

**Forthcoming exhibitions at the chi K11 art museum, Shanghai:
Guan Xiao: Elastic Sleep presented in association with the ICA, London;
and *Neil Beloufa: Soft(a)ware***

9 November – 8 December 2016



Guan Xiao, *Amazon Gold*, 2016, Fibreglass, resin, plaster, acrylic, speaker, C-stand and mesh fabric. Presented by ICA London in association with K11 Art Foundation, Artwork Courtesy of the artist, Kraupa-Tuskany Zeidler, Berlin

The K11 Art Foundation (KAF) is proud to present the exhibition ***Neil Beloufa: Soft(a)ware***, the French-Algerian artist's first institutional solo exhibition in China, guest curated by Victor Wang, alongside ***Guan Xiao: Elastic Sleep***, an exhibition of Chinese artist Guan Xiao, presented in association with the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), London, curated by Katharine Stout (ICA). These exhibitions reflect the active role the K11 Art Foundation takes in nurturing the outstanding creativity of artists and curators.

Running concurrently, these two distinct and unique exhibitions by Neil Beloufa and Guan Xiao highlight the artists' common interest in the agency of digital communication and the Internet as a universal tool for understanding the world, regardless of geographical location. Both exhibitions foreground the visitor's sensory experience by using sculpture and moving-image media to create immersive installations, which emphasise the imaginative possibilities for the relationship between the digital realm and the real world.

Neil Beloufa's interweaving of technology, sculpture, video, and politics takes on new implications when presented within the context of China, where capital, the Internet, and online communication are regulated. Beloufa's installations often combine moving image embedded within multi-sensory installations. Like an editor cutting together snippets of film, Beloufa's immersive environments echo elements of his videos, moving between the film and the physical world.

Spanning half of the chi K11 art museum, the exhibition is divided into different stages, each showcasing existing and newly commissioned artworks never presented in China before. These different exhibition stages explore how sovereignty and the digital interrelate in the context of neoliberal transitioning. Being *Soft(a)ware* expresses a new-found subjectivity in our geo-digital realities, where an implied sense of agency in the selection and assemblage of information from physical and digital media is used to create an understanding of our world.

Running simultaneously, an exhibition of work by Chinese artist **Guan Xiao**, previously presented at the ICA, London, explores how present ways of seeing are influenced by digital image and information circulation, which have become an increasingly dominant source of knowledge exchange. Without seeking to fix definitions, her sculptural and moving image works juxtapose references from the past and present (or near future), weaving together both appropriated and originated visual and audio material, digital rendering techniques and objects to create evocative installations that integrate so-called primitive and modern elements.

For this exhibition, Guan Xiao presents a series of large interrelated works in which mesh fabric printed screens form a backdrop for sculptural assemblages made of objects appropriated from sources ranging from ancient museum artefacts to high tech sports gear. Guan Xiao suggests both formal and conceptual equivalences, for example between the second and third dimensions, and the interdependent connections and flow between different ways of understanding the world and our place within it. This series of works highlights how our understanding of one thing is always in relation to another – sometimes rationally, sometimes not.

This new body of work, first presented at the ICA, London, will be accompanied by key recent works that are previously unseen in China, such as her video triptych *Weather Forecast*, 2016. The rotating exhibition is part of KAF's continuing commitment to creating cross-cultural dialogues by presenting the work of exceptional artists to international and Chinese audiences. Guan Xiao comments on the way she sources and uses images in her works, which echoes her approach to creating her installations:

"The images can be described as different components gathered in a way that brings forth a backdrop, without focusing on any one subject. These different perspectives motivate my interest in using the triptych format in presenting my videos. For me it allows the flexibility of spectatorship: the members of the audience

are themselves the consumers and agents implicated in a new scene...What is specific to the image though is that there's not one obvious focal point. All the components contribute to the texture of the picture."

Adrian Cheng, Founder and Honorary Chairman of the K11 Art Foundation, said:

"The K11 Art Foundation (KAF) is delighted to collaborate again with the ICA, London, and to build upon the success of Guan Xiao's exhibition in London by bringing her work back to China to be enjoyed by further audiences. We are equally proud to add the name of artist Neil Beloufa to our growing roster of outstanding artists from across the world, who we have had the pleasure of exhibiting in China. The curator of Beloufa's exhibition, Victor Wang, was recently appointed as guest curator at KAF as part of our continuing goal of incubating young Chinese curators and artists. These two individual shows, intentionally programmed together, reveal correspondences between the artists in their exploration of the influence of the digital, and foster cross-cultural dialogues: a key element of KAF's mission."

More Information:

Guan Xiao: Elastic Sleep and *Neil Beloufa: Soft(a)ware*, chi K11 art museum, 9 November – 8 December 2016
k11artfoundation.org

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Opening Reception: 8 November 2016

Exhibition Period: 9 November – 8 December 2016

Opening Hours: Monday-Sunday 10:00 – 20:00, last admission at 19:00

Curators: Katharine Stout, ICA Head of Programme; Victor Wang, Guest Curator of the K11 Art Foundation

Venue: chi K11 art museum

Address: 300 Huaihai Zhong Lu, near Huangpi Nan Lu, Huangpu, Shanghai



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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 by providing a creative platform that nurtures artistic talents and brings them to the international stage. The Foundation also serves as an incubator for young Chinese curators.

KAF has embarked on many international collaborations, including with the Fundació Gala-Salvador Dalí in Spain, Serpentine Galleries, Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) in London, Centre Pompidou, Palais de Tokyo and Musée Marmottan Monet in Paris, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Armory Show in New York, showcasing Chinese talents and the voice of the young generation.

With eleven studios for its Artist-in-Residence programmes in the K11 art village in Wuhan, KAF serves as the unique incubating springboard for young and emerging contemporary Chinese artists to create new and meaningful works. Beyond traditional art spaces, K11 art village serves as an innovative exchange platform between local and international artists.

Through research, initiatives and partnerships, KAF offers the Chinese public a diverse range of programmes and exhibitions fostering the appreciation of arts and culture.

www.k11artfoundation.org

About ICA

Founded in 1946, the ICA seeks to embrace the urgency surrounding contemporary art and culture. Continually looking forward, the ICA lays claim to extraordinary legacy, being home to the Independent Group, as well as playing a pivotal role in the development of Pop Art, Op Art and Brutalist Architecture. It charted the course of Punk, Performance, Independent Cinema and Young British Art, while showcasing numerous international artists, from Yoko Ono to Gerhard Richter. The ICA has always supported interdisciplinary practice, encouraging artists to experiment and explore unresolved ideas. Comprising film screenings, exhibitions, talks and events, the ICA Programme can be experienced at our base on The Mall, via our website and social media,

or as 'Off-Site' projects at alternative venues, nationally and internationally. The ICA has a longstanding fascination with the evolution of Pop culture in our mass digital age.

www.ica.org.uk

ICA

About Guan Xiao

Guan Xiao (b. 1983, Chongqing; lives and works in Beijing) received her BA in Directing at the Communication University of China in 2006 and has exhibited internationally including at the OCT Contemporary Art Terminal, Shenzhen; the V&A Museum, London; the National Museum of Contemporary Art, Korea, Seoul; the Shanghai Art Museum and the Art Museum of Nanjing University of Art. Selected exhibitions include: the shortlisted exhibition of Hugo Boss Asia Art Award, Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai, 2015; *Basic Logic*, Antenna Space, Shanghai, 2015; 13th Biennale de Lyon: *La vie moderne*, Lyon, 2015; 2015 Triennial: *Surround Audience*, New Museum, New York, 2015; *From a Poem to the Sunset, New acquisitions of contemporary Chinese and international art*, Daimler Contemporary Berlin, 2015; *Rare Earth*, Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Vienna, 2015; *Degeneration*, ACAF, Sydney, 2014; *Don't You Know Who I Am? Art After Identity Politics*, M HKA Museum, Antwerp, 2014; *Something Happened Like Never Happened*, Kraupa-Tuskany Zeidler, Berlin, 2014; *Film Section*, Art Basel Hong Kong, Agnes B Cinema, Hong Kong, 2014; *Die 8 Wege*, Uferhallen, Berlin, 2013; and OCT Contemporary Art Terminal, Shanghai, 2013; *Difference Engine*, Magician Space, Beijing, 2013; *China Design Now*, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, 2007; and *Floating - New Generation of Art in China*, National Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, 2007.

About Neïl Beloufa

French-Algerian artist Neïl Beloufa (b. 1985, Paris; lives and works in Paris, New York and Los Angeles) studied at École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris; The Cooper Union, New York and CalArts, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, USA. Recent solo exhibitions include *Projects 102: Neïl Beloufa*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2016; *En Torrent Et Second Jour*, Fondation Ricard, Paris, 2014; *Superlatives and Resolutions*, Mendes/Wood, São Paulo, 2014; *Counting on People*, ICA, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, 2014; *Production Value*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, 2013; *Les Inoubliables prises d'autonomie*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, 2012. His videos have been screened at the Toronto International Film Festival (2011); the International Film Festival Rotterdam, the Netherlands (2009, 2012, 2014); and the London Film Festival (2009, 2010, 2011), and he was awarded grand prizes at the 54th and 57th Oberhausen Kurzfilmtage in Oberhausen,

Germany. Beloufa has received many other honours, including the Audi Talent Award, Paris (2011) and the Meurice Prize for contemporary art (2013).

About Katharine Stout

Katharine Stout has been Head of Programme at the Institute of Contemporary Arts since 2013. Previously she was Curator of Contemporary Art at Tate Britain from 1999 to 2013, where she curated numerous commissions, exhibitions and collections displays. In 2001, she co-founded the Drawing Room with Mary Doyle and Kate MacFarlane, now internationally recognized as the major European non-profit organisation for contemporary drawing. Prior to Tate she was the contemporary art consultant at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich where she inaugurated the contemporary art programme, she was also the Director of The Tannery, London in the late 1990s. She studied at the Courtauld Institute, University of London, and the Royal College of Art, London. She has written numerous texts on contemporary British and international art. Her book, *Contemporary Drawing: From the 1960s to Now* was published by Tate in Autumn 2014.

About Victor Wang

Victor Wang is a curator and exhibition-maker based between London and Shanghai. He was appointed by the K11 Art Foundation as a curator of *Inside China – L'Intérieur du Géant (Shanghai Station)*, a collaborative exhibition between Palais de Tokyo, Paris, and the K11 Art Foundation. Currently, Wang is appointed curator of the exhibition *Neil Beloufa: Soft(a)ware*, presented in association with the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London and the K11 Art Foundation. He is the 2016 recipient of the AICA Incentive Prize for Young Critics, and has worked on curatorial teams for biennials such as the Twelfth Havana Biennial (2015) and the Vancouver Pavilion at the 9th Shanghai Biennale (2012), and From 2014 - 2015 he was the Researcher in Residence at Contemporary Art Heritage Flanders (CAHF), a multi-institutional collaborative platform initiated by and built around the collections of the four contemporary art museums in Belgium: S.M.A.K. (Ghent), Mu.ZEE (Ostend), M HKA and Middelheim Museum (Antwerp). He holds an MA in Curating Contemporary Art from the Royal College of Art, London.

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