.com, www.artplusshanghai.com

DON'T MISS

Best 6 Shows



1. "Elementary Spectacle" at Shanghart through August 20
2. Chai Yiming at Aike Gallery, through July 31
3. Laurina Paperina at 18Gallery, through September 12
4. "Expanding Horizons" at Art+Shanghai, through August 28
5. "Man Made Jungles" at Art Scene Warehouse, through July 31
6. "Faces" at Leo Gallery, though August 29

ART

Events at the Expo Site

Multiple Locations

Family Friendly

Editor's Pick

+ **Add Your Event:** Every issue we publish THE BEST events from our website. The next issue covers Aug. 12-25. Upload events by Aug. 2. www.cityweekend.com.cn