

Material Musings物料繆思

Katharina Grosse

Born in Freiburg im Breisgau in 1961 Lives and works in Berlin

Katharina Grosse graduated from the Düsseldorf Art Academy and is known mostly for producing brightly-coloured acrylic paintings, site-related works, and large-scale sculptures. Employing the spray gun as her primary painting tool, she applies electrifying colours onto different surfaces such as sculptures, building façades, and ordinary domestic utensils. Grosse takes painting beyond the confines of the canvas, creating new paths for this medium and changing our ways of seeing.

Untitled

Untitled is a sculpture characterised by a creased and twisted form fashioned from reinforced glass fibre and clothes. The distinctive drip marks on its surface was the result of the artist splashing layers of colourful acrylics with a spray gun. This unconventional approach reflects Katharina Grosse's artistic exploration of the multi-dimensionality of painting, as well as the departure of her painting practice from canvases to architectural surfaces.

Tatiana Trouvé

Born in Cosenza in 1968 Lives and works in Paris

Tatiana Trouvé, who graduated from the National School of Fine Art at the Villa Arson in 1989, is known for her sculptures, drawings, and installations. She often presents the tension that exists between 'softness' and 'rigidity' and between 'permanence' and 'ephemera' through the distortion of materials. The questions concerning time, space, and memory is one of the primary explorations within Trouvé's work.

Refolding

Refolding is a bronze and concrete cast of a pile of folded emergency blankets and packing boxes that were to be thrown or put away after being used for protecting works of art. In the process of casting, the state of both the blankets and the boxes was inverted radically, from light to heavy, and hence they escaped from their designated functions of wrapping and containing. These short-lived materials appear to be fossilised in their time, drawing viewers into Tatiana Trouvé's unique universe where memories are unfolded in a temporal dimension.



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Cheng Ran

Born in Inner Mongolia in 1981 Lives and works in Hangzhou and Amsterdam

Having attended the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou, Cheng Ran works predominantly in video and film, as well as installation and performance art in recent years. His work often combines factual, sourced materials with myths and imaginative materials. Conveying a distinct perspective towards life's unsolvable issues such as identity and death, Cheng's work constantly pushes the borders between reality and fiction.

Item Idem

Born in Paris, in 1977 Lives and works in New York

Item Idem is the pseudonym used by fashion designer and artist Cyril Duval. His work is situated at the intersection of fine art, design, fashion, and popular culture. Item Idem has built a diverse body of work that examines contemporary social codes and value systems through the fusion of various disciplines.

Joss

Joss is a video work created by artists Cheng Ran and Item Idem during their stay in Shanghai in 2013. Its title is borrowed from joss paper, which is one of the papier-mâché items burnt as offerings to the deceased in Asian folk practices. The video depicts a series of papier-mâché items made in likeness to current fashion items, pop icons, and everyday objects being blown up one by one. The act makes reference to two classics in contemporary art and cinema—Peter Fischli and David Weiss's *The Way Things Go* and Michelangelo Antonioni's *Zabriskie Point*—and expands to discuss karma, memories, and fortune in present pop cultures.



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MadeIn Company

Established in 2009

Established in 2009 by Chinese artist and curator Xu Zhen, Madeln Company is a contemporary art creation company that focuses on creative productions and the research on the infinite possibilities of contemporary culture. The cultural production company represented Xu's works and continued with his exploration of, and response to, the social and political situations of this age. Madeln Company launched the brand Xu Zhen in 2013 and established Madeln Gallery in 2014.

Spread B—Hanging Gardens

Spread is an independent art project that has been developed by Madeln Company since 2009, in which cultural imageries found on the Internet are combined to form new compositions on canvas. Medieval images, exotic bestiaries, and classical Chinese imageries that represent historical events, scientific discoveries, and mythological tales are appropriated with fabrics, charcoal, and paper. Similar to traditional tapestries that narrate important moments in history, Spread B—Hanging Gardens presents the many aspects of our understanding of the history of humanity.

Qiu Zhijie

Born in Fujian in 1969 Lives and works in Beijing and Hangzhou

Qiu Zhijie, who graduated from the Department of Printmaking of the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou in 1992, is an artist, critic, and curator working across diverse mediums ranging from calligraphy, photography, installation, video to performance art. He propagates the concept of 'total art' and reinvents literati traditions in response to the social realities of China and the world. Qiu is currently a professor at the Department of Intermedia Arts at the China Academy of Art.

Copy Orchard Pavilion Preface 1000 Times

Copying a master's work is considered an essential part of calligraphy practice. It is through such an act that one can be reconnected with tradition and the spirit of the master. Qiu Zhijie took this practice to the extreme by copying celebrated Chinese calligrapher Wang Xizhi's *Preface to Poems Composed at the Orchid Pavilion*, one of the masterpieces in Chinese calligraphy, repeatedly on the same sheet of paper until it turned pitch black. This video work, documenting the entire process, opens up a performative and conceptual aspect in calligraphy that has been rarely explored.



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Laura Owens

Born in Ohio, the United States in 1970 Lives and works in Los Angeles

Laura Owens earned her BFA at the Rhode Island School of Design in 1992 and her MFA at the California Institute for the Arts in 1994. Owens is one of the most influential painters of her generation. Incorporating methods of abstraction, collage, screen print, and digital technology, she pioneered new approaches towards painting and experimented with unconventional materials to challenge the expected modes of representation and composition of the genre.

Untitled

Laura Owens layered unconventional materials such as blotches of sand and charcoal onto a silk-screened background, forming dense black and grey clouds of varying textures against a sky of green, yellow, and purple. A single wooden strip was inserted into the surface of the canvas, transforming it into what the artist described as 'a clock'. *Untitled* is one of Owen's many experiments that open up new possibilities for what painting is and can be.

Melike Kara

Born in Bensberg in 1985 Lives and works in Cologne

Student of artist Rosemarie Trockel, Melike Kara graduated from the Düsseldorf Art Academy in 2014. She is a multi-media artist whose practice covers sculpture and painting. Utilising the body, forms, and gestures in her work, Kara examines the intricate non-verbal social interactions between people and the ways identities are constructed by bodily experiences and cultural histories.

Water Us (One)

Working with a limited palette of blue and beige, Melike Kara portrayed a series of seemingly genderless figures interlocking together. These figures are purposefully reduced to colour blocks and simple outlines so that their bodily movements and the gestures performed are accentuated. Acting as a visual representation of non-verbal social interactions, Kara's figures reflect the emotions and social struggles in everyday life.



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Betty Woodman

Born in Connecticut, the United States in 1930

After graduating from the School for American Craftsmen at Alfred University in 1950, Betty Woodman started her career making functional wares. Her practice shifted in the 1970s into a more decorative and expressive style that involved inventive use of colours and forms. Drawing inspirations from Greek, Etruscan, European, and Asian cultures, Woodman focused on inventing witty and non-functional vessels of various scales and created environmental installations for museums and galleries across the globe.

Kimono Ladies

Betty Woodman took the basic form of vessel in ceramics as a platform to explore its images and relationship with space. Having wrapped the six vessels here with clothes, Woodman applied glistening glazes and painted on the vessels' surfaces with fauvist brushstrokes to create patterns that resemble those on a kimono. These vessels, each given a unique character by the artist, dance in fluidity in colour and space, dismantling the boundaries between painting and sculpture, and between art and craft.



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Katharina Grosse

1961 年生於弗賴堡 現於柏林生活及工作

Katharina Grosse 畢業於杜塞爾多夫美術學院,以其色彩鮮亮的塑膠彩畫、與場域相關作品及大型雕塑聞名。 她以噴槍為主要的繪畫工具,在不同的表面如雕塑、建築物外牆和日常家居用品上噴灑斑駁陸離的顏色,使繪畫不再局限於畫布上。Grosse 不但為繪畫開闢了新的方向,亦改變了我們的觀看方式。

《Untitled》

《Untitled》是一件由強化玻璃纖維和各式衣物組成的雕塑,形態折疊扭曲。藝術家利用噴槍在這雕塑上噴灑一層又一層 五彩斑斕的塑膠彩,留下了鮮明突出的滴彩痕跡。這種擺脱傳統的創作手法反映了 Katharina Grosse 對繪畫的多重維度 的探索,並呈現出她從畫布走向建築表面的繪畫實踐。

Tatiana Trouvé

1968年生於科森扎現於巴黎生活及工作

Tatiana Trouvé 於 1989 年畢業於法國尼斯國立美術學院,以其雕塑,繪畫及裝置藝術而為人熟知。她常把物料扭曲變形,呈現剛強與柔弱、永恆與瞬間之間所產生的張力。有關時間、空間和回憶的問題,是 Trouvé 主要探索的主題之一。

《Refolding》

《Refolding》以銅和混凝土重新鑄製了一堆曾用來保護藝術品的即棄緊急毯子和包裝盒。通過鑄造過程,毯子和紙盒的狀態發生了根本性的轉換,從輕變重,自其固有的包裝和容納用途中逾越出來。這些壽命短暫的物料仿如被石化於其存在的時空,引領着觀眾進入 Tatiana Trouvé 的獨特宇宙裏;在其內,記憶於時間的維度裏呈展。



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程然

1981 年生於內蒙古 現於杭州及阿姆斯特丹生活及工作

程然畢業於杭州中國美術學院,主要創作錄像和電影,近年還涉足裝置藝術和表演藝術。他的作品經常揉合真實、神話與幻想元素,挑戰真實與虛構之間的界限,以嶄新角度探討生命中身份和死亡等不解的議題。

Item Idem

1977 年生於巴黎 現於紐約生活及工作

Item Idem 是藝術家兼時裝設計師 Cyril Duval 的化名,他的作品游移於藝術、設計、時裝及流行文化領域的交界之間。 他創作的作品非常多元,透過揉合不同範疇以探討現今的社會規範和價值體系。

《Joss》

《Joss》是藝術家程然和 Item Idem 於 2013 年在上海旅居期間所創作的錄像作品。其標題的意念借自紙錢——亞洲民間習俗中獻予亡者的祭品之一。該錄像中,一系列仿照時尚風物、流行標誌和日常用品而製的紙紮品逐一被炸毀。這創作與兩個當代藝術和電影的經典作品——Peter Fischli 及 David Weiss 的《The Way Things Go》和 Michelangelo Antonioni的《Zabriskie Point》遙相呼應,進而探討當下流行文化中的業力、記憶和財富等主題。

沒頂公司

2009 年成立

沒頂公司由中國藝術家及策展人徐震於 2009 年成立,是一家專注於創意製作和研究當代文化的無限可能的當代藝術創作公司。這家製作公司不但代表了徐震的創作,亦延續了他對當下社會和政治狀況的探索和回應。沒頂公司於 2013 年創立藝術品牌「徐震」,並在次年成立沒頂畫廊。

《蔓延 B——空中花園》

《蔓延》是沒頂公司自 2009 年以來開展的一個獨立藝術項目,他們把互聯網上的文化圖像結合,製成畫布上的新作品。 象徵着歷史事蹟、科學發現和神話喻言的中世紀圖像、充滿異國情調的動物形象,以及中國的古典意象,都一一以布料、 炭筆和紙張重新編置。仿如記載歷史重要時刻的傳統掛毯,《蔓延 B——空中花園》展現了我們對人類歷史的多重理解。



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邱志杰

1969 年生於福建 現於北京及杭州生活及工作

邱志杰是藝術家、評論家兼策展人,1992 年畢業於中國美術學院版畫系。他的創作涵蓋書法、攝影、裝置藝術、錄像、 行為藝術等多個媒介。他提出的「總體藝術」理論,就中國以至世界各地的社會現實,重新審視人文傳統。邱志杰現為 中國美術學院跨媒體藝術學院的教授。

《重複書寫一千遍蘭亭序》

臨摹書法家的作品被視為書法練習的重要一環。通過這般練習,今人可與傳統文化和書法家的精神重新聯繫。邱志杰 把這種臨摹實踐演練至極致——他在同一張紙上重複書寫中國書法家王羲之的名作《蘭亭序》,直至白紙完全染黑。 這部錄像作品記錄了整個書寫過程,以表演性和概念性的演繹,開闢書法藝術中少有被探索的一面。

Laura Owens

1970 年生於美國俄亥俄州 現於洛杉磯生活及工作

Laura Owens 於 1992 年獲羅德島設計學院藝術創作學士學位,1994 年獲加州藝術學院藝術創作碩士。她是同年代最具影響力的畫家之一。她巧妙地融合抽象、拼貼、絲網印刷和數碼技術的技法,不但開創了新的繪畫方式,更以非傳統的物料進行創作實驗,藉以挑戰人們對繪畫方式及構圖的固有認知。

《Untitled》

Laura Owens 把沙子和炭筆粉等非傳統的素材層佈在絲網印刷的底板上,在黯綠、土黃和亮紫色的天空上聚疊成紋理多樣、濃密灰黑的層雲。一條木條插入了畫布表面,把作品轉化為藝術家所言的「時鐘」。 《Untitled》是 Owens 為開闢繪畫之可能性的眾多實驗之一。



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Melike Kara

1969 年生於貝爾吉施 現於科隆生活及工作

Melike Kara 師承藝術家 Rosemarie Trockel, 2014 年畢業於杜塞爾多夫美術學院。現為多媒體藝術家,作品涵蓋雕塑和繪畫。她運用身體、形狀和肢體表現,探究人與人之間複雜的非語言互動,以及身體經驗和文化歷史如何影響身份的構建。

《Water Us (One)》

Melike Kara 以節制的藍色和米色,勾勒出一組互相扣連、看似無性別的人物。藝術家故意把這些形體簡化為色塊和簡單的輪廓,突出它們的身體動作和肢體表現。作為非語言互動的視覺呈現,Kara 的人物反映了日常生活中的情感和社交上的掙扎。

Betty Woodman

1968 年生於美國康涅狄格州

Betty Woodman 於 1950 年於阿爾菲德大學美國工藝師學院畢業後開展她的事業,製作實用的陶器。1970 年代起,她的創作轉向更具裝飾性和表現性的風格,大膽使用不同的色彩與形態。Woodman 從希臘、伊特拉斯坎、歐洲及亞洲文化汲取靈感,創作了大大小小奇特而非實用的器具,並為世界各地的博物館和畫廊創作環境裝置作品。

《Kimono Ladies》

Betty Woodman 以陶瓷容器的基本形狀作為平台,以探索容器的圖像,以及與空間的關係。Woodman 以衣物包裹這裏的六個容器,再以野獸式的筆觸在容器上塗滿閃爍鱗亮的釉料,創造出肖似和服的圖案。這些容器每個都被藝術家賦予獨特個性,在色彩和空間上遊舞,消除了繪畫與雕塑、藝術與工藝之間的界限。