

Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle

Chen Wei

Yesterday Shop

Feb 06 – Apr 11, 2015

Opening: Thursday, Feb 05, 2015, 7 – 9 pm

The artist will be present.



Chen Wei, *In The Waves #6*, 2013, Archival Inkjet Print, 180 x 225 cm
© Chen Wei, courtesy Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle and Chen Wei.

Yesterday Shop is the second solo exhibition of Chinese photo artist Chen Wei, presented by Galerie Rüdiger Schöttle.

Several staged color photographs of various formats are on view. Painting, photography and film serve Chen Wei as sources of inspiration and echo in his choice of motifs, compositions, and the coloring and lighting of his works.

As one enters the exhibition space on the first floor of the gallery, one encounters a group of people dancing, suffused with blue light, absorbed in the moment. The location itself is not discernible; merely a few light cones traverse the space and suggest a dance club. Chen Wei commented on this work, titled “In the Waves #6,” in an interview with the British newspaper *The Guardian*: “In China, nightclubs are the only places where large numbers of people are allowed to get together. Gatherings of people all doing the same thing would never be permitted anywhere else – certainly not on the street. It would make the government nervous. This was taken in Beijing, where I live, last year. It’s about dreams and reality: people in China go out clubbing to chase their dreams, but they can’t escape from what’s happening outside ...” (*The Guardian*, April 30, 2014, interview by Karin Andreasson).

Chen Wei’s works examine current social issues. With brutal honesty, he brings our living conditions, dreams, desires, and fears into sharper focus. After careful preparations, and with the help of a select group of assistants, he produces his works on film stages or in his studio. He stages still lifes, empty interiors, or entire deserted strip malls reminiscent, in composition and choice of motifs, of Edward Hopper’s works.

“In the Waves #6” is a special exception to the other works in the exhibition, as there are protagonists who inhabit his often deserted backdrops. Panning the exhibition, however, one cannot help but notice that the other works always bear witness to human presence as well, while the people in “In the Waves #6” almost seem like accessories.

Chen Wei was born in 1980 in the Zhejiang Province in China. He lives and works in Beijing. 2015: His works are part of the group exhibition of contemporary Chinese photography opening in May 2015 at the Museum Folkwang in Essen. In March 2015, his photographs will be on view in a solo exhibition at the K11 Art Space in Shanghai. In 2014, he exhibited his works at the Australia China Art Foundation in Sidney and participated in the following group exhibitions: *Chinese Photography 1911–2014* at the Stravanger Art Museum, Stravanger, Norway; *My Generation: Young Chinese Artists* at the Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, Florida, and at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg. His works are represented in numerous international collections.

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