

K11 Art Foundation presents

Liang Yuanwei: Behind the Curtain

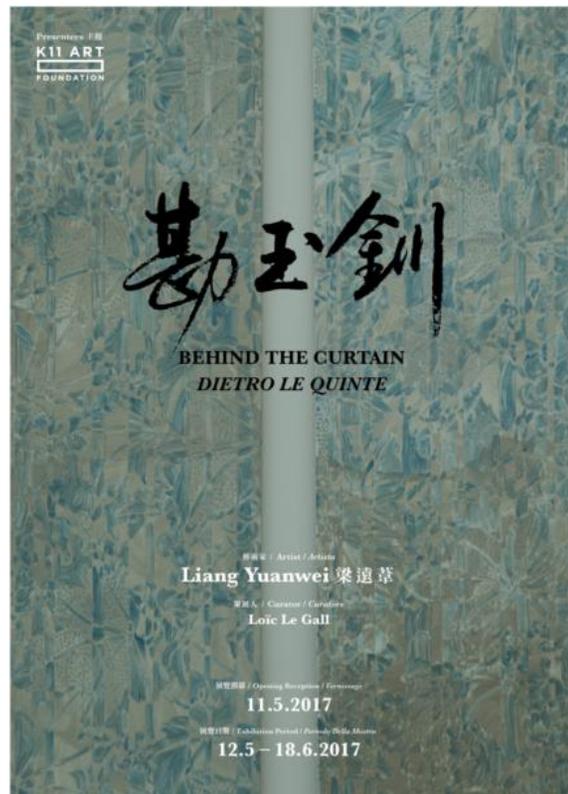
A project coinciding with the 57th Biennale di Venezia at Palazzo Pisani, Venice

12 May – 18 June 2017

Opening reception: Thursday 11 May 2017, 6-8pm



L: Portrait of Liang Yuanwei. Photo: Pan Yue



R: Liang Yuanwei: *Behind the Curtain*, presented by K11 Art Foundation at Palazzo Pisani, Venice

The K11 Art Foundation (KAF) is pleased to present *Behind the Curtain*, a new exhibition of work by Liang Yuanwei, one of China's influential names in contemporary art. The show runs simultaneously with the 57th Biennale di Venezia and is curated by Loïc Le Gall, Assistant Curator at Centre Pompidou. Liang Yuanwei represented China in the 54th Biennale di Venezia in 2011.

The title of the exhibition, *Behind the Curtain*, alludes to the operatic traditions of both China and Europe, a stage curtain often being a work of art in its own right but also revealing a reality behind it. *Behind the Curtain* is an homage to Venice and the Teatro La Fenice, as well as the carnival during which participants wander masked throughout the city. For the artist, the curtain also serves as a paradigm, a representation of the world, a way of looking at things. In the Peking opera where the decor is immutable, a table and two chairs are reconfigured to represent multiple scenes. This same pattern can be understood in the context of traditional Chinese painting: while the subjects remain, the techniques change. The exhibition title, *Behind the Curtain* also references the exhibition's revelation of Liang Yuanwei's intimate artistic practice.

Visitors to Venice's Palazzo Pisani will see a selection of Liang's impressive oil paintings, products of her attempt to perfectly imitate the detailed textures of fabrics. The works on show also can be read in reference to questions of seriality and reproducibility which are engaged in more explicitly conceptual contemporary art. In this sense, the paintings are a digression from Liang's original artistic intention; patterns and words are repeated to the extent they are transformed and their original meaning exhausted.

Adrian Cheng, Founder and Honorary Chairman, K11 Art Foundation, says:

"We are excited about this exhibition and working again with Liang Yuanwei, an exceptional artist whose career we have followed for some time, and whose works we have exhibited at the chi K11 art museum in Shanghai. Part of KAF's wider initiative is to support exceptional young artists from Greater China and to encourage important intercultural dialogues across borders. For this exhibition we bring her work to the world's most prominent art stage – in Venice over the Biennale."

Loïc Le Gall, Curator, says:

"Liang is a captivating artist whose work combines conceptual rigor with emotional experience, resulting in works that are strong and leave a lasting impression. This wonderful collaboration was made possible by the K11 Art Foundation and I am delighted for this exhibition to be taking place in Venice, being the crossroads of cultural exchange, as Liang's work covers a vast range of cultural traditions."

Notes to Editors

Credit line

Liang Yuanwei: Behind the Curtain, an exhibition presented by the K11 Art Foundation, Palazzo Pisani, Venice, 12 May –18 June 2017 K11ArtFoundation.org

About Liang Yuanwei

Liang Yuanwei was born in 1977 and currently lives and works in Beijing. She graduated from the School of Design at the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) and was a founding member of N12, an enterprising young art collective that exhibited together in the early 2000s. Liang Yuanwei is represented by Beijing Commune and represented China at the 54th Venice Biennale, in 2011, and has participated in group exhibitions at the Berkeley Art Museum (US), Joan Miró Museum (Spain), Kunstmuseum Bern (Switzerland), Minsheng Art Museum (China) and Taikang Space (China). She has been the subject of solo exhibitions at the Beijing Boers-Li Gallery, China (2008), and the Beijing Commune, China (2010 and 2013). Her works have also been included in important publications including 'Vitamin P2: New Perspectives in Painting' by Phaidon Press, 'The Chinese Art Book' by Phaidon Press, and 'The Generational: Younger than Jesus' by New Museum in New York City.

About Loïc Le Gall

Loïc Le Gall is Assistant Curator, contemporary and prospective art, working on exhibitions and acquisitions at the Centre Pompidou, Paris. He regularly participates in artist publications and catalogues. He has recently contributed to the following exhibitions in 2016: *Cher(e)s Ami(e)s : Hommage aux donateurs des collections contemporaines; La collection Thea Westreich Wagner et Ethan Wagner; Melik Ohanian, Under Shadows; Polyphonies*. Le Gall has organised screenings including: *Hoël Duret* (2017); *Table rase* (2016). Working independently, he is curator for *Liang Yuanwei, Behind the Curtain*, with the K11 Art Foundation, Palazzo Pisani, Venice (2017); and *Zhao Yang, in Between*, Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei (2016).

Loïc Le Gall holds an MA in Art History and Curatorial Studies from the Université Paris-Sorbonne, Paris and he specialises in visual art by artists from the Middle East and China. Currently, he is studying the time spent by artists in periods of travel, with particular focus on the context of the globalization, and the ways in which moments of displacement can lead an artist to create works of art.



About the K11 Art Foundation

Founded by Adrian Cheng in 2010, the K11 Art Foundation (KAF) is a registered not-for-profit organisation that supports the development of Chinese contemporary art from Greater China. KAF provides a creative platform that nurtures Chinese artistic talents and brings them to the international stage through collaborations with leading art institutions across the world. The Foundation also serves as a unique incubator for young and emerging Chinese artists and curators to create new and meaningful works, through research, initiatives, partnerships and an artist-in-residence program in the K11 Art Village in Wuhan, China.

For more information, visit k11artfoundation.org.

Opening Reception: 11 May 2017, 6-8pm

Exhibition Period: 12 May – 18 June 2017 (Closed every Monday)

Opening Hours: 10:00am-6:00pm

Curator: Loïc Le Gall

Venue: Palazzo Pisani

Address: Palazzo Pisani, First floor, San Marco 2810, 30124 Venezia
(Please see below for map)

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#KAFinVenice #K11ArtFoundation #LiangYuanwei #BehindTheCurtain

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The exhibition will take place on the first floor of Palazzo Pisani which is located at the Conservatorio di musica Benedetto Marcello, to see the full map please click [here](#)

