

Gulu Set of Cards





DOSSIER DE PRESSE
Set of Cards by Gulu

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Gulu

Born in 1983 in China, Li Xiang aka Gu Lu graduated from Beijing Film Academy, majoring in Film and Television Advertising.

Took up photography in 2008, he initially started focusing on the contemporary Chinese subcultures, the idea of the body as a weapon, and the reality as the foundation of existence, constantly trying to reject definitions and labels. In recent years, Gulu's goal has been to restore the identity of those who have been "materialized" by society; to do so, he employs different techniques, such as photography, texts, handwork, and painting. In his latest solo exhibition "Suddenly Retreating Desire" Li Xiang encourage young people from all over the world to show their true self in front of the camera. He furthermore reconstructs by hand the reality depicted in the Polaroids taken, breaking the limitations of the square and blurring the boundary between photography and painting. As an artist whose main theme is the body, Gulu argues it is not an object, but the embodiment of emotion; it has nothing to do with beauty and ugliness, nudity is freedom.

The Book Project

In a way, Gulu's photography has always been forbidden. There has always been a desire amongst artists and photographers to use naked bodies as their subjects, as the perception of the body is universal. The contradictions, and resistance, in such works has always been there. The passion continues to collide until it fades, at the decisive moment of desire and fear, balance and imbalance. Thus, we need to consider the image produced by the camera and its true intention. The "Suddenly Retreating Desire" comes from the fragmented text of Blanchot, and an accidental glance at it has a strong connection with Gulu's photography. Its critical point is that it is both a creative state and a way of viewing.

"Suddenly Retreating Desire" is a brand new solo exhibition of the artist, following the format of "Liu Wei Di Huang". None of the works on display are older than two years. The name of the exhibition is taken from Brownshaw's "Disaster Writing", which means that at the point of desire and fear, the sudden retreat is the decisive moment of balance and imbalance. As an artist whose main theme is the body, Gulu's works in this exhibition can be subdivided into the following three parts:

Photographic works: These cover the theme that Gulu has been engaging continuously with in recent years, such as "Laughing Nudes", "Youth Trash", "Bad Dreams", "Partial Universe" and other series. Young people from all over the world show their true self in front of the camera. Thus, even the surreal elements in the works are representations of the state of life of the protagonists.

Polaroid film transfer works: These are based on the second creation of Polaroid's instant photography method. The reality is reconstructed by hand, and the limitations of the square are used as a weapon to break themselves, blurring the bounday between photography and painting.

Video installation: The opening video installation "Tianchao", combined with the on-site sculpture "Burning Monkey", presents a humurous religious picture, asking a series of essentia questions on things such a sht eworship of the image, and the stangeness of self-flattering images.



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Book Details

Selected works by Gulu in high-quality print on 600g cardboard.

Limited edition of 200

Dimensions each card: 21x14.5x1.5 cm

23 pages / 1 text-page / 22 Photo-cards

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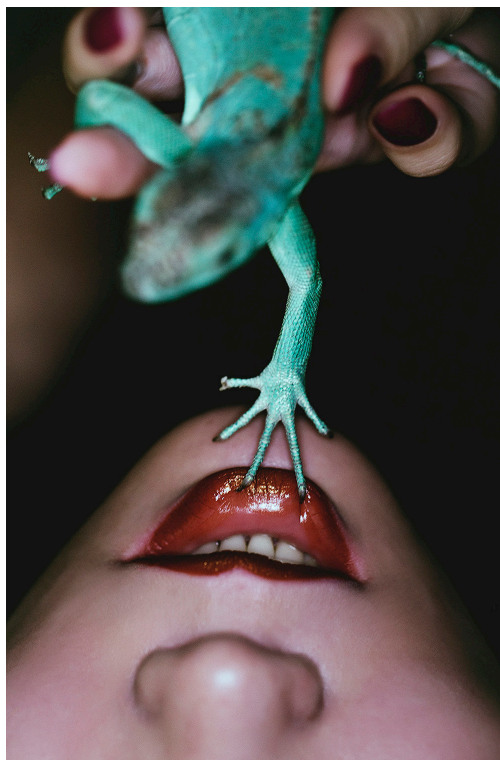
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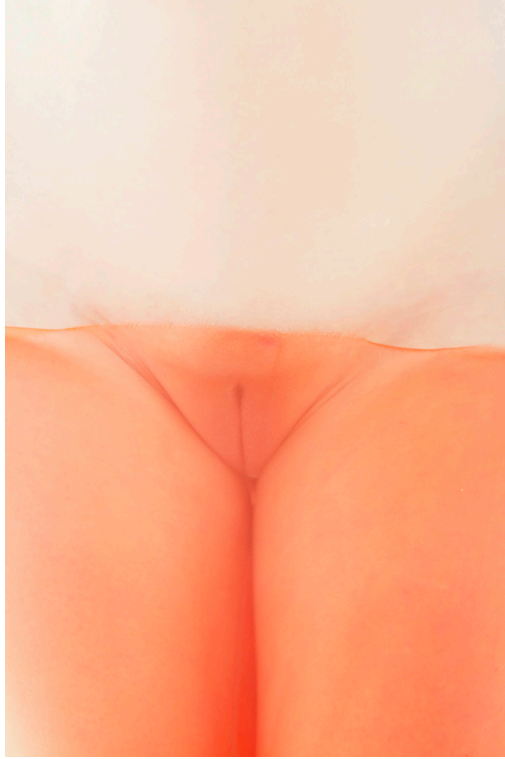




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Contacts

Migrant Bird Space is a Berlin & Beijing-based art foundation and gallery, providing a showcase for artists as well as art agency services in China & Europe. Working out of the gallery space at Koppenplatz in the heart of Berlin, the foundation offers a professional platform for cross-cultural communication between China and Europe with a focus on contemporary Chinese art. Promoting both established and emerging artists, Migrant Birds provides gallery spaces for exhibitions in Beijing and Berlin, an artist-in-residence program, regular talks and lectures, as well as support in liaising with Museums, universities, private institutions and more.

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