

## Earth in My Hands, Fire in My Heart 灶

Liu Xi Solo Exhibition 柳溪个展



**Exhibition Duration:** 19<sup>th</sup> April – June 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2019

**Artist:** Liu Xi

展期：2019年4月19日~6月2日

艺术家：柳溪

### ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Art+ Shanghai Gallery is proud to present a solo exhibition by an emerging and ambitious Chinese female artist and sculptor Liu Xi "Earth in My Hands, Fire in My Heart."

With her works widely exhibited abroad, including Portugal, Spain, Norway, Indonesia, the United Kingdom, Korea, Liu Xi finally reveals a series of porcelain and glass works for her very first solo exhibition in mainland China. Behind the organic yet grotesque shapes of creamy pastel, charcoal black, and tantalizing pink porcelain sculptures, Liu Xi enwraps her intimate considerations on life, interpersonal relationships, intimacy, love and understanding of others along with one's female self.

It is the urgent need to reflect upon her life experiences, blissful moments of enlightenment and stupefying uncertainty; it is the quietness of contemplation and bewilderment of obsession; it is the feeling of entanglement, inflicted by ignorance; it is the breathtaking freedom, extorted from the fearless yet painful process of facing herself that drive her sculptural practice.

In her hands, ceramics acquire sinuous curves and voluptuous shapes that appear to run fluidly into clusters of delicate formations. Her intimate pieces echo with the rococo heritage of porcelain, reimagined and informed by the meticulousness of Chinese porcelain techniques and traditions. The biomorphic shapes of her works are derived from studying laws and forms of nature, human's anatomy, textures of material, combine a concentration of asymmetry, fluidity, organic morphology, and dynamic - almost palpable - poetic rhythm.

Among such is "Our God is Great," one of Liu Xi's latest series included in the showcase. The installation of charcoal black porcelain sculptures of floral and vulvar forms, laid flat in front of the viewer, overtly reference female genitalia. In such a bold attempt to expose the tantalizing and daring sexual side of femininity, Liu Xi emphatically appeals to women. In the wake of #metoo movement reaching every corner of the world, a young female artist stresses the importance of illuminating the power of women's awareness of the full spectrum of their femininity, which enables them to address their needs, desires and ultimately, rights in the most honest and unbiased way.

The notion of femininity dominates Liu Xi's artistic practice. Born in the Northern province of Shandong in China in the late '80s, her upbringing has coincided with the time of one-child policy implementation and consequential gender disparity. Being born a girl, in the society that was systematically programmed to favor sons, Liu Xi was automatically exposed to the biased environment of gender inequality even before she came into this world. This has propelled her desire to find her voice, speak up and sculpt a new world for herself and others, devoid of inequality, violence, discrimination, and outdated social structures.

Advancing on her journey of breaking through the withstanding, obsolete and stereotypical, Liu Xi creates the series "Where Are We Now?" sculptures. The basic three-dimensional shapes, such as cubes, spheres, cylinders, pyramids, and cones, are 'wrapped in fabric' as if intentionally hidden by the artist. Defying outdated principles, rules, and hierarchical power structures, Liu Xi refutes standardized rigidity, straight lines and 'sharp corners' of regular shapes, that for generations have been privileging ones and causing pain and discomfort to the others. The act of draping the geometric figures adds another dimension that is synonymous with the free flow of life and intuition against the rigid deformation of dogma and the inflexible mimesis of the world. Liu Xi goes in favor of the irregular and curvilinear that welcome questions and doubts from the inquisitive minds about the existing state of affairs.

Among other series presented for the exhibition are wall installation "U, U, U, ME, ME, ME" in which Liu Xi explores the essence of interpersonal relationships, "Mala Leche" where she speculates on the nature of being a human, and "Undergo" series in which the artist remarks on the purifying and upbringing power of struggle and pain.

A strong and daring voice of this young female artist resonates with every twist and curve of her creations. Her sculptures are glazed with the impeccable craftsmanship and sensitive, artistic observation that appeals to the audience emotionally, intellectually and sensually. As if she is clay herself, fired and solidified by the scorching circumstances of reality, she is an exquisite work of her inquisitive mind, passionate heart, restless spirit, and dogged persistence.

## 关于展览

艺术+上海画廊很荣幸为您呈现一位崭露头角、雄心勃勃的中国女性艺术家、雕塑家——柳溪的个展，《灶》。

柳溪的作品曾在葡萄牙、西班牙、挪威、印度尼西亚、英国、韩国等海外国家广泛展出，终于，她将这些陶瓷和玻璃作品带回了国内，这将是她在中国大陆的首次个人展览。这些乳白色、炭黑色和粉红色陶瓷作品的怪诞造型的背后，包裹着柳溪对生活、人际、亲密关系、爱与理解，以及对女性的自我思考。

正是对自身人生经历的反思——顿悟的幸福时刻和令人麻木的不确定性，沉思的宁静和痴迷的困惑，无知造成的纠缠感，以及在痛苦而勇敢地面对自我的过程中获得的惊人的自由——推动了她的艺术实践。

柳溪的作品天生感性。在她手中，陶瓷有了弯曲的线条和诱人的形状，流淌出一簇簇精致的结构，与洛可可式瓷器传统相得益彰，并借鉴了中国瓷器的精湛工艺，重获新生。它们富有生机的形态来源于植物、织物，甚至是人体的部分，融合了不对称的、装饰性的褶皱和螺旋式扭曲，富有多孔、光滑、花边和气泡状的纹理。

其中，《我们的神很了不起》是柳溪的最新系列之一，也囊括在本次展览中。炭黑色花朵造型的雕塑装置平铺在观者面前，不难令人联想到女性的私密部位。通过如此大胆地揭露女性诱人而富有挑逗色彩的魅力，艺术家旨在呼吁：女性只有充分意识到自身的全部女性特质，才能以最诚实的方式满足自己的需求和欲望，最终实现自己的权利。

在柳溪的艺术实践中，女性化的观念占据主导地位。她于上世纪 80 年代末出生于中国北部省份山东，成长伴随着独生子女政策的实施以及随之而来的性别差异。作为一个女孩，出生在一个渴望生儿子的社会里，甚至在来到这个世界之前，她就已经暴露在性别不平等的环境中。这推动了柳溪寻找自己的声音、为自己和他人大声疾呼、塑造一个新世界的愿望。这个新世界没有不平等、暴力、歧视和过时的社会结构。

《我们身处何方》装置作品则反对任何过时的刻板印象。那些看似基础的三维立体，如立方体、球体、圆柱、棱锥和圆锥，被织物包裹住，仿佛被艺术家故意藏了起来。柳溪摒弃了过时的原则、规范和等级权力结构，驳斥了标准化的刚性、线性和“锋利的边缘”。这些几代人以来一直赋予规则形状的特权，给其他人带来了痛苦和不适。而柳溪则更加喜欢能够自由流动、弯曲和不规则的东西，她推崇好奇心和提出疑问。

本次展览还将展出《你你你 我我我》（"UUU & MEMEME 系列壁挂作品，其中探讨了人际关系的本质；《坏水》系列作品，其中推敲了人的本质；《泥臼》系列作品，其中讨论了斗争和痛苦的净化力量。

这位青年女艺术家坚强而勇敢的声音与她创作的每一条曲线产生着共鸣。她的雕塑作品以无懈可击的工艺和热忱敏感的艺术观察，在情感、理智和感官三方位上吸引着观众。如同一块泥土，被现实的灼热环境烧灼固化，柳溪是她自己充满好奇的头脑、热情洋溢的心灵、躁动不安的精神与坚持不懈的毅力的结晶。

## ABOUT THE ARTIST



Liu Xi was born in 1986 in Shandong province, China. Upon her graduation from the Sculpture Department of the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, Liu Xi moved to Shanghai and set up her studio there. She lives and works in between Shanghai and Jingdezhen.

While appropriating new formations, surfaces, and materials, Liu Xi continues to push the technical and aesthetical boundaries of ceramics. Immaculately produced and innately sensual, her sculptural creations explore the themes of sexuality and love, freedom and constraints, identity and self-discovery, femininity and masculinity, among many others. She has participated in numerous exhibitions in China and abroad including, Portugal, Norway, Spain, Korea, the United Kingdom. Her works have been included in various international Ceramics Biennales and collected top prizes and honorable mentions. Always ready to pursue new creative opportunities, she actively participates in residency programs, among recently completed were the ones in Bali, Taipei, and Yixing, and she is currently preparing for the workshop in Mexico with sculpture students. Liu Xi's works have entered public collections of New Taipei City Yingge Ceramics Museum in Taiwan, and Ajuntament del Vendrell in Spain, and Museu de Ceramica de L'alcora in Valencia, Spain, and Gaya Ceramic Arts Center, Bali, Indonesia.

## 关于艺术家

柳溪于1986年出生于中国山东。毕业于中央美术学院雕塑系，现在作与生活于上海和景德镇。柳溪在艺术创作中，关注新的造型，材料和技法，并持续挑战陶瓷的美学与技艺的极限。她的作品具有很高的完成度，看起来光洁无瑕，浑然天成。在此她试图探讨关于性与爱，自由与束缚，个性与自我觉醒，男女两性等许多主题。

她的作品参加了国内外众多展览，包括葡萄牙，挪威，西班牙，英国，韩国。她的作品出现在许多国际陶瓷双年展中，并在许多国际赛事中拔得头筹。柳溪还积极参与了很多艺术家驻留项目，最近刚完成了在台湾，宜兴，以及巴厘岛的驻留。今年八月，她将启程前往墨西哥，参加墨西哥国立陶艺学校的授课。她的作品已被新北市立莺歌陶瓷博物馆、西班牙埃爾文德雷利市政、西班牙拉尔克拉陶瓷美术馆、印尼巴厘岛伽雅艺术中心等多家博物馆收藏。

## ABOUT ART+ SHANGHAI GALLERY



consultation services, hosts cultural events, and participates in international art fairs.

Founded in October 2007 and located along the Suzhou River within walking distance to Shanghai's famous Bund area, Art+ Shanghai Gallery is a dynamic art space dedicated to the exhibition, promotion, and development of Chinese contemporary art. Art+ Shanghai Gallery showcases a range of established and emerging contemporary artists from within China and abroad, stimulating and celebrating the diversity of the sprawling contemporary art scene. In addition to holding group and solo exhibitions, Art+ Shanghai Gallery offers art

### 艺术+上海画廊简介

创办于 2007 年 10 月，坐落于上海外滩名胜之地的苏州河畔，艺术+上海画廊致力于宣传与推动中国当代艺术，是一处充满活力的艺术场馆。艺术+上海画廊不仅展示来自中外的知名艺术家，也同时支持有潜力的新兴艺术家，旨在能够不断催促和激励当代艺术舞台的多样性持续延伸扩大。除了举办艺术家群展和个展，艺术+上海画廊也同时提供艺术品咨询服务，文化活动策划服务以及参加各大国际展会等。