

Yao Qingmei
The Ecdysiast
7th July to 20th August 2017

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Magician Space is pleased to present *The Ecdysiast*, a second solo exhibition with the gallery by Paris-based artist Yao Qingmei. The exhibition will debut a new installation, marking for the first time a commission of work produced by the artist in China.

In the new work, Yao employs the apparatus of a security checkpoint as inspiration to create an absurd and satirical setting within the gallery.

The installation is partitioned into three areas across the exhibition building: custom-made stanchions delineate a path from the entryway into the exhibition; an 'x-ray machine' awaits viewers to pass into; and a triptych of moving-image projections coerces audience members into a final theatrical space that combines burlesque performance, choral music and modern dance. Mimicking the protocols of a checkpoint, the artist highlights the linguistic and physical experiences of control as they become exerted onto the public - parodying its conventions as well as the choreographed assembly line-like procedures.

The Ecdysiast takes its title from a term originally coined by H.L. Mencken, meaning to 'molt', a word envisaged as a replacement for the word 'stripper'. Here, the description can also be considered within the context of our contemporary condition and today's state of affairs: the increasing scrutiny on our individuality as it becomes exposed to tighter systems of collective control. Seemingly benign in appearance, these systems operate in spaces of ambiguity where a suspension of law occurs. Behind the gentle gestures belies a logic of forced compliance, something so routine to our daily lives that its violence eventually has become imperceptible to us. Theatrical and burlesque, Yao brings to our attention the absurdity, but also the ambivalence of our tacit assent to the situation - subverting this logic by imagining a new form of play through her satirical imitations.



Yao Qingmei, *Prickles (One Meter Line)*, 2017, cacti, stanchions, dimensions variable



Yao Qingmei, *Prickles (One Meter Line)*, 2017, (detail)



Yao Qingmei, *Prickles (One Meter Line)*, 2017, (detail)



Yao Qingmei

Touch (Security X-Ray Machine)

2017

Massage chair, metal, feathers, live camera, video monitor, audio

122 x 570 x 90 cm



Yao Qingmei
Touch (Security X-Ray' Machine)
2017
(Detail)



Yao Qingmei
Touch (Security X-Ray Machine)
2017
Installation view



Yao Qingmei
Touch (Security X-Ray Machine)
2017
(Detail)

Yao Qingmei
Touch (Security X-Ray Machine)
2017
Installation view

魔金石空間
MAGICIAN SPACE

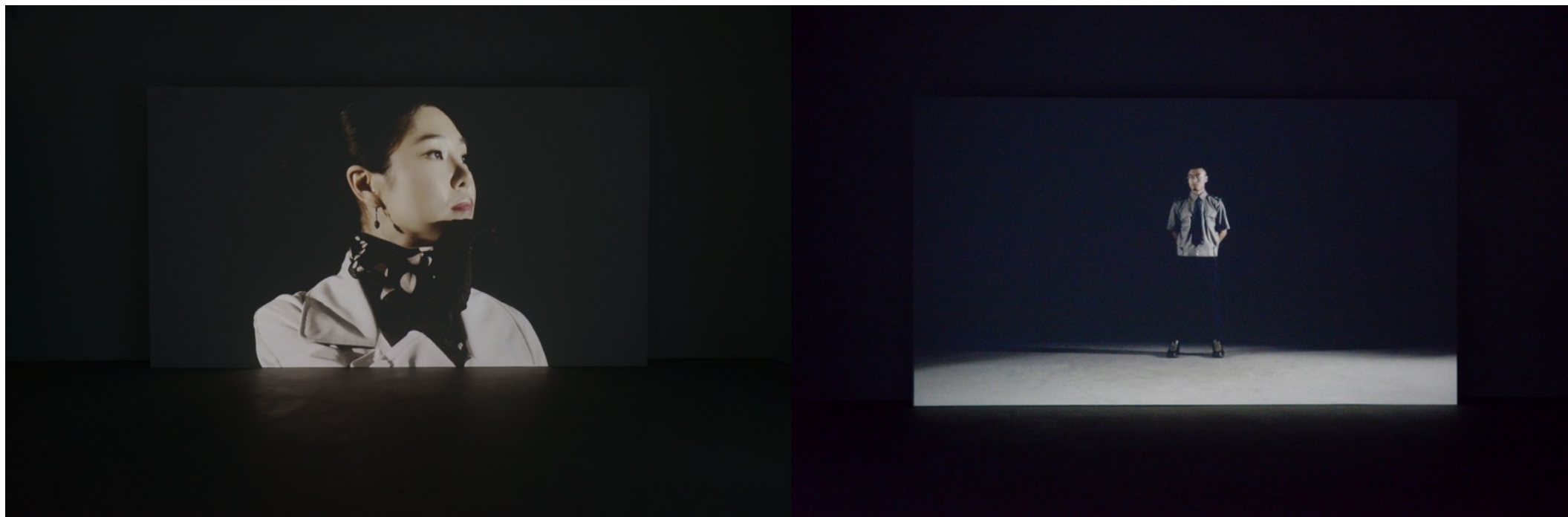




Yao Qingmei
Touch (Security X-Ray Machine)
2017
(Detail)

Yao Qingmei
Touch (Security X-Ray' Machine)
2017
(Detail)





Yao Qingmei

Molt (Body Inspection)

2017

Three-channel HD video

Color & sound

Chinese w/ English subtitles

9'

Link: <https://vimeo.com/225975632>

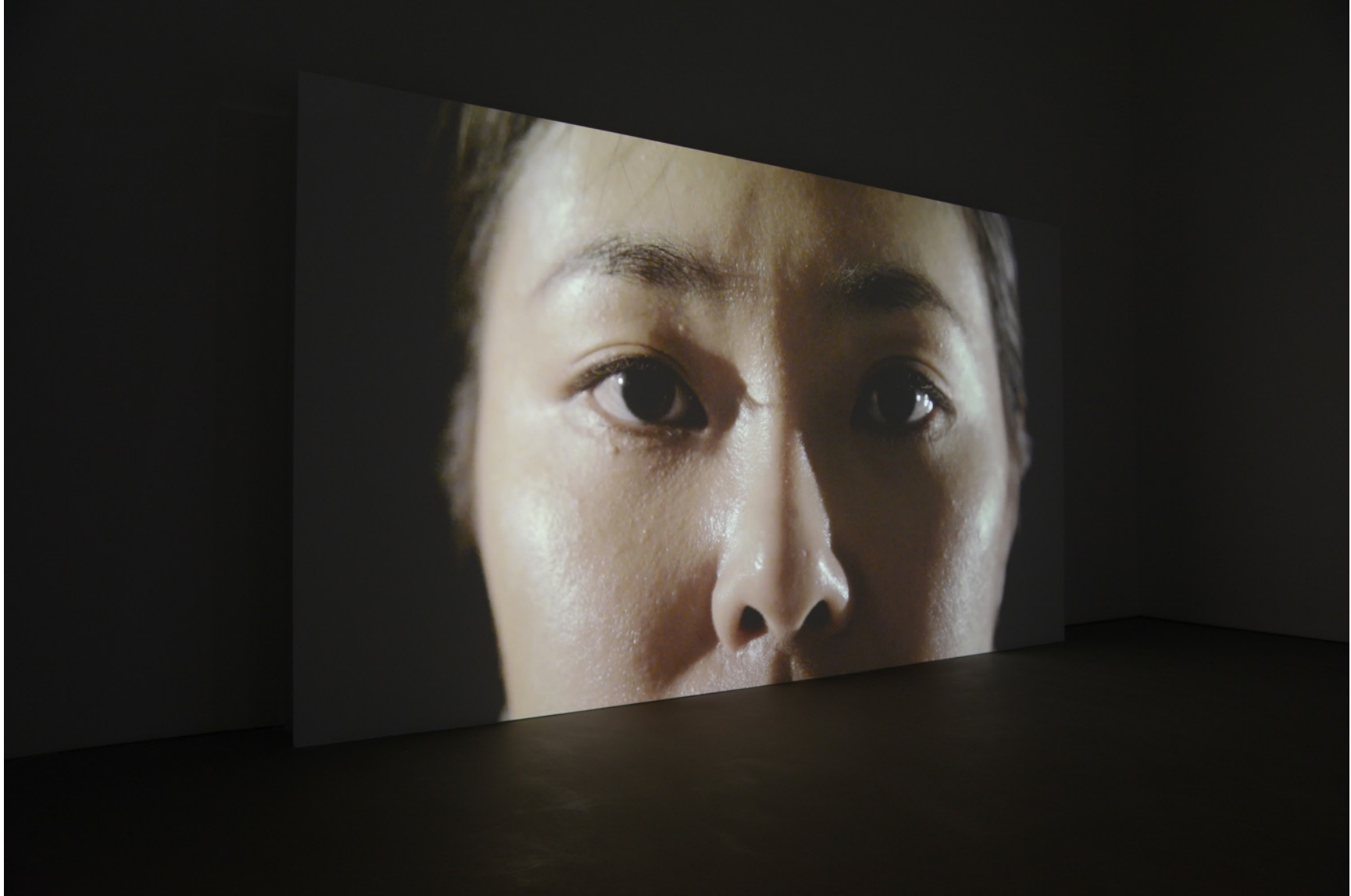
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Yao Qingmei
Molt (Body Inspection)
2017
Installation view



Yao Qingmei
Molt (Body Inspection)
2017
Film still



Yao Qingmei
Molt (Body Inspection)
2017
Film still

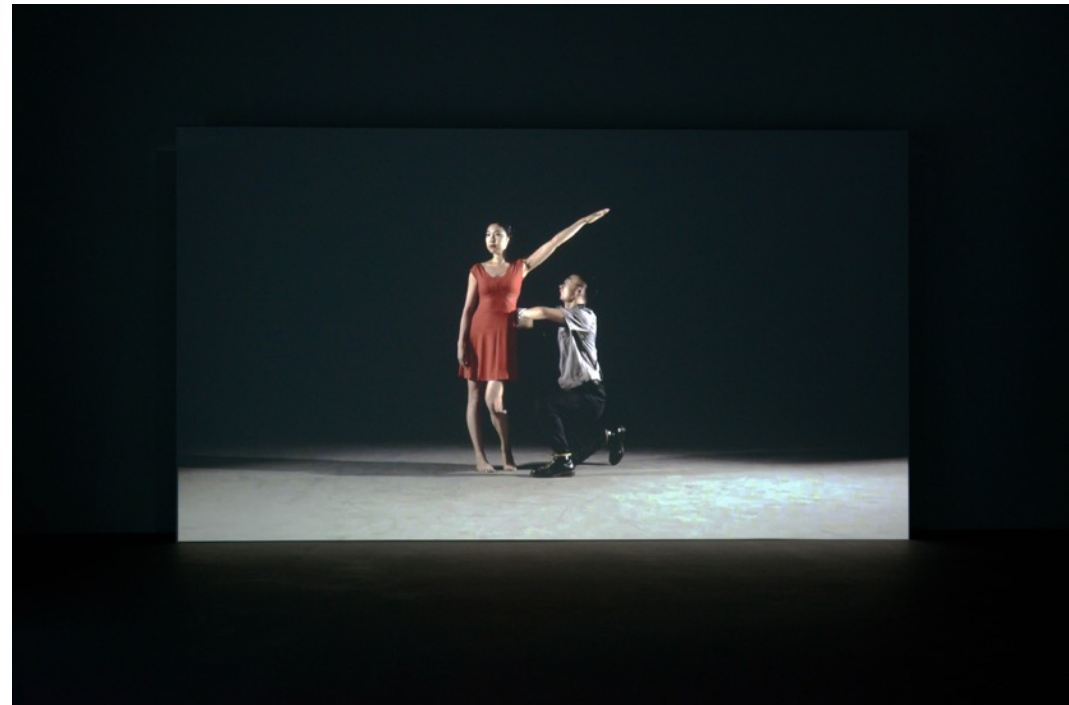


Yao Qingmei
Molt (Body Inspection)
2017
Three-channel installation view

Yao Qingmei
Molt (Body Inspection)
2017
Installation view



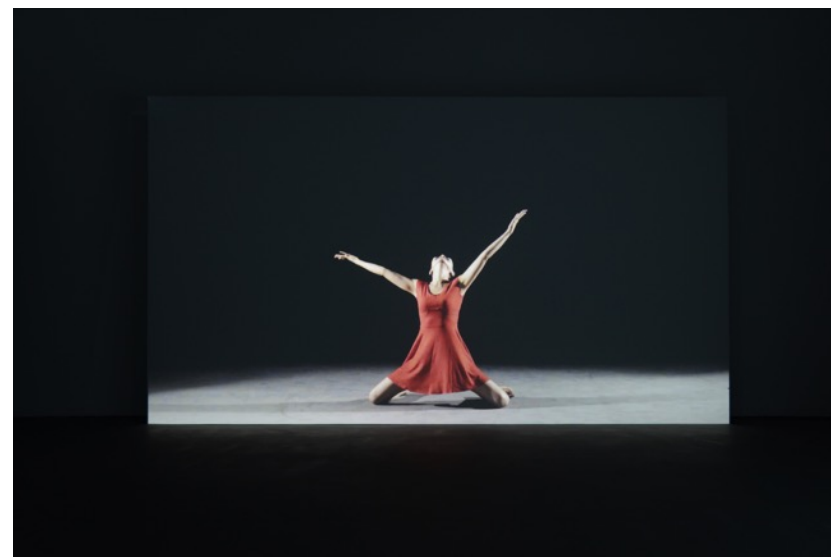
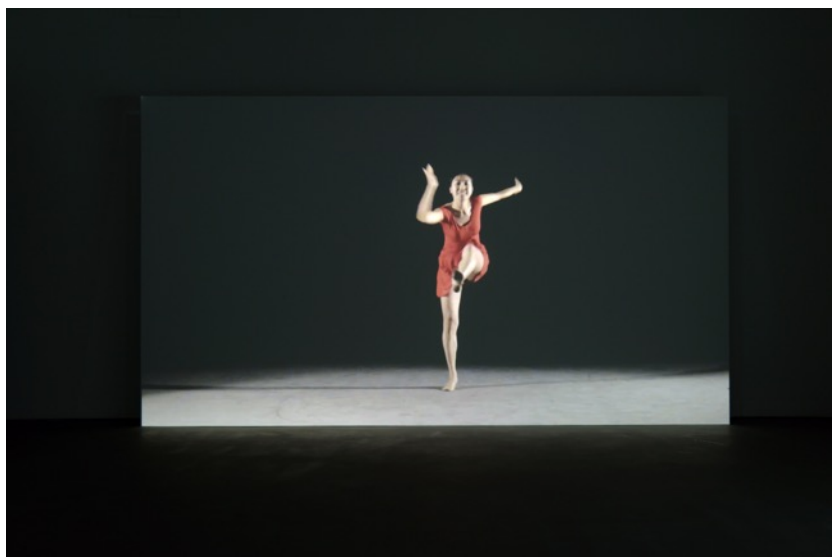
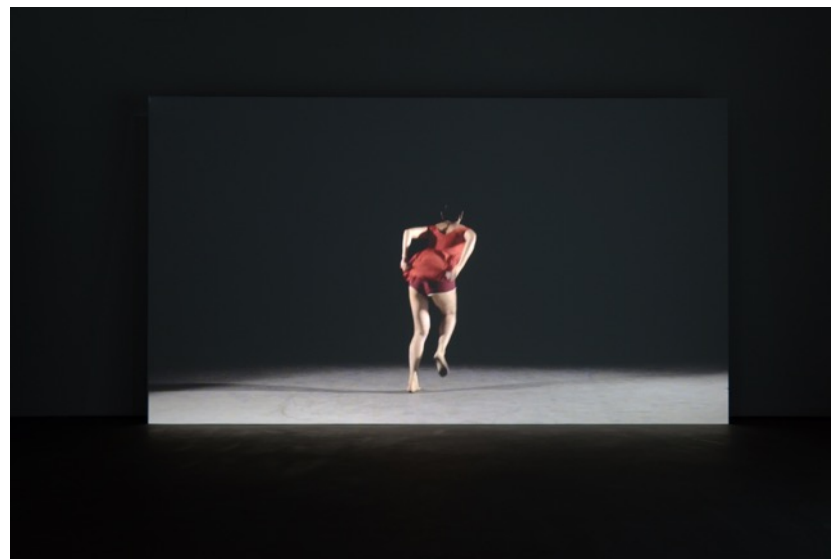
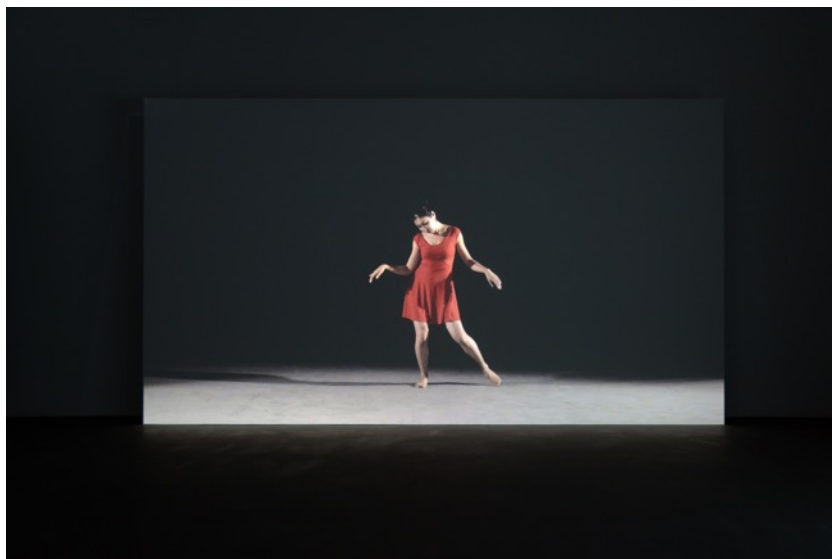
Yao Qingmei
Molt (Body Inspection)
2017
Film stills



魔金石空間
MAGICIAN SPACE



Yao Qingmei
Molt (Body Inspection)
2017
Installation view



Yao Qingmei
Molt (Body Inspection)
2017
Film stills

Biography

Currently lives and works in Paris

- 1982 Born in Zhejiang Province
- 2011 DNAP with honors from Limoges-Aubusson, FR
- 2013 DNSEP with honors from Villa Arson, Nice, FR

Yao Qingmei's practice traverses the boundary between performance and its site, frequently enacting interventions in public spaces to perturb the parameters of their reality and surroundings. Her art is deep rooted in a critical reflection into the formulation of political and social questions, exploring how symbolic gestures gain or lose power through forms of appropriation and displacement. Here, humor plays an important role in her work, using the poetics of comedy to expose the absurdity of a particular issue. Offering different methods of resistance, her theatrical performances and interventions find their form in an area overlapping burlesque traditions of satire and parody, which combine with framing devices influenced by theatre sets and costume, pedagogical lectures, the dialectic between image and text, and choreography inspired by modern dance.

Solo Exhibition

- 2017 *The Ecdysiast*, Magician Space, Beijing, CN
- 2016 *Professor Yao*, OCAT Xi'an, Shanxi, CN
- 2015 *Recrute mendicant / SDF pour une foire d'art contemporain*, Marseille, FR
One Hour Occupy Parking Lot, Paradise, Nante, FR
Professor Yao – Yao Qingmei Solo Exhibition, Magician Space, Beijing, CN
- 2014 *Vernissage Nouvelles Expos*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, FR

Group Exhibition

- 2017 *Every Skyscraper...*, 2nd Changjiang Photography/Video Biennale, Chongqing, CN
The New Normal: Art and China in 2017, UCCA, Beijing, CN
- 2016 *HISTORICODE: Scarcity& Supply*, 3rd Nanjing Festival, Nanjing, CN
Pixel Park: Contemporary Video Art Exhibition, Jing'an sculpture park, Shanghai, CN
Not Early Not Late, Pace Beijing, Beijing, CN
Yes I can! Un portrait du pouvoir, FR JCE Biennale 2015 – 2017, Bruzis, Cesis, LV
JCE Biennale 2015 – 2017, Centennial Hall, Wrocław, Poland
JCE Biennale 2015 – 2017, KUNSTBYGNINGEN Museum, Denmark
Vidéo D'ARTISTE, Le Carreau Du Temple, Paris, FR
We Refugees- Of the Right to Have Rights, Badischer Kunstverein, DE
- 2015 *La Leçon*, Espace à vendre, Nice, FR
Le JCE Biennale 2015/2017, Europe
Zamin Time, Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, FR
LOOP, Barcelona, SP
Fundamental Labor, Koala Space, Tianjin, CN
LES TEMOINS, Pavillon Blanc, Centre d'art de Colomier, FR
Pour Quelques Minutes de Plus, la Générale en manufacture, Sèvres, FR
Zoom Contemporary Image, Xi'an, CN
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
Two Three Movement, Les Charpentiers de la Corse, Corse, FR
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 bricologie, Université d'arts de Braunschweig, Braunschweig, DE
- 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

Performances

- 2016 *Rue française by Miss China*, Paris, FR
- 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

Screenings

- 2017 *Art Basel Hong Kong, Film sector, Hong Kong, CN*
2015 *Art Basel Hong Kong, Film sector, Hong Kong, CN*
2014 *Maison Européen de la Photographie, Paris, FR*
Festival 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, FR

Residencies

- 2016 *Museu Municipal Amadeo de Souza-Cardoso, PT Amarante, PT*
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