

Yu Bogong

MAGICIAN SPACE  
魔金石空间

*Yu Bogong: Fruit Cell*

Date: 2019.5.31 – 2019.7.27

Magician Space is honored to present “Fruit Cell”, an art project by Chinese artist Yu Bogong this summer.

In the mid-1990s, Yu Bogong arrived at the Yuanmingyuan artist village in Beijing. Yuanmingyuan, as a gathering place for avant-garde artists, directly contributed to the development of Chinese contemporary art during a time when such art had yet to be legalized. Yu Bogong's short period of creative activity while there resulted in the artist becoming a representative of “Gaudy Art”. But whether participating in the official art system or later in the newly formed art industry, Yu Bogong has always kept a cautious distance from the dual mechanism of official art and the art market. Constantly seeking to step out of the institutionalized system and avoid being bound by established frameworks, the artist's guerilla on-site practice works through art education and social engagement.

Fruit Cell revisits the scenes of the artistic activity of Yu Bogong in Inner Mongolia, Quanzhou and other places in recent years, and it is also a continuously occurring and expanding on-site project. The exhibition includes video recordings, drawing notes, and new site-specific installations from the artist's field practice, Mobile Academy, undertaken throughout China from 2017 to 2019. The abstract lines and brushstrokes in the series of Drawing Notes (2016-2019) are derived from the imagination of Yu Bogong as he was doing fieldwork. Their self-inherent logic and appeal at the perceptual level are extremely personal, conveying how practice and the shared experience establish a mechanism of imagination and communication in Yu Bogong's work. This "mechanism" is not a closed system: it cannot be reproduced, but is instead an action and method of continuous movement.

The Drawing Notes also include Yu Bogong's real life observations in the field, as well as musings arising from nomadic living. Just like the installation work Skeleton of Lantern (2019), Yu Bogong activates the plainest of materials and their accompanying language—bamboo strips, rice paper, cotton thread, clay—to present a sensual object wrapped in an alienated external structure. Form and structure point to a most basic return: that of the perceived experience and subjectivity of the object.

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The structure of the tent installation *Building Reconciliation* (2019) in the exhibition hall is derived from the prototypes of the Mongolian yurt, and Central Asian and Native American tent types. It is also Yu Bogong's construction project in the Xilamuren Grassland in Inner Mongolia, and the temporary structure set up in various places for the Mobile Academy project. During the exhibition period, Yu Bogong will transform the exhibition space into an undifferentiated site through holding bi-weekly "Open Classroom" workshops. An ongoing classroom for non-art professionals is Yu Bogong's response to the art industry mechanism and prevailing exhibition models. In this sense, Fruit Cell is more like an artistic practice of decentralization for him. It seems to be a return to art for Yu Bogong, but in fact he has already embarked on a journey in search of a road to a place of belonging.

#### About the Artist

Yu Bogong (b.1970, Inner Mongolia, China) works in Inner Mongolia, Beijing, Fuzhou, and Shaoguan Danxia Mountain. In the middle 1990s, he was one of the artists in the Avant-garde art movement in Yuanmingyuan artist village in Beijing. Yu Bogong's artistic practices involve multiple forms, such as sculpture, installation, and drawing. In recent years, he focuses on projects of social engagement. Mobile Academy, Mobile Camp, Discovery-Library, are the three projects initiated from nature as the maternal perspective, focusing on a series of on-site educational practice.

Major solo exhibitions include: *Fruit Cell*, Magician Space, Beijing (2019); *Discovery Academy*, Qingdao (2016); *Aoluguya*, Magician Space, Beijing (2013); *Landing, Store & Space*, Guangzhou (2013); *At This Present Moment*, White Space Beijing, Beijing (2011); *Cross the Riverbed*, Magician Space, Beijing (2009); *Heart Moves Before Body*, Magician Space, Beijing (2008).

Selected group exhibitions and programs: *Conversation In Between Child and the World*, Jingdezhen (2018); *The New Masses*, Nanjing Arts Institute Museum, Nanjing (2018); *Genetic Memory-Projector*, Quanzhou International Art Residency Creative Project, Quanzhou (2018); *Social Theatre: Participation and Sharing – the 5th Chongqing Biennale for Young Artists*, Sichuan Fine Art Institute Art Museum, Chongqing (2017); *Mobile Camp, Urban-passing Spiritual Nomad*, Beijing (2017); *Mobile Arrow*, Fuzhou (2017); *Discovery-Library*, Fuzhou (2017); *What Is It That Makes Our Life So Different*, IVY ART 2017, N3 Gallery, Beijing (2017); *Encounters – Art Sanya*, 2013, Sanya (2013); *Das Ich Im Anderen*, Mercator Foundation, Essen, DE (2011); *Asian Landmark: Toyota Art Project*, Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing (2010).



*Mobile Academy*  
2017-2019  
Video







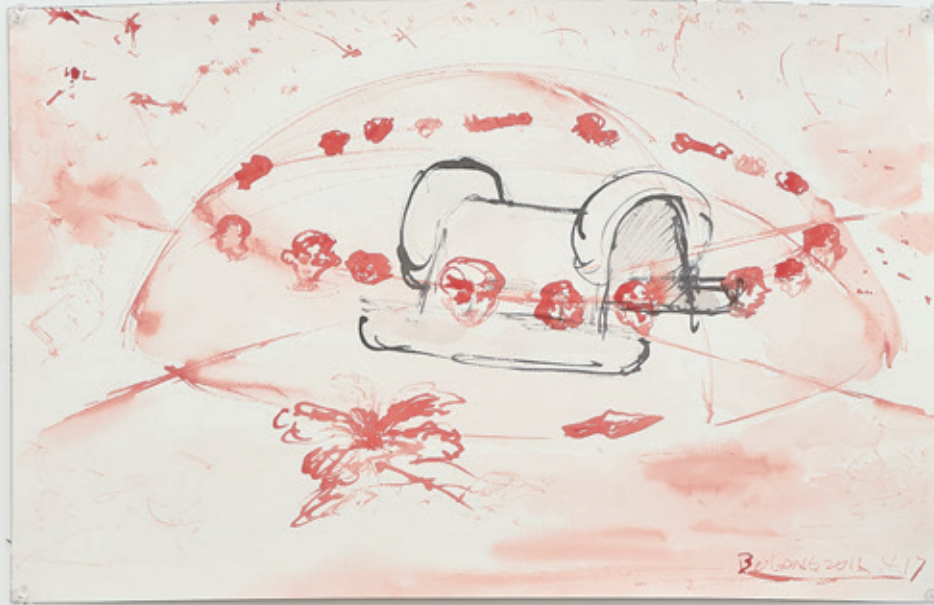
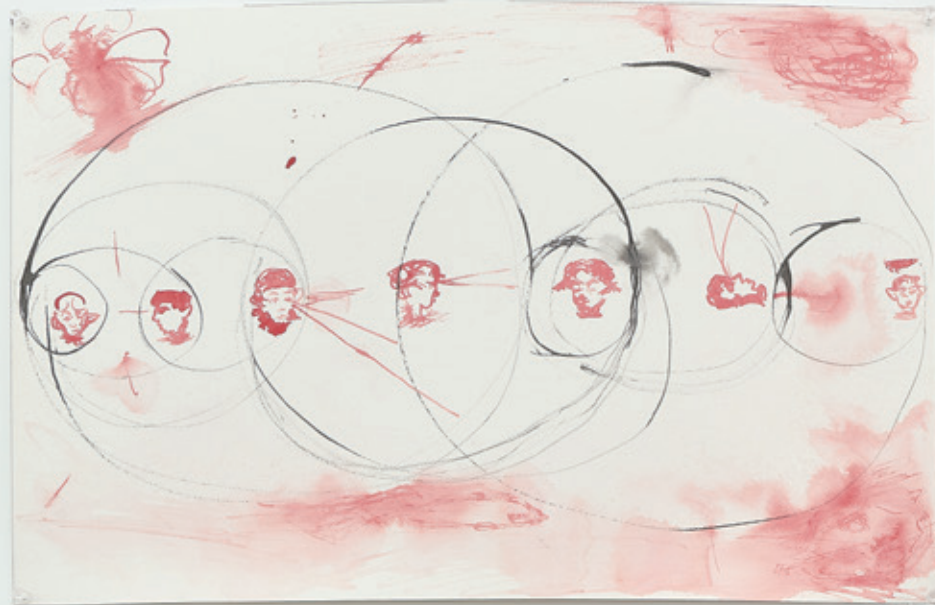
*Building Reconciliation*  
2019  
Fabric, rope  
Dimensions variable





*Drawing Notes*  
2016  
Water colour  
Dimensions variable









Exhibition View  
*Fruit Cell*, Yu Bogong Solo Exhibition  
*Skeleton of Lantern*  
2019

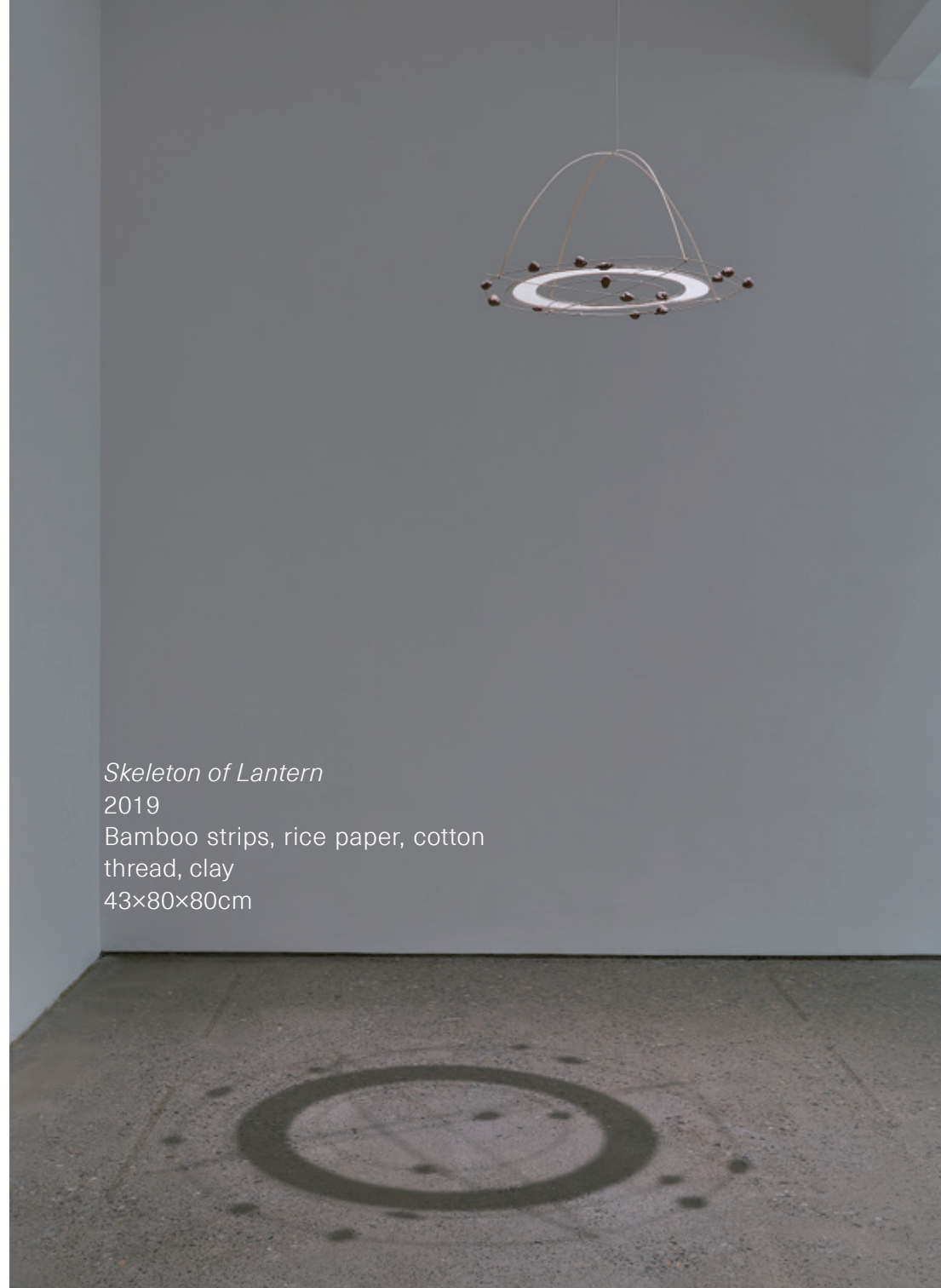




Exhibition View  
*Fruit Cell*, Yu Bogong Solo Exhibition  
*Skeleton of Lantern*  
2019



*Skeleton of Lantern*  
2019  
Bamboo strips, rice paper, cotton thread, clay  
60×40×40cm



*Skeleton of Lantern*  
2019  
Bamboo strips, rice paper, cotton thread, clay  
43×80×80cm





*Skeleton of Lantern*

2019

Bamboo strips, rice paper, cotton thread, clay  
35×86×35cm



*Skeleton of Lantern*

2019

Bamboo strips, rice paper, cotton  
thread, clay

55×50×60cm





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Exhibition View  
*Fruit Cell*, Yu Bogong Solo Exhibition  
*Mobile Academy — Open Classroom*  
2019





Exhibition View  
*Fruit Cell*, Yu Bogong Solo Exhibition  
*Mobile Academy — Open Classroom*  
2019

Yu Bogong

1970 Born in Inner Mongolia  
Currently lives and works in Beijing

Solo Exhibitions

- 2019 *Fruit Cell*, Magician Space, CN
- 2013 *Aoluguya*, Magician Space, Beijing, CN  
*Landing, Store & Space*, Guangzhou, CN
- 2011 *At This Present Moment*, White Space Beijing, Beijing, CN
- 2009 *Cross the Riverbed*, Magician Space, Beijing, CN
- 2008 *Heart Moves Before Body*, Magician Space, Beijing, CN
- 2007 *Karma*, China Art Archives & Warehouse, Beijing, CN

Group Exhibitions

- 2019 *Suddenly, you Show Up*, Zahuopu Space, Guangzhou, CN
- 2017 *Social Theatre: Participation and Sharing – the 5th Chongqing Biennale for Young Artists*,  
Sichuan Fine Art Institute Art Museum, Chongqing, CN  
*The Unknown Future*, Hebei International Visual Art Experimental Exhibition, NIU Art Space,  
CN  
*What Is It That Makes Our Life So Different*, IVY ART 2017, N3 Gallery, Beijing, CN  
*You Can't Hide – Contemporary Art and Destiny*, Xian Space, Beijing, CN  
*Maitreya Karuna & Prajna*, Shanghai Gallery of Art, Shanghai, CN
- 2013 *Encounters – Art Sanya 2013*, Sanya, CN  
*Incubus*, White Box Museum of Art, Beijing, CN
- 2012 *In Fact We Have Been Waiting For You for A Long Time*, Yltel 798 Art Project, Beijing, CN
- 2011 *Das Ich Im Anderen*, Mercator Foundation, Essen, DE  
*Beijing New Media Arts Exhibition 2011 - Artificial Emotions*, Song Zhuang Art Center,  
Beijing, CN



- 2010 *Micro-Intervention | Celsius 36.5*, Magician Space, Beijing, CN  
*Conception as Enzyme*, Chengdu, CN  
*PURENESS Project Infrasound Round*, Pure Space, Beijing, CN  
*Asian Landmark: Toyota Art Project*, Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, CN
- 2009 *Conspiracy: Multimedia Performance Art Exhibition*, Other Gallery, Beijing, CN  
*Independent: Chinese-German Young Artists Installations*, Chongqing Huang Jiaoping Art Museum, Chongqing, CN  
*Displacement: Invitation Exhibition of Young Curator*, Shangpu Art Museum, Beijing, CN  
*China re-visualized & The Banner of Urban Culture: Xi'an Qujiang International*, CN  
*Contemporary Art Festival*, Qujiang Contemporary Art Center, Xi'an, CN  
*Fool Effect*, OPEN Realization Contemporary Art Center, Beijing, CN  
*Nothing*, Genssun International Art Space, Beijing, CN  
*Life in Songzhuang*, Songhuang Art Museum, Beijing, CN
- 2008 *The 3rd Architectural Biennale Beijing*, D•Park 751, Beijing, CN  
*Fabricating Images from History: Contemporary Photography Exhibition*, Chinablue Gallery, Beijing, CN  
*See -Through: Chinese Contemporary Art*, Tang Contemporary Art, HK  
*Nothing to Hide*, EGG Gallery, Beijing, CN
- 2007 *Attitude*, Eastlink Gallery, Shanghai, CN
- 2006 *Slowly*, Creek Art, Beijing, CN
- 2005 *Degenerate Dharma*, Beijing Tokyo Art Project, Beijing, CN
- 2004 *Degenerated*, Modern Chinese Art Foundation, Gent, BE
- 2002 *New Photography: The 2nd Pingyao International Photography Festival*, Shanxi, CN  
*Meaningful Life*, China Art Archives & Warehouse, Beijing, CN

#### Art Fairs

- 2014 Art Asia Shanghai 2014, Shanghai, CN
- 2012 Art Stage Singapore 2012, SG  
China International Gallery Exposition 2012, Beijing, CN
- 2010 Art Gwangju 2010, Gwangju, KR

#### Curated Projects

- 2016 The Measurement of The World, Interactive Museum Plans NO.1, Huanglin Art Workshop, Chongqing, CN  
Advance in the movement: YUBOGONG VODKA Art Project, MIXC Qingdao, Qingdao, CN  
Advance in the movement: YUBOGONG VODKA Art Project, Boguan Advertisement, Beijing, CN
- 2015 YUBOGONG VODKA Art Project, BM ART, Beijing, CN
- 2014 YUBOGONG VODKA Art Project, Action space, Beijing, CN  
YUBOGONG VODKA Art Project, I: Project space, Beijing, CN

#### Residence Programs

- 2015 Advance in The Movement/ Vodka Art Project, Boguan Advertisement, Beijing, CN  
Live at, Intelligentsia, Beijing, CN



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