

MAGICIAN SPACE

魔金石空间

# 姚清妹：地洞

Yao Qingmei: The Burrow

Outside of Building 7's northeast corner

There is a hawthorn tree here.

I watched her fruit grow,  
Turning from green to red,  
and then all gone.

The willow branches that suddenly pass by are the most vivid.

But they're not supposed to be there.  
They are blocking the shot.

They need to be trimmed.

They are cropped out.

## About the Artist

Yao Qingmei (b.1982, Zhejiang) currently lives and works in Wenzhou and Paris. She achieved DNSEP with honors from Villa Arson, Nice, France in 2013, and was awarded the winner of Prix spécial du jury at the 59th Salon de Montrouge in 2014, the Prize “Young Chinese Artist of the Year” in 2017 and the 68th Prix Jeune Création of Paris in 2018.

Yao Qingmei's practice traverses the boundary between performance and its site, frequently enacting intervention in public space to perturb the parameters of its 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, choreography inspired by modern dance.

Major solo exhibitions include: *The Tetrachromatic Dream of the Dichromats*, Galerie Liusa Wang, Paris, FR (2018); *La commerce du parole*, Atelier Blanc, Villefranche de Ruge, FR (2018); *The Ecdysiast*, Magician Space, Beijing, CN (2017);

*Professor Yao*, OCAT Xi'an, Xi'an, CN (2016); *Recrute Mendicant/ SDF pour une foired'art contemporain*, Marseilles, FR (2015); *One Hour Occupy Parking Lot, Paradise*, Nante, FR (2015); *Professor Yao*, Magician Space, Beijing, CN (2015); *Yao Qingmei*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, FR (2014).

Major group exhibitions, screenings and performances include: *Artists'Film International*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, GB (2020); *Factories, Machines and the Poet's Words: Echoes of the Realities in Art*, 798 Art Zone Buildings, Beijing, CN (2019); *Bicycle Thieves*, Para Site, Hong Kong, CN (2019); *The Racing Will Continue, The Dancing Will Stay*, Guangdong Times Museum, Guangdong, CN (2019); *China Land Scape: Selections from the Taikang Collection 2019*, Beijing, CN (2019); *One Rehearsal (Performance)*, CACHE, Beijing, CN (2018); *New Metallurgists*, Julia Stoschek Collection, Düsseldorf, DE (2018); *Respire-Works from the Lemaitre Video Art Collection*, Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Herzliya, IL (2018); *Brace for Impact, De Appel Curatorial Program*, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, NL (2018); *NOW: A Dialogue on Female Chinese Contemporary Artists*, Co-organised by CAFA Art Museum, Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art, Plus Tate, UK (2018); *The New Normal: Art and China in 2017*, UCCA, Beijing, CN (2017); *Yes I can! Un Portrait du Pouvoir*, Centre d'art Contemporain Walter Benjamin, Perpignan, FR (2016); *JCE Biennale 2015-2017*, Kunstbygningen Museum, Vra, DK (2016); *Le Commerce de la Parole*, Museum Rochechouart, Rochechouart, FR (2014); *La Comedie de l'Art*, Fondation de Doue, Ville de Blois, FR (2014).

Yao Qingmei places physical space and body politics, social relationships, social distancing, invisible compartmentalization, and everyday life at the center of this series of video works presented in this exhibition, completed between 2020 and 2021.

The solo exhibition unfolds with an art project titled "The Burrow," juxtaposing multiple and inter-connected chapters of videos to reveal the panopticon of a closed community encased in a series of security measures. This body of work portrays the panoramic surveillance of a digital society and the universal plight of all cavemen within the closed-loop system. Yao Qingmei adopts the language of documentary film with an absurd tone to a central control room hidden in an underground cave, a group of tiresome security guards in training, against a high-saturation semi-artificial landscape. These cumulative images, insolvable technical errors, repetitive instructions, and endless toil sustain a seemingly stable internal structure and a self-renewing external spectacle. It alludes to a magical reality of the contemporaries penetrated by the digital noise of the security machine.

Meanwhile, *Dysdance*, filmed in a junior high school in a Parisian suburb, explores the paradox between social distancing and collective action with a "ruff collar" device that controls the distance between bodies. The performance video *Fencing – Fight Landscape* documents a fencing game with "selfie sticks" as the foils, showing a battle between the body and images, the digital and the tactile.



*The burrow – Monitor & Control*

2021

Video

22'13"

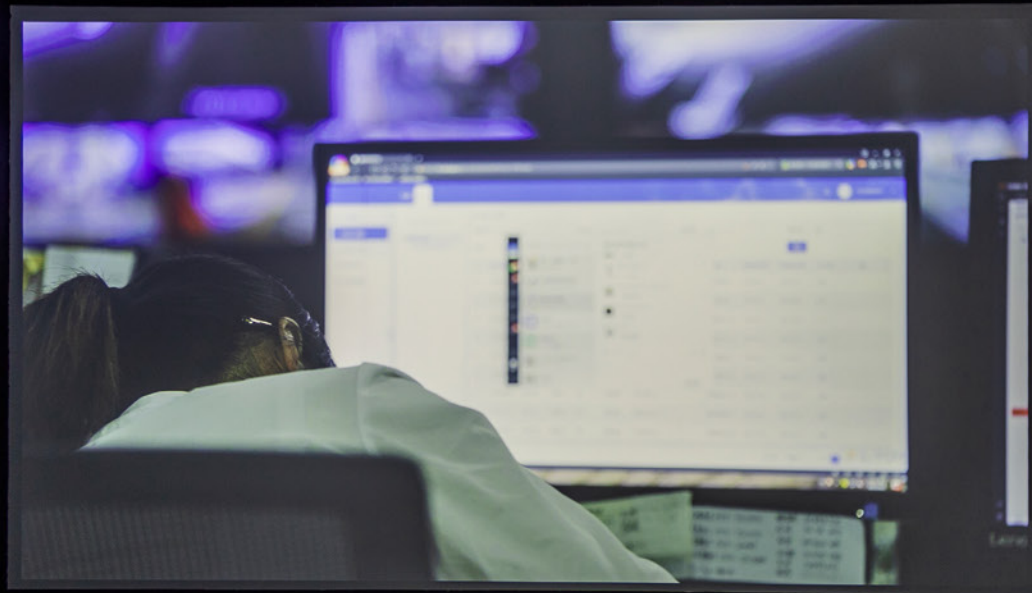




*The burrow – Monitor & Control*  
2021

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*The burrow – Monitor & Control*

2021

Exhibition view



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*The burrow – Monitor & Control*

2021

Exhibition view



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*The burrow – Monitor & Control*  
2021  
Exhibition view

*The burrow – Poetry & Song*  
2021  
Video  
9'08"





*The burrow – Poetry & Song*  
2021



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*The burrow – Poetry & Song*

2021

Exhibition view





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*Worrub eht – Guard & Quietness*

2021

Video

12'27"





*Worrub eht – Guard & Quietness*  
2021



*Worrub eht – Guard & Quietness*  
2021  
Exhibition view





*Worrub eht – Landscape & Spectacle (work in progress)*

2021

Video

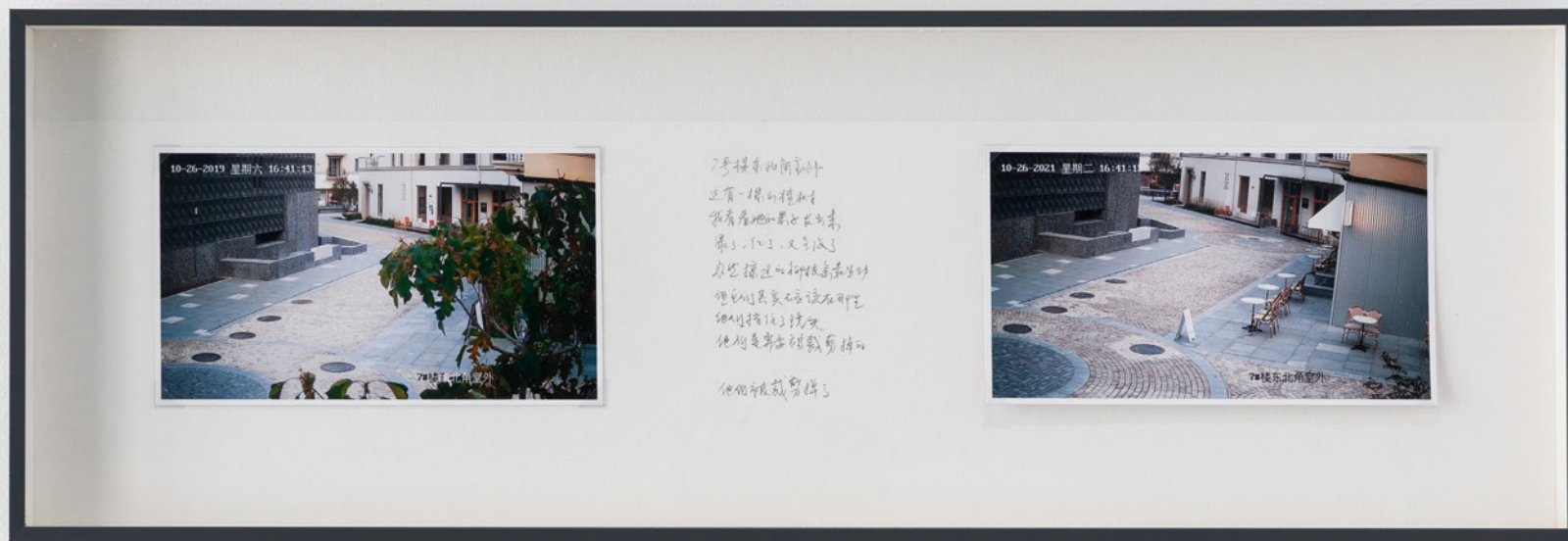
12'43"



*Worrub eht – Landscape & Spectacle (work in progress)*  
2021







*Outside the Northeast Corner of Building No.7*

2021

Archival Inkjet Print

20 x 60 cm

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*Worrub eht – Landscape & Spectacle (work in progress)*

2021

Exhibition view



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*Worrub eht – Landscape & Spectacle (work in progress)*

2021

Exhibition view





*Quietness*

2021

Video

7'57"

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*Quietness*

2021

Exhibition view





*Fencing - Fight Landscape*

2019-2021

Performance, three-channel HD video, color &amp; sound

18'46"

Two fencers use "selfie sticks" as foil and have a fencing fight. The cameras of the smartphones on the end of selfie sticks record and transmit the two fencers' performance in a low-quality moving image to the large screen in real-time. The terms of fencing and photography are extended and integrated with the noise generated by the friction and collision of two fencers' selfie sticks. Symbolized the fight of bodies and the conflicts of images that are transferred to physical closeness and digital touches.





*Fencing - Fight Landscape*

2019-2021

Performance, three-channel HD video,  
color & sound

18'46"



*Fencing - Fight Landscape*  
2019-2021





*Fencing - Fight Landscape*  
2019-2021



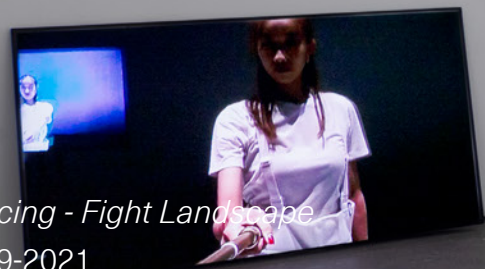
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*Fencing - Fight Landscape*  
2019-2021







*Fencing - Fight Landscape*

2019-2021

Exhibition view



*Dysdance*

2020-2021

Video

15' 48"

Dysdance is a video artwork based on one performance. As a medium, it attempts to outline the concepts of “distance”, “measurement”, “standard” and “discipline”, while exploring the contradictions and paradoxes between the collective security and individual physical freedom, as well as the body and the discipline mechanism. The Ruff collar costume that swept the European aristocracy in the Middle Ages, was imitated and exaggerated to a one-meter-diameter “aristocratic Ruff collars” that worn by the students in the performance. Meanwhile, it’s transformed into a physical device that keeps the distance and posture, alluding to the magic reality.

By adapting, exerting and creating their new body language, under the restraints of Ruff collars, the students measured the space of school that a building with discipline function. They walked through this huge enclosed building orderly, condensing and polymerizing like mounds of molecules. They had to coordinate the movements to move collectively, while keeping a one-meter distance to ensure the device is not damaged. Eventually, this superficial restraint and order were destroyed by a disorder, spontaneous, and pure physical collision. In the carnival spirit, the students squeezed, collided, broke free and tore their ruff collars.



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*Dysdance*  
2020-2021  
Video  
15' 48"





*Dysdance*  
2020-2021  
Video  
15' 48"



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*Dysdance*  
2020-2021  
Exhibition view



*Dysdance*  
2020-2021  
Exhibition view



Yao Qingmei

- 1982 Born in Zhejiang Province, CN  
 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 and Wenzhou

Solo Exhibition

- 2021 *Yao Qingmei: The burrow*, Magician Space, Beijing, CN  
 2019 *Alienation, Who finishes first?*, Kunstraum\_8020, Graz, AT  
 2018 *The Tetrachromatic Dream of The Dichromats*, Galerie Liusa Wang, Paris, FR  
*Le Commerce de la Parole #2*, L'Atelier Blanc, Villefranche de Ruge, FR  
 2017 *The Ecdysiast*, Magician Space, Beijing, CN  
 2016 *Professor Yao*, OCAT Xi'an, Xi'an, 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 *Yao Qingmei*, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, FR

Group Exhibition

- 2020 *Play societies: wolves, lynx and ants*, Hyundai Motorstudio Beijing, Beijing, CN  
*Embodied Mirror: Performances in Chinese Video Art*, New Century Art Foundation, Beijing, CN

*Un point complet sur la situation*, Espace A VENDRE, Nice, FR

*Artists'Film International*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, GB

*I Wish you could swim*, Like the dolphins, VT Art Salon, Taipei, CN

- 2019 *Factories, machines and the poet's words: echoes of the realities in art*, 798 Art Zone Buildings, Beijing, CN

*Bicycle Thieves*, Para Site, Hong Kong, CN

*The Racing Will Continue, The Dancing Will Stay*, Guangdong Times Museum, Guangdong, CN  
 Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong, CN

*China Land Scape, Selections from the Taikang Collection 2019*, Un798 Art Zone, Beijing, CN

*Under the Sign of Saturn the Internet*, C-space& CLC Gallery Venture, Beijing, CN

*Reverberation from Crystallized Revolutions*, Tate, Berlin, German

*Yellow Reflection*, Galerie Liusa Wang, Paris, FR

*Disappearing Archives*, Mocube, Beijing, CN

*Crystallized Revolutions*, Tete space, Berlin, German

*Art Paris*, Le Grand Palais, Paris, FR

- 2018 *Dance with it*, Taikang Space, Beijing, CN

*New Metallurgists*, Julia Stoschek Collection, Dusseldorf, DE

*Here / Elsewhere: The Sample of Overseas Chinese Art*, He Xiangning Art Museum, Shenzhen, CN

*Respire – Works from the Lemaitre Video Art Collection*, Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Herzliya, ISR

*Brace for Impact, curated by De Appel, De Appel Curatorial Programme*, Amsterdam, NL

*Jeune Création 2018*, Beaux-Arts de Paris, Paris, France

*NOW: A Dialogue on Female Chinese Contemporary Artists*, Co-organised by CAFA Art Museum, Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art, and Tate, UK

- 2017 *Frontier: Re-assessment of Post-Globalisational Politics*, OCAT Shanghai, Shanghai, CN

- A Separation, Gallery Yang, Beijing, CN  
*la pensée du tremblement*, Jeune Création, Paris, FR  
*The Unknown Future – Hebei International Visual Art Experimental Exhibition*, NIU Art Space, Shijiazhuang, CN  
*the 1st Porsche Young Chinese Artist of the Year*, Programme Nomination Exhibition, Shanghai, CN  
*A Chemical Love Story*, Tang Contemporary Art Beijing, Beijing, CN  
*Every Skyscraper is Built from the Ground, the 2nd Changjiang International Photography and Video Biennale*, Chongqing, CN  
*The New Normal: Art and China in 2017*, UCCA, Beijing, CN  
 Art Basel Hong Kong, Film sector, Hong Kong, CN  
 2016 *HISTORICODE: Scarcity& Supply, The 3rd Nanjing International Art Festival*, Baijiahu Art Museum, 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*, Centre d'art contemporain Walter Benjamin, Perpignan, FR  
*JCE Biennale 2015 – 2017*, LVA , PL, DK  
*Vidéo D'ARTISTE*, Le Carreau Du Temple, Paris, FR  
*We Refugees-Of the Right to Have Rights*, Badischer Kunstverein, GER  
*Vidéo d'artistes*, La Ville au Corps, Le Carreau du Temple, Paris, FR  
 2015 *La Leçon*, Espace à vendre, Nice, FR  
*Le JCE Biennale 2015/2017*, Europe  
*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

- LES TEMOINS*, Pavillon Blanc, Centre d'art de Colomier, FR  
*Pour Quelques Minutes de Plus*, la Générale en manufacture, Sèvre, FR  
*Zoom Contemporary Image Art Invitational Exhibition*, Xi'an, CN  
*Traverse Video*, Galerie Concha de Nazelle, Toulouse, FR  
*Brussels Cologne Contemporaries*, Bruxelles, BE  
*Un monde léger et profond*, Art Up, Lille, FR  
 Art Basel Hong Kong, Film sector, Hong Kong, CN  
 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  
*La Comédie de l'Art*, Fondation de doute, Ville de Blois, FR  
*59e Salon de Montrouge*, Ville de Montrouge, Montrouge, FR  
*Traverse Video*, Chapelle des Carmelites, Toulouse, FR  
*Mauvaise herbe*, Galerie La Vitrine, Limoges, FR  
*La bricologie*, Université d'arts de Braunschweig, Braunschweig, GER  
*Collection Les Maîtres*, Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, FR  
*Festival Vidéo Vidéo*, Bourgogne, FR  
 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  
*Pépinière*, Galerie la Vitrine, Limoges, FR



Performances and Interventions

- 2021 *Quarantine diary*, Ming Contemporary Art Museum, Shanghai, CN  
*Fight Landscape*, Beijing Minsheng Art Museum, Beijing, CN
- 2019 *A better life*, Aranya Art Centre, Qinghuangdao, CN
- 2017 *Specters of Communism*, Haus der Kunst, Munich, GER
- 2016 *A package*, Rue Française by Miss China, Paris, FR
- 2015 *Miss Météo pour le Plateau discussion "Le contemporain en devenir"*, la Générale en manufacture, Sèvre, FR
- 2014 *La Cérémonie de la délivrance animale*, Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature, Paris, FR  
*Le Sanzuding et son motif*, Fondation d'entreprise Ricard, Paris, FR  
*Street Therapie*, Festival INACT, Strasbourg, FR  
*Street Therapie (cocktail du vernissage)*, Limoges, FR
- 2013 *Danse! Danse! Bruce Ling!*, Galerie Eva Vautier, Nice, FR
- 2012 *Le triosieme couplet solo à Monaco*, MCO  
*Victoire*, Fierté, Endurance, Villa Arson Nice, FR
- 2011 *Spoken words*, Dimanche Rouge, Paris, FR

Prize/Exchange

- 2018 The 68th Prix Jeune Création of Paris, Paris, FR
- 2017 The Porsche "Young Chinese Artist of the Year", Shanghai, CN
- 2014 Prix spécial du jury, 59 e Salon de Montrouge, Paris, FR  
L'Aide individuelle à la Création, DRAC Limousin, FR

Residencies

- 2021 Today Art Museum residency program, Beijing, CN
- 2018 One Rehearsal, Cache, Beijing, CN
- 2016 Museu Municipal Amadeo de Souza-Cardoso, Amarante, PT
- 2015 Paradise, Nantes, FR
- 2014 Cité Internationale des arts, Paris, FR  
Les Charpentiers de la Corse, Corsica, FR  
L'Atelier de Montrouge (ATM), Montrouge, FR

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