

Efficiency is Life
Li Jinghu Solo Exhibition

魔金石空間
MAGICIAN SPACE

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Magician Space is delighted to present ‘Efficiency is Life’ the debut solo exhibition in Beijing of artist Li Jinghu. Based in the southern city of Dongguan, Li works primarily with sculpture and installation, altering and reworking existing materials accrued in a region renowned as an emerging industrial hub in the Pearl River Delta. Li’s poetically charged body of work utilizes elements gleaned from the reality of the artist’s everyday locale, seeking to both capture and transcend the line between collectivity and personal forms of expression.

Efficiency is Life presents a comprehensive survey of his practice, including two large-scale installation works Prisoner and Rainbow exhibiting in the large exhibition hall. Prisoner encompasses the walls in a work that conjures both a conceptual and physical action in the space. With its low-production cost and ease of mass-production, the barbed chain-wire fence has functioned universally in the world as a divisive symbol of containment and restraint. Mimicking its minimal and economic means of production, Li recreates the ubiquitous zig-zag mesh, cutting its geometric form directly into the walls – a gesture that accentuates and unsettles the edifice of the walls.

Li’s persistent pursuit of a ‘collective’ expression of reality in Dongguan finds itself also in a second work Rainbow, comprising a motley collection of household used objects collected by the artist to create the semblance of a rainbow. “What is it that gives most ordinary people the ability to endure the arduous and weariness of life day after day? Rainbow is a form that expresses aspiration and conviction.” Under the rubric of formulating this sign, Li accrues an assembly of common items once possessed by anonymous individuals, redirecting the flow of these everyday objects through a progression into different color registers.

Efficiency is Life is the first of a unique two-part exhibition series at Magician Space with artist Li Jinghu. Marking his first major survey in Beijing, the exhibitions present an important mid-career presentation of early and recently commissioned work. Firmly situated in the city of Dongguan, Li’s position is a rather obdurate practice that seeks to unravel and expose the complex layers reflecting the reality emerging at the front lines. Combining his own subjectivity work-by-work, his artistic output continually explores the affective potential of materials, working both in counterpoint to and in friction with the rhythm of working life there. To quote art critic Bao Dong, “With the course of modernization as its backdrop, Li’s lyricism cannot help but exhibit some nostalgia, but this nostalgia is not aloof or exalted. In Li’s world, nostalgia does not come from past tradition or an idealized future. Rather, it is a present reality.”

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Exhibition view

北京市朝阳区酒仙桥路2号798艺术区798东街 / 798 East Road, 798 Art District, No.2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang District., Beijing, China
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魔金石空間
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Do Not Speak Out
Installation
Tree
2006

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魔金石空間
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Do Not Speak Out (Detail)

Installation

Tree

2006

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魔金石空間
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Rainbow
Installation
Second-hand commodities
Dimensions variable
2009

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魔金石空間
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Rainbow
Installation
Second-hand commodities
Dimensions variable
2009

魔金石空間
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Rainbow (Detail)

Installation

Second-hand commodities

Dimensions variable

2009

北京市朝阳区酒仙桥路 2 号 798 艺术区 798 东街 / 798 East Road, 798 Art District, No.2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang District., Beijing, China
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Rainbow (Detail)

Installation

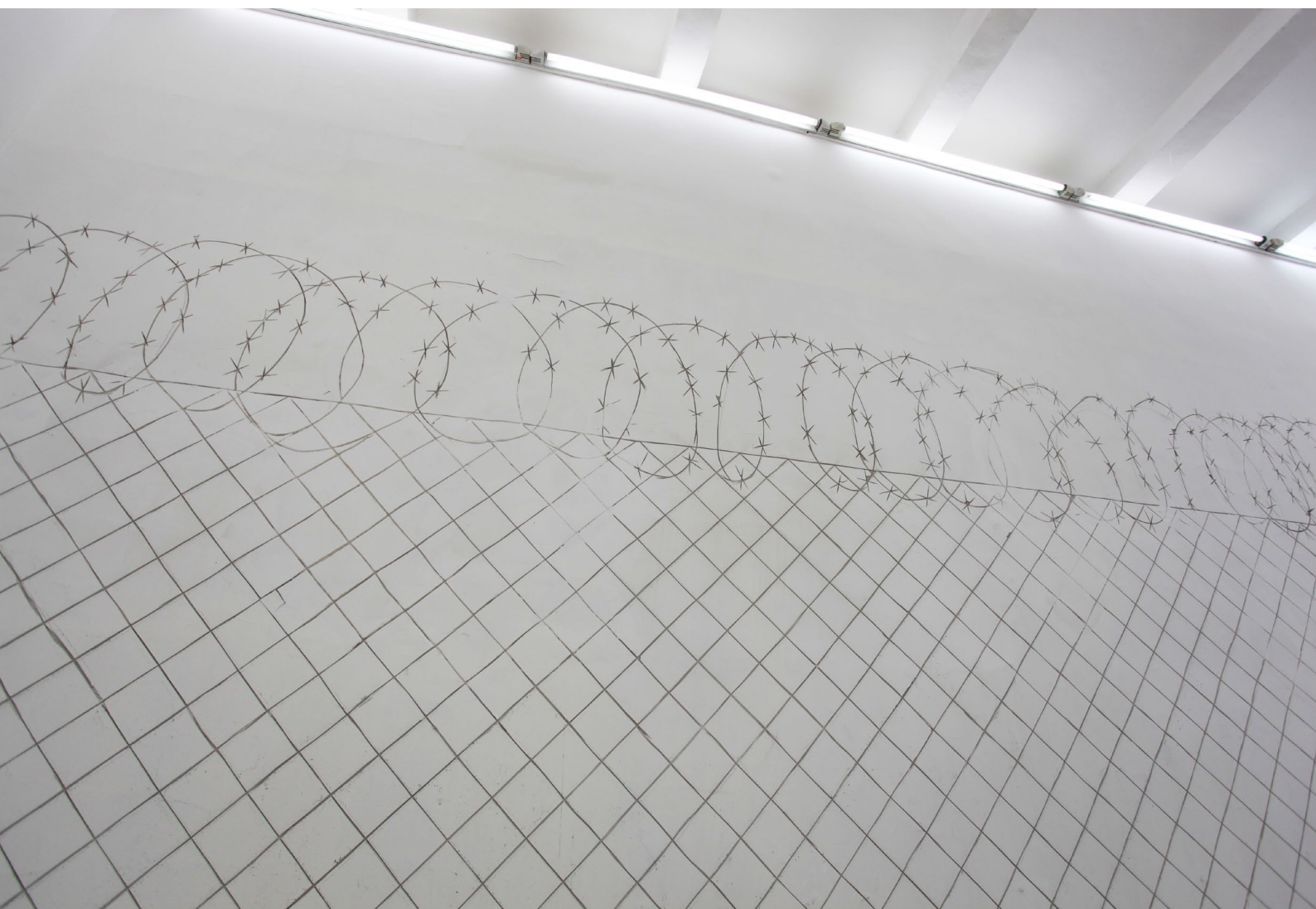
Second-hand commodities

Dimensions variable

2009

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魔金石空間
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Prisoner
Installation
Cutting machine, walls
Dimensions variable
2011

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Prisoner
Installation
Cutting machine, walls
Dimensions variable
2011

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Prisoner (Detail)
Installation
Cutting machine, walls
Dimensions variable
2011

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The Broom
Installation
Brooms
2005

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The Broom (Detail)
Installation
Brooms
2005

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The Broom (Performance)

Installation

Brooms

2005

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魔金石空間
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Stone Feces
Installation
Concrete, acrylic paint
2006

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Stone Feces (Detail)
Installation
Concrete, acrylic paint
2006

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Powder

Installation

Rice, porcelain bowl, fluorescent tube, goldfish bowl, stone, plastic ceiling block, beer bottle

Dimensions variable

2003

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魔金石空間
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Powder (Detail)

Installation

Rice, porcelain bowl, fluorescent tube, goldfish bowl, stone, plastic ceiling block, beer bottle

Dimensions variable

2003

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Fresh Flowers
Installation
Flowers, female leather shoes
2005

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Li Jinghu Biography

1972 Born in Dongguan , Guangdong Province

1996 Graduated from South China Normal University , Fine Arts Department

Now settle down in Chang'an , Guangdong Province

Solo Exhibitions

- 2014 *Time is Money*, Magician Space, China
 Efficiency is Life, Magician Space, China
- 2011 *gie*, Yangtze River Space, Wuhan , China
 Snowman, Arrow Factory, Beijing, China
- 2009 *Li Jinghu: Forest*, Observation Society, Guangzhou, China
 Li Jinghu:One Day in Dongguan, J&Z Gallery, Shenzhen, China
- 2006 *No Problem*, Shenzhen Sculptureacademy , Shenzhen , China

Group Exhibitions

- 2014 *The 8th Shenzhen Sculpture Biennale 2014*, Shenzhen, China
 Positive Space, Times Museum, Guangzhou, CN
- 2013 *Countryside Poetic*, Gland, Beijing, China
 PAINT(erly), BANK, Shanghai, China
 The 14th OPEN international performance art festival , Space Station, Beijing, China
 ON | OFF: China' s Young Artists in Concept and Practice, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), Beijing, CN
- 2012 *Daily of concept: A Practice of Life – The 15th Shanghai Duolun youth Art Exhibition*, Duolun Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, China
 What is it about the end of the world that makes it so appealing?, V-ART CENDER, Shanghai, China
 Pulse Reaction – An Exchange Project on Art Practice, Times Museum, Guangzhou, China
- 2011 *Smile*, Hemuse Gallery, Beijing, China
 Something Will Inevitably Happen, K11 Art Village, Wuhan, China
 Exhibition, Taikang Space, Beijing , China
 The Border Show, Society for Experimental Cultural Production, Hong Kong

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- 2010 *THE THIRD PARTY – An Exhibition in Three Acts*, Platform China Space B, Beijing , China
1st Nanjing Biennale, Jiangsu Art Museum, Nanjing, China
Arrow Factory: Collection Highlights, Arrow Factory, Beijing, China
2010 Get It Louder, Beijing Venue | Sanlitun SOHO , Shanghai Venue | 800show, China
- 2009 *Work-in-Progress: How Do Artists Work*, Iberia Center for Contemporary Art , Beijing, China
- 2008 *Out Of Love*, Soka Art Center, Beijing, China
Homesickness, T Space, Beijing. China
- 2006 *In and Out*, Shenzhen Sculpture Academy, Shenzhen , China
Dream a little dream, Para/Site Art Space, Hong Kong
- 2004 *Special Visual Zone*, Shenzhen Youth Experimental Art Exhibition, Shenzhen Art Museum, Shenzhen, China