

ULLENS CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART 尤伦斯当代艺术中心

Kolkoz : *Parallax*

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November 26, 2011. Beijing.

The Ullens Center for Contemporary Art has invited French art duo Kolkoz to create a site-specific installation for the gallery's central Nave, a visual and sensory feast entitled *Parallax*. It will be the artists' first exhibition in China.

Kolkoz is made up of Samuel Boutruche and Benjamin Moreau. The duo are known for diversity of form in their artistic creation, including sculpture in a variety of materials, film, installations, electronic games and performance art. They even DJ together. With wit and humour, their work combines apparently unrelated elements, exploring the boundary between the real and imaginary. Jérôme Sans, director of UCCA, comments "The pair makes clever and witty use of strange effects and optical illusions to let us see the world in different ways."

The works in this show are exploring the concept of parallax: visual displacement and the divergent orientations produced by looking at the same object from different points. Parallax is a commonly-occurring phenomenon in everyday life, the apparent positional differences produced when observing an object from different points which happens when we look at things. Kolkoz say, "We are obsessed with describing an object or scene from multiple viewpoints like we'd used a 3D scanner, one action allowing it to be placed in a time and space that suits you. This is a 'journey' round a 3D object."

The Four paintings reimagined as sculpture are set into the walls – composites of different pictures frames embedded together. The photographs depict NASA scientists in the 1960s simulating a lunar landing at a site in Arizona in an entirely simulated space and time. For audiences in 2011 standing before these photographs, the images exist as records of science and fantasy, trips to the moon and the desert. This too is a parallax. The monumental sculptural piece *Torus*, a sculpture built as a representation of the perfect virtual shape, plays on perspective. Opening day we will invite 10 art students to participate in

the live performance and draw directly on the sculpture the scene before them. The parallax effect is the result, standing in three dimensions with ten faces and 360 degrees of virtual and reality combined in one. Within this installation piece made using picture frames, photographs and sculpture, Kolkosz undermines the observer's confidence in what they see before them with a wit unparalleled, altering the optical sensations in the viewer's brain by exploiting the duality of text and image.

Jérôme Sans explains, "Kolkosz's 3D frames create a fascinating optical illusion that produces a parallax effect; by raising this question they redefine parallax completely to ask: What is art?" It is certainly the case that in the diverse and globalised world of today, that definitions and boundaries in the content and form of art have become increasingly indeterminate. Audiences can bring entirely different understandings to the way they appreciate a work of art, particularly a work of contemporary art. Kolkosz create art within art in jest and at the same time allow their audience to generate a different understanding of perspective. Just as an astronaut returns to Earth after having viewed our planet from afar; the visual experience as a result of changed location is immense.

With this series of works that fool the eyes, bamboozle the senses and raise our awareness, Kolkosz remind us that true reality exists in the eyes of the viewer. They say, "Finally, we are presenting paintings without paint, in which titles are the sole figurative element. These kinetic forms are generated by the exclusive use of framed frames and lines that re-shape two-dimensional paintings, in the style of the Italian Renaissance and its obsession with mathematical perspective. For us, highly influenced by 3D computer images, this relationship in the birth of technical representation both fascinates us and serves as a phantom echo of reality."

The exhibition is supported by the Ambassade de France en Chine and Institut Français de Chine.

Related Events at UCCA

Artists' Talk: Kolkosz

Guests: Kolkosz (Samuel Boutruche, Benjamin Moreau)

Language: English with Chinese interpretation

Venue and time: UCCA Lecture Hall, 14:00–15:30, November 27, 2011

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About Kolkoz

Kolkoz is a French art duo known for the diversity of form in their artistic creation, including sculpture in a variety of materials, film, installations, electronic games and performance art. The two artists Samuel Boutruche and Benjamin Moreau currently live and work in Paris.

About UCCA

The Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) is a non-profit, comprehensive art center founded by collectors Guy and Myriam Ullens in November 2007. UCCA presents exhibitions of established and emerging artists and develops a trusted platform to share knowledge through education and research.