



The Eighth Huayu Youth Award Exhibition: A Long Hello

Released December 11, 2020

Editorial Contact:

UCCA

Danyu Xu

International Media Relations Supervisor

+86 10 5780 0258

+86 138 1082 9590

danyu.xu@ucca.org.cn

Exhibition Period:

December 12, 2020 – February 10, 2021

Location:

New Gallery, Central Gallery, Atrium

Huayu Art Forum:

December 12 and 13, 2020

13:30-17:30

UCCA Auditorium

Press material available at

ucca.org.cn/en/press

UCCA hosts this year's edition of the Huayu Youth Award, showcasing the diverse practices of emerging artists in China and supporting the continued development of Chinese contemporary art.

From December 12, 2020, to February 10, 2021, UCCA and the Huayu Youth Award present "The Eighth Huayu Youth Award Exhibition: A Long Hello," featuring artworks by the fifteen finalists for the 2020 Huayu Youth Award. The shortlisted artists are Chen Dandizi (b. 1990, Hezhou, Guangxi province), Hu Wei (b. 1989, Dalian, China), Jin Ya'nan (b. 1986, Hangzhou); Yong Xiang Li (b. 1991, Changsha, China), Liu Guoqiang (b. 1988, Shandong province), Liu Yu (b. 1985, Taichung), Lo Lai Lai Natalie (b. 1983, Hong Kong); Ni Hao (b. 1989, Hsinchu), Peng Zuqiang (b. 1992, Changsha, China), Wing Po So (b. 1985, Hong Kong), Su Yu Hsin (b. 1989, Taichung), Su Yu-Xin (b. 1991, Hualien), Joey Xia (b. 1992, Hangzhou), Zhao Qian (b. 1990, Jiangxi province), and Zheng Yuan (b. 1988, Lanzhou, China). This year's Grand Prize and Special Prize winners will be announced on the evening of December 12, following a visit to the exhibition and closed-door deliberation by the prize jury. The 2020 jury panel is chaired by UCCA Director Philip Tinari, with other members including artist Cao Fei, OCAT Xi'an Executive Director Karen Smith, artist Liu Wei, and scholar, curator, and Fudan University School of Philosophy researcher Lu Mingjun.

The artists featured in the exhibition represent both a break from and continuity with previous modes of art making. While today's artists inevitably still respond to issues that their predecessors tackled, such as modernity, post-colonialism, and globality, they are less interested in clear-cut, black-and-white analysis within the disciplines defined by these topics. Many young artists in China situate themselves inside networks of knowledge and technology, rather than viewing the world as an object external to themselves. Certain issues that the previous generation of artists obsessed over, such as inequalities between East and West, have to some degree evaporated thanks to the level playing field created by the spread of knowledge and technology. The emerging artists in this exhibition have the confidence to tackle topics far away from their immediate surroundings without apprehension.

In the process of dialogue with the wider world, others, and themselves, the shortlisted artists actively explore how to translate new perspectives, media, and ways of thinking



into vital artworks. Their diverse creative practices offer new ways to understand the future of Chinese contemporary art and its many possibilities. The fifteen finalists for this year's prize enjoy confronting and analyzing the structures of knowledge and technology, placing themselves in conversation with these systems. They are highly educated, and sometimes take on roles that more closely resemble those of writers and researchers than that of the conventional artist. In both research and presentation, they demonstrate an investigative approach that often aspires to create an encyclopedic genealogy of their subjects. Some are fascinated by the research process itself, delving into the many topics that interest them and doing in-depth studies from surprising angles. Others are less drawn to the minutiae of specific subjects, and more willing to break boundaries to build grand narratives. At the same time, in contrast to universal myths that emphasize the importance of an artist's character and personality, they hide themselves within highly speculative work, underemphasizing intuition and individuality, sometimes even turning away from individual self-expression. Instead, their focus is the object as observed by the subject, rather than the self as the subject of the artist.

As such, these artists' working methods seem to be poised at a critical point—a point at which they establish a connection with the world, yet maintain their distance, keeping an outsider's perspective. At exactly the right moment, they halt any attempt to engage in superfluous dialogue, and deliberately avoid entering into set intellectual frameworks. Maintaining critical distance and a requisite sense of uncanny strangeness, from an ambiguous position the artists extend a sustained, continuous greeting out to the world: a long hello.

To accompany the exhibition, on December 12 and 13, 2020, UCCA will host the fifth edition of the Huayu Art Forum, entitled "More Than a Word: How Another Form of Life is Possible." Organized by Du Keke, editor of artforum.com.cn, the forum brings together academics, curators, and other art professionals to discuss the past year and some of the most pressing issues facing the art community. First held in 2016, previous installments of the event have explored themes including the role of art in wider society, the value of local case studies, and how art, history, and politics interact with each other. During the exhibition period, UCCA will also present three special discussions, with the shortlisted artists sharing video works and exchanging ideas to shine more light on the thinking and contexts that inform their artistic practices.



Eighth Huayu Youth Award Prize Jury

Philip Tinari (Director, UCCA, CEO, UCCA Group)

Cao Fei (artist)

Karen Smith (Executive Director, OCAT Xi'an)

Liu Wei (artist)

Lu Mingjun (Researcher, School of Philosophy, Fudan University, curator, PhD in history)

Eighth Huayu Youth Award Short List Jury

Guo Xi (Head of Exhibitions, UCCA)

Liu Qianxi (Curator, Taikang Space)

Liu Tian (Curator, Vice-Director, Exhibition Culture Research Center, and Researcher, Institute of Contemporary Art and Social Thought, School of Intermedia Art, China Academy of Art)

Tan Yue (Associate Curator of Exhibitions and Research, Guangdong Times Museum)

Sun Dongdong (curator, critic, and writer)

Sponsorship and Support

UCCA Strategic Partner Dulux provides environmentally friendly solutions for wall painting. UCCA thanks the members of its Foundation Council, International Circle, and Young Associates groups, as well as Annual Strategic Partners Aranya, Bloomberg, Barco, Clivet, BenQ, and Active House for their special support.

About the Huayu Youth Award

The Huayu Youth Award is a charity art prize established in 2013 by the Huayu Group in recognition of the work of young artists consistently experimenting and exploring within the context of China's complex contemporary cultural landscape. The award aims to present the cutting edge of contemporary art in China, and the multifaceted practices of a new generation of artists. Besides cash prizes for each year's winners, the Huayu Youth Award also offers recipients funding and support relevant to their work. This may include assistance for the completion of artworks and projects, curatorial support for related exhibitions, or help with media outreach and publications. Moreover, through a series of talks and other programming, it also provides emerging art critics and scholars with a platform for discussion. Founded in 1989, the Huayu Group is a large-scale enterprise with commercial real estate as its primary strategic business. In recent years, the Huayu Group has worked to actively support the development of contemporary art in China.



尤伦斯当代艺术中心
Center for Contemporary Art



About UCCA

UCCA Center for Contemporary Art is China's leading contemporary art institution. Committed to the belief that art can deepen lives and transcend boundaries, UCCA presents a wide range of exhibitions, public programs, and research initiatives to a public of more than one million visitors each year. UCCA Beijing sits at the heart of the 798 Art District, occupying 10,000 square meters of factory chambers built in 1957 and regenerated in 2019 by OMA. UCCA Dune, designed by Open Architecture, lies beneath the sand in the seaside enclave of Aranya in Beidaihe. Formally accredited as a museum by the Beijing Cultural Bureau in 2018, UCCA also operates non-profit foundations, licensed by the Beijing Bureau of Civil Affairs and the Hong Kong government. UCCA's commercial ventures include the retail platform UCCA Store, the children's education initiative UCCA Kids, and collaborations and projects under the rubric UCCA Lab. Opened in 2007 and revived by a committed group of Chinese and international patrons in 2017, UCCA works to bring China into global dialogue through contemporary art.

www.ucca.org.cn/en