

# The Works of Yao Qingmei

魔金石空間  
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Yao Qingmei's practice traverses the boundary between performed action and its mode of display, frequently enacting interventions in public spaces to perturb the parameters of reality and its surroundings. Her art is deep rooted in a critical reflection into the formulation of political and social questions, often with a particular attention made to how symbolic gestures gain or lose traction by employing methods of appropriation and displacement into different contexts. Offering nuanced methods of resistance, her theatrical performances and interventions find form in areas overlapping burlesque techniques of satire and parody, which combine with framing devices influenced by theatre sets and costume, pedagogical lectures, and choreography inspired by modern dance.

Her first solo exhibition features an immersive installation of recent work comprising sculpture, digital photographs, video projections, and a publication text. Layering absurdist gestures with poetic action, Yao intervenes with scenarios drawn from our everyday to question authoritative power structures and accepted notions of reality. With this exhibition, Yao further elaborates on past performances in an installation series of "performance records". With this approach the artist seeks to recreate qualities of immediacy, unpredictability, and the ephemerality of performance art, emphasizing these performance records as autonomous new forms in themselves. Carefully sustaining a level of ambiguity, Yao conveys a fragmentary approach to the act of recording, combining dramaturgical elements drawn from the language of fiction to further heighten the difference and interchange between the original performances.

Yao Qingmei was awarded winner of the Prix special de jury du 59eme Salon de Montrouge. She recently presented newly commissioned work in her first solo exhibition as part of 'Les Modules-Fondation Pierre Berge - Yves Saint Laurent' curated by Bernard Marcadé at Palais de Tokyo in Paris, France, on display from 12th December 2014 until 11th January 2015.

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Exhibition view

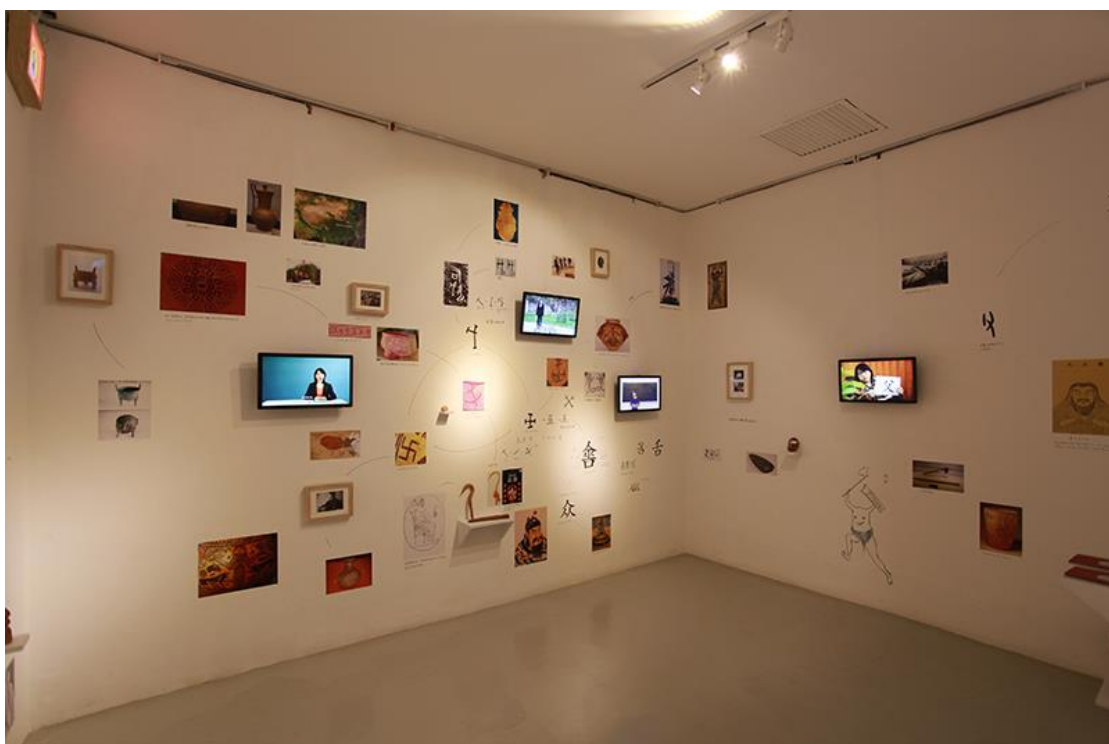
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Exhibition view

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Dance! Dance! Bruce Ling!

Performance video

12 min

2013

Vocalisations, dance, martial arts and music are combined in this miniature stage show. Dressed in a Bruce Lee costume, we see this look-alike Bruce Ling, holding a hammer and sickle while executing a series of Kung Fu moves and classic or contemporary dance steps, parodying with utmost seriousness Chinese Communist entertainments of the period. A pianist accompanies the actions with a romantic and melancholic version of the theme tune of *The Way of the Dragon* and the show's simple storyline culminates in the destruction of a large earthenware pot.

说到“一件”艺术作品，您能不能出示您的“一件”身份证？  
Talking about a 'piece' of artwork, can you show me your ID?

是的，这是一件艺术作品  
Yes, this is an artwork.

Third Verse of the Internationale, Sung Solo in Monaco

Video

12 min 30 sec

2012

“The State oppresses and the law cheats, Tax bleeds the unfortunate; No duty is imposed on the rich, The rights of the poor is an empty phrase.” Strangely enough, although the third verse of the Internationale really exists and is supposedly anarchist in intent, it is never sung during demonstrations. Singing the hymn out aloud in a famous tax haven like Monaco where local inhabitants are unlikely to have ever heard it before gives voice to truths that are kept hidden, despite the action itself being absurd and naive in such an imposing setting. Broadcasting the song through a loud-hailer, our car went twice around the Grand Prix Formula 1 circuit before coming to a halt at Place du Casino square. Here, two policemen rapidly intervened to silence us and a discussion duly ensued in which the specific languages of art and politics collided, so shedding light on the narrow fissure where art finds a refuge.



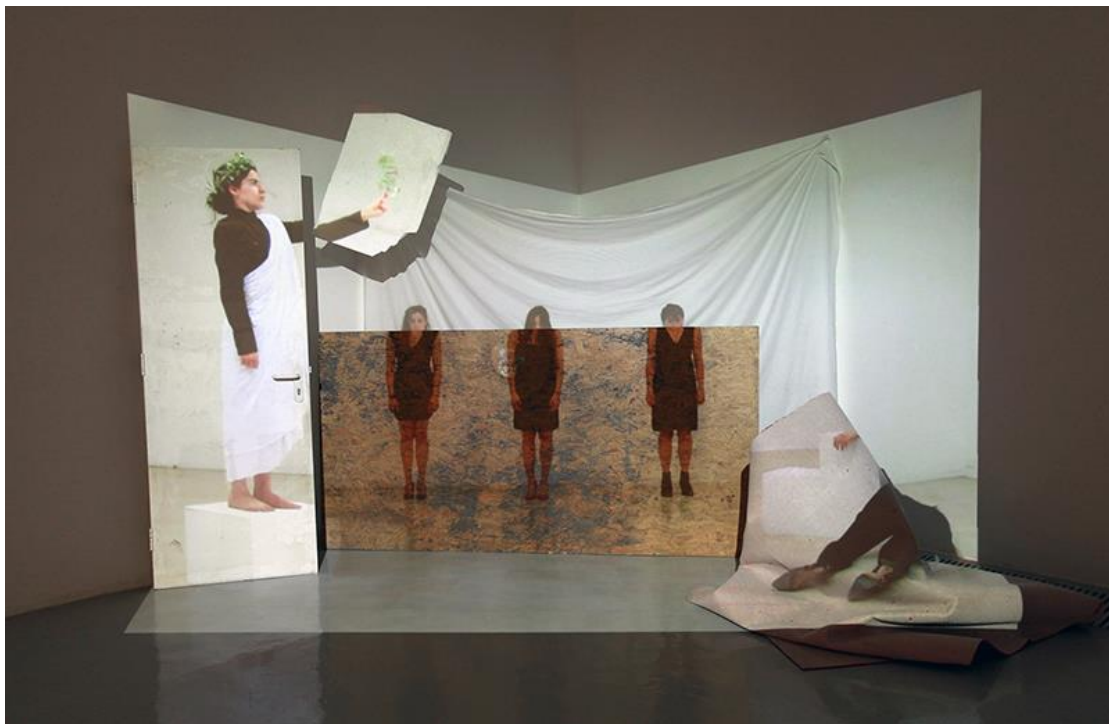


A Piece of Red Cloth  
Performance video  
Dimensions variable  
2014





A Piece of Red Cloth  
Performance video  
Dimensions variable  
2014



Victory, Pride and Endurance

Video installation

10 min

2013

Based on a filmed choreographic performance, the video is shown projected onto scenery made from recycled materials in order to recapture a sense of the three-dimensional performance space. Featured in separate areas can be seen the Goddess of Victory, a group of gymnasts in high heels and a personification of Tragedy on a podium. The use of roughly-made, improvised props helps create a sense of theatre and ultimately distances the installation from the original performance.



Sanzu Ding and its Motif - Several Hypotheses on the Origin and Evolution of the  
'Hammer-Sickle' Symbol

Multi-media installation

Dimensions variable

2014

A Sanzuding, or ritual pottery vessel, bearing a mysterious symbol uncannily like the hammer and sickle of modern communism, was unearthed by archaeologists in 1921. Carbon-14 dating showed it had been made around 3000 BC during the Neolithic period. Professor YAO, a specialist in ancient Chinese ideograms presents six hypotheses on the origins and evolution of this symbol based on her extensive research in archaeology, semiology and psychoanalysis.



Sanzu Ding and its Motif - Several Hypotheses on the Origin and Evolution of the  
'Hammer-Sickle' Symbol

Multi-media installation

Dimensions variable

2014

Sanzu Ding and its Motif - Several Hypotheses on the Origin and Evolution of the  
'Hammer-Sickle' Symbol (Stills)

Multi-media installation

Dimensions variable

2014



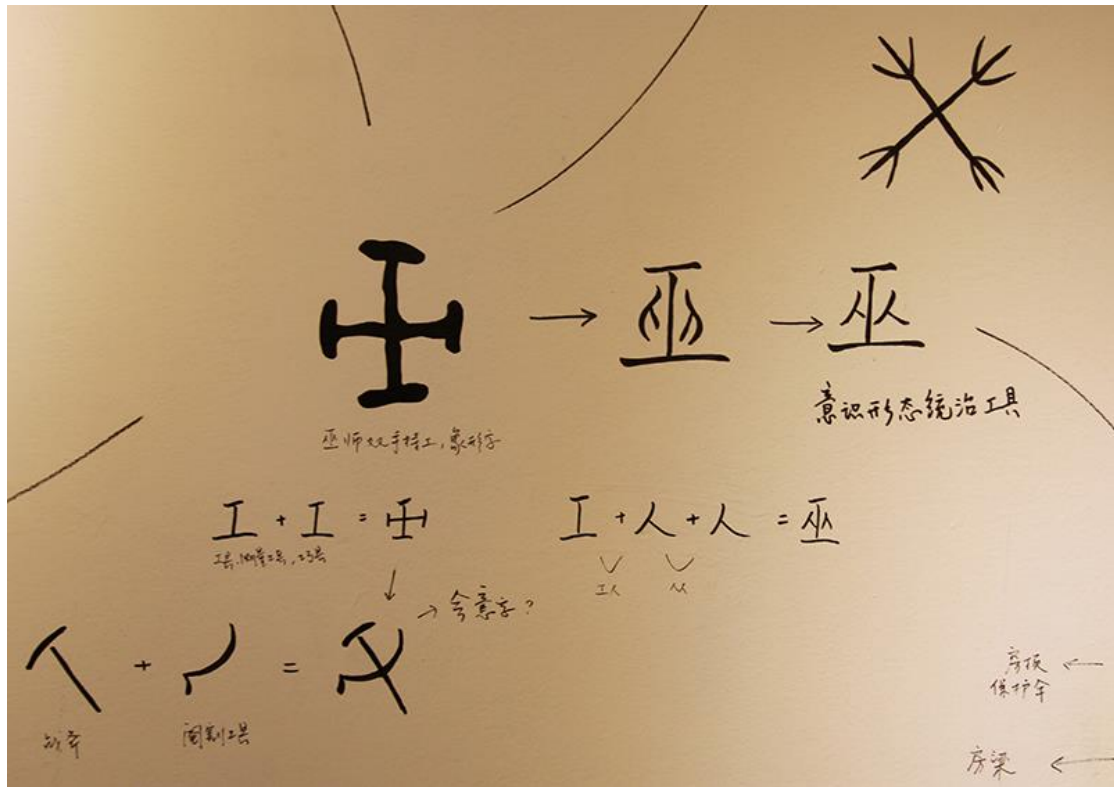
Sanzu Ding and its Motif - Several Hypotheses on the Origin and Evolution of the  
'Hammer-Sickle' Symbol (Detail)

Multi-media installation

Dimensions variable

2014





# Sanzu Ding and its Motif - Several Hypotheses on the Origin and Evolution of the 'Hammer-Sickle' Symbol (Detail)

Multi-media installation

Dimensions variable

2014





Sanzu Ding and its Motif - Several Hypotheses on the Origin and Evolution of the  
'Hammer-Sickle' Symbol (Detail)  
Multi-media installation  
Dimensions variable  
2014

**Yao Qingmei**

- 1982 Born in Zhejiang Province  
2005 Diploma, Option Marketing, Zhejiang Ocean University, CN  
2011 DNAP with honors from Limoges-Aubusson, FR  
2013 DNSEP with honors from Villa Arson, Nice, FR  
Currently lives and works in Paris

**Solo Exhibition**

- 2016 *Professor Yao*, OCAT Xi'an, Shanxi, CN  
2015 *Recrute mendicant / SDF pour une foire d'art contemporain*, Marseille, FR  
*One Hour Occupy Parking Art*, Paradise, Nante, FR  
*Professor Yao – Yao Qingmei Solo Exhibition*, Magician Space, Beijing, CN  
2014 *Vernissage Nouvelles Expos*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, FR  
*Méloncolie mercantile*, Librairie Passe-Temps, Eymoutiers, FR

**Group Exhibition**

- 2016 *HISTORICODE: Scarcity& Supply, The 3rd Nanjing International Art Festival*, Baijiahu Art Museum, Nanjing, CN  
*Not Early Not Late*, Pace Beijing, Beijing, CN  
*Yes I can! Un portrait du pouvoir*, Centre d'art contemporain Walter Benjamin, Perpignan, FR  
*Vidéo D'ARTISTE*, Le Carreau Du Temple, Paris, FR  
*We Refugees-Of the Right to Have Rights*, Badischer Kunstverein, Germany  
*JCE Biennale 2015 – 2017*, KUNSTBYGNINGEN Museum, Danmark  
2015 *La Leçon*, Espace à vendre, Nice, FR  
*Le JCE Biennale 2015/2017*, Europe  
*L'Art-o-Rama*, Show Room 2015, Marseille, FR  
*Zamin Time*, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, FR  
*28°00'N 120°42'E*, How Art Museum, Wenzhou, CN  
*LOOP*, Barcelona, ESP  
*Fundamental Labor*, Koala Space, Tianjin, CN  
*Pour Quelques Minutes de Plus*, la Générale en manufacture, Sèvre, FR  
*Zoom Contemporary Image Art Invitational Exhibition*, Xi'an, CN  
*LES TEMOINS*, Pavillon Blanc, Centre d'art de Colomier, FR  
*Traverse Vidéo, Galerie Concha de Nazelle*, Toulouse, FR  
*Brussels Cologne Contemporaries*, Bruxelles, BE  
*Un monde léger et profond*, Art Up, Lille, FR  
2014 *FMAC booth, FIAC, (OFF)ICIELLE*, Paris, FR  
*Le commerce de la parole*, Museum Rochechouart, Rochechouart, FR  
*The Player*, FRAC Poitou-Charentes, Angoulême, FR  
*Two Three Movement*, Les Charpentiers de la Corse, Corse, FR

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*La Comedie de l'Art*, Fondation de doute, Ville de Blois, FR  
*59e Salon de Montrouge*, Ville de Montrouge, Montrouge, FR  
*Traverse Vidéo*, Chapelle des Carmelites, Toulouse, FR

- Mauvaise herbe*, Galerie La Vitrine, Limoges, FR  
*La bricolage*, Université d'arts de Braunschweig, Braunschweig, GER  
2013 *Des corps compétents*, Centre National d'Art Contemporain Villa Arson, Nice, FR  
*Le sens de la vague*, Galerie la Marine, Nice, FR  
*Travaux en cours*, Galerie Eva Vautier, Nice, FR  
*Sonrisa*, Galerie la Vitrine, Limoges, FR  
*Pépinère*, Galerie la Vitrine, Limoges, FR  
2012 *Leonie*, Atelier Errance, Limoges, FR  
2011 *Le décor est plante*, a céramique cultive la différence, Fondation Bernardaud, Limoges, FR

**Performances**

- 2014 *La Cérémonie de la délivrance animale*, Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature, FR  
*Le Sanzuding et son motif*, Fondation d'entreprise Ricard, Paris, FR  
*Festival INACT*, Strasbourg, FR  
*Street Therapie (cocktail du vernissage)*, intervention dans la ville de Limoges, FR  
2013 *Danse! Danse! Bruce Ling!*, Galerie Eva Vautier et Villa Arson, Nice, FR  
2012 *Le triosieme couplet solo a Monaco*, MCO  
*Victoire, Fierté, Endurance*, Villa Arson Nice, FR  
2011 *Spoken words*, Dimanche Rouge, Paris, FR

**Projections**

- 2014 *Maison Européen de la Photographie*, Paris, FR  
*Festival Vidéo Vidéo*, Bourgogne, FR

**Prize/Exchange**

- 2014 *Prix spécial du jury*, 59 e Salon de Montrouge, Paris, FR  
*L'Aide individuelle à la Création*, DRAC Limousin

**Residencies**

- 2016 *Museu Municipal Amadeo de Souza-Cardoso*, Portugal  
2015 *Paradise*, Nantes, FR  
2014 *Cité Internationale des arts*, Paris, FR (2014-2015)  
*Les Charpentiers de la Corse*, Corsica, FR  
*L'Atelier de Montrouge (ATM)*, Montrouge, FR

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