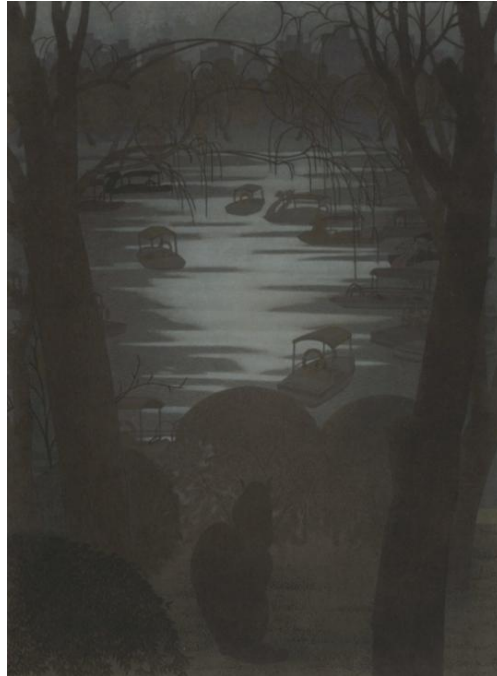


For Immediate Release

XIAO XU SOLO SHOW "THE RESOUNDING CHASM" AT ORA-ORA



Xiao Xu, *Follow the Light*, 2022
Ink on paper, 54 x 40 cm

HONG KONG – January 5, 2023 Ora-Ora is pleased to announce a **new solo show** by acclaimed Beijing-based artist **Xiao Xu**. The title is ***The Resounding Chasm***. Ora-Ora presents **seven new artworks**, all executed during or shortly before the onset of the pandemic, a period which the artist spent in China's capital city of Beijing. In the midst of a public health emergency, there were few outlets to escape the seclusion of home. The artist explored Beijing's parks, experiencing unexpected revelations and unforeseen psychological realizations which were the impetus for this show.

The title alludes to the idea of **time as a fungible concept**. The pandemic has intervened to slow, speed up or distort time within individual perception. Visualizing time as a river or landscape before him, the artist hears passions and emotions as echoes in its chasms. Employing humour and surrealist imagery to illustrate his realization, Xiao Xu calls to mind a line from Gong Zizhen, a poet of the Qing Dynasty: "Countless stars die, and the moon falls into the forest." The visit of the moon to earth becomes an illustration and metaphor for the suspension of normality and the artist's embrace of **the surreal and the pathetic fallacy**.

Xiao Xu's **instantly recognizable signature style** has won great acclaim from his peers and immense popularity with collectors. He works with ink on paper, employing an innovative layering method which creates a unique visual effect. By repeatedly adding ink colour to previously dry ink, he creates a rich texture-like depth. He is a **maestro of darkness**, forging a path of deep shadow, tipping the balance of chiaroscuro in favour of velvety midnight hues. Xiao Xu's paintings harness the brush, ink and paper of classical times, pairing the past with a contemporary theatricality in his choice of subject, arrangement and inspiration.

In the words of **Ora-Ora co-founder and CEO, Henrietta Tsui-Leung**, "Xiao Xu is an artist with a reverence for classical technique, whose painting is highly contemporary in theme and subject. As we emerge from the shadow of the

pandemic, *The Resounding Chasm* couldn't be more topical. This is an exhibition which explores a world of darkness and shadow, and yet is anchored in self-knowledge and humanity."

Beset by the strictures of enforced solitude, **the parks of Beijing gave the artist free rein to explore within and without**. The topography he saw before him was as much psychological as it was material. Personal insights and subjective realizations become a guiding light. Roaming in parkland presented unlikely juxtapositions and eerie events, moments which are refracted in Xu's paintings through soap bubbles, and conjured up by the summoning of sika deer and tigers into the murky realm before us. The parks became a framework for a series of pivotal moments of realization and mental insight. Within the park, episodic interior revelations were a constant accompaniment.

Confronted with an unknown future and uncomfortable present, the artist experienced moments of involuntary laughter and levity, an innate self-healing response to an enveloping helplessness. Xu embraced the restorative vigour of humour. In the painting *Day of Rest (2021)*, **Xiao Xu explores the comedy of the unexpected**, riffing on Edouard Manet's *Le déjeuner sur l'herbe* (1863). The arrangement of clouds, tablecloths, flowers and detritus creates a tableau which is an extension of the artist's involuntary laughter. Xu's joke on himself seems indivisible from the joke that the world was playing on us.

In *Follow the Light (2022)*, the artist recalls one afternoon in a Beijing park, in which the sun shone on the lake and reflected golden light before him. The artist found himself transfixed by the shimmering, bejewelled glare, overcome with a feeling that time had stood still. In periods of emotional upheaval, time is a fungible concept. The echoes of the past live on in a way which cannot be explained by mathematical or horological means. *Follow the Light* captures shades of Walter Benjamin's theory of Messianic time and prompts discussion on **the nature of memory**.



Xiao Xu, *Rebirth*, 2019
Ink on paper, 60 x 40 cm

In another work, *Rebirth (2019)*, the artist looks back on his youth, and recalls the trepidation he felt on first contact with **René Magritte's surrealism**. In this work, he borrows characters and characteristics from Magritte's paintings. Hovering between the real and the virtual on the cusp of the pandemic's onslaught, the artist thereby turns his original sense of apprehension into a catalyst for combatting the unknown.

Ora-Ora invites visitors to join the artist's journey, entering a realm of past, present and future. The darkness before us is resonant of the human experience; a world of mystery, fantasy and shared understandings.

END

About Xiao Xu

Xiao Xu was born in Chongqing in 1983. He graduated from Sichuan Fine Arts Institute with a Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in Chinese Painting department in 2007 and 2010. He lives and works in Beijing.

Xiao Xu explores and deconstructs the tradition of Chinese ink painting, writing a poetic mystery that both bonds and merges past and present, reality and fiction. His historic and literary inspirations, combined with his immersion in the visual narrative of art history, film and drama are dyed and woven deep into his output. Magical realism and the spatial aesthetics of drama form a gateway to a world of subdued hues, yet bursting with vivacity and colour. The artist forms a quiet, poetic arena, unexpectedly replete with recessive, dangerous tension. His themes reflect the complicated circumstances, lived experiences and introspective speculations of the diverse array of individuals we meet in society.

The Resounding Chasm is Xiao Xu's first solo show with Ora-Ora since *Streams of Eventide* in 2018. Other solo shows include *Envisioning the Immortal Island* at MOCA Studio Taipei, and he has regularly shown with Ora-Ora at Art Basel Hong Kong.

About Ora-Ora

Ora-Ora began in Hong Kong in 2006 and quickly established itself as a force and catalyst for innovation and openness of expression. Academically rigorous and philosophically-minded, our artists embody a fresh spirit of curiosity and enquiry. By interpreting and re-evaluating established frameworks of thought, they pursue unforeseen perspectives on the world around us. Ora-Ora believes in the power of eschewing boundaries and limitations, and combines an esteem for ancient traditions with a passion for the most contemporary and ground-breaking artistic media. Long recognized for our successful development of Asian creative talent, we have grown to represent artists from Asia, Europe and the US. Restlessly broadening our horizons, we continue to develop alliances and partnerships with institutions worldwide to enable discovery of our artists in new environments.

Dr. Henrietta Tsui-Leung, co-founder of Ora-Ora, is also co-founder of the Hong Kong Art Gallery Association, which has played a lead role in nurturing the diverse and thriving art ecosystem in the city.

The Resounding Chasm

A solo show by Xiao Xu

From 19 January to 5 March, 2023

Ora-Ora, Tai Kwun, Hong Kong

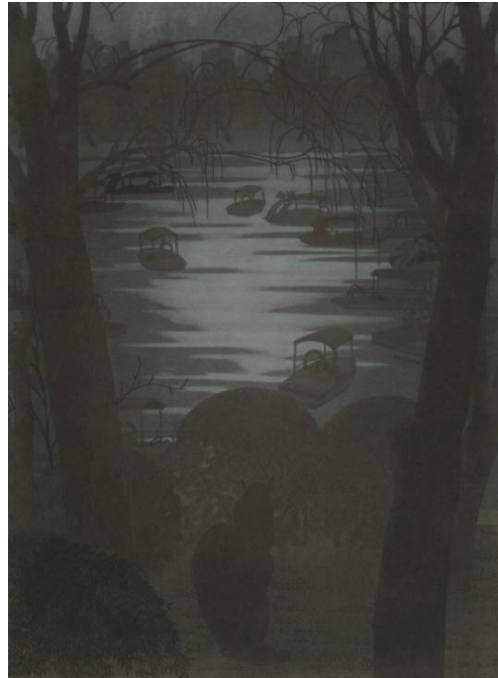
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即時發佈

蕭旭在 Ora-Ora 的個展「隙響」



蕭旭，《踏光》，2022
紙本水墨，54 x 40 cm

2023年1月3日，香港畫廊 Ora-Ora 非常榮幸地宣佈，將邀請藝術家蕭旭舉辦全新個展「隙響」，展示藝術家近期於北京創作的七件新作。在新冠肺炎疫情期間，一些生活插曲促使藝術家對「時間」有了全新的認識。正如展覽題目「隙響」——「隙」指時間的縫隙，即存在於時間河流中不同個體、不同類型時間之中的間隙，而這種間隙可以是靈光閃現的剎那，也可以是無可奈何的悲傷時刻；「響」則是聲響，它可以是主動或被動的表達，也可以是個體在時間間隙中所產生的主見、認知、與感知。

「時間」作為一個可替代的概念，同時也是「光」的延伸。而「光」是可編織的，因為它的一個顯著特徵，就是以秩序或可控制的節奏流動。通過這種方式，我們可以恢復近年來失去的平衡和規律，重新建立我們對時間支配的統治權。

藝術家認為「時間」像是一種短暫但可測量的潮汐。在審視過去、現在和未來之光時，他意識到時間會隨環境的而變慢或變快。他用幽默化和超現實主義的畫面來呈現他的理解，不禁讓人想起清代詩人龔自珍在《乙亥雜詩》中的詩句：「一川星斗爛無數，長天一月墜林梢。」月亮對地球的照射成為了一種例證和隱喻，象徵著常態的中止以及藝術家對超現實主義和可悲謬誤的擁抱。

用 Ora-Ora 首席執行官和聯合創始人梁徐錦熹博士的話來說：「蕭旭是一位對中國傳統工藝充滿敬畏之心的藝術家，他的繪畫作品在主題和內容上都具有鮮明的時代性。當我們走出新冠肺炎疫情的陰影時，『隙響』便是最具話題性的展覽。這是一個立足於自我認識和人性基礎之上，進而探索黑暗和陰影世界的展覽。」

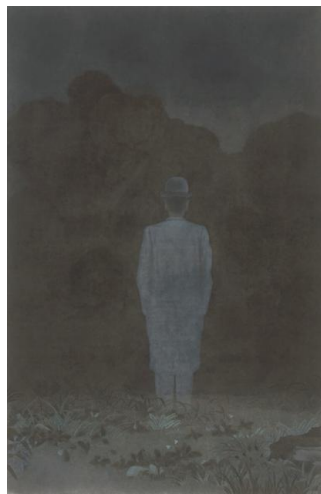
受疫情期間強制隔離的限制，北京的公園卻讓藝術家可以自由探索室內外，公園成為一系列現實與精神世界並置的關鍵時刻的場域，讓藝術家獲得了意想不到的心理感悟和啟發。在公園裡漫步所出現的不太可能的現象和詭異事件，這些瞬間通過肥皂泡折射在蕭旭的畫作中，並通過梅花鹿和老虎的召喚進入我們面前的黑暗

世界。他眼前的地形地貌既是物質層面的，也是心理層面的，個人見解和主觀認識在藝術創作中成為一盞指路明燈。在公園內，不時出現的精神活動也持續伴隨著現實世界的律動。

面對未知的未來和令人不安的當下，藝術家經歷了自娛自樂的時刻，這是對無助感的一種自我修復反應，蕭旭通過這種幽默感逐漸恢復了創作活力。在作品《神的假期》（2021）中，讓人想起愛德華·馬奈（Edouard Manet）的作品《阿爾讓特伊的塞納河岸》（*Le déjeuner sur l'herbe*）（1863）中令人心曠神怡的視覺感受，蕭旭利用隨處可見的事物創構出自己的畫面視野。青草、雜草、野花和其他春天的植物聚集在白色畫面的邊緣，雲彩和空中碎屑隨風飄散，通過畫面觀者能夠想象出藝術家本人無意識的咯咯笑聲。藝術家對自己開的玩笑似乎與上帝對我們開的玩笑如出一轍。

在作品《踏光》（2022）中，藝術家回憶起某天下午在北京的公園裡，陽光照射在湖面上，反射出金色的光芒。他發現自己被那閃閃發光、珠光寶氣的強光所吸引，瞬間感覺時間彷彿靜止。在情緒反復波動的時期，時間是一個可替代的概念。過去的回聲以一種無法用數學或占星學的方法來解釋的方式繼續存在。《踏光》抓住了華特·班雅明（Walter Benjamin）的「彌賽亞時間理論」的影子，並引發了關於記憶本質的討論。

在另一幅作品《重生》（2019）中，藝術家回顧了自己的青春，並回憶起自己第一次接觸雷尼·馬格列特（René Magritte）的超現實主義畫作時所感到的恐懼和不安。在《重生》這件作品中，作者借鑒了馬格里特畫作中的人物和特徵。在新冠肺炎疫情初期，藝術家徘徊在現實和虛擬之間，從而將他最初的恐懼感轉化為對抗未知的催化劑。



蕭旭，《重生》，2019
紙本水墨，60 x 40 cm

蕭旭極具辨識度的標誌性藝術風格贏得了業界的一致好評，在收藏家中也廣受歡迎。他在宣紙上遊戲水墨，採用創新的分層積墨方法，創造出獨特的視覺效果。他是一位能夠駕馭黑暗的藝術家，創造出一條深邃的陰影之路。他打破明暗對比的平衡，取而代之的是柔和的午夜色調——通過先在乾燥的墨水上反復添加墨水顏料，再將畫面創造出豐富的紋理和深沉的意境。蕭旭的繪畫運用了傳統的筆墨技法和紙張原料，在主題、構圖和造型等藝術語言的選擇上，將過去與當代進行戲劇性結合。

Ora-Ora 邀請觀眾加入藝術家的時間旅程，進入一個過去、現在和未來交互的世界。我們面前的黑暗，與人類的發展歷程相似——這是一個充滿神秘、幻想和共鳴的世界。

關於蕭旭

蕭旭 1983 年出生於重慶，他畢業於四川美術學院中國畫系，分別於 2007 年獲得學士學位、2010 年獲得碩士學位。他現在生活和工作在北京。

蕭旭的創作在對中國水墨畫傳統的探索和解構中，深入到歷史和文化的維度，創造出一個模糊歷史與當下、真實與虛構的詩意祕境。來自文學、藝術史、電影和戲劇的靈光點染於畫面之上，魔幻現實主義的敘事方式和戲劇的空間美學將觀者層層引入黑暗的色彩世界，在這個藝術家所構建的謎一般的幽暗而靜謐的時空中，彷彿又充斥著隱性和危機四伏的張力，映射出個體在當下社會的複雜遭際、體驗與思辨。

「隙響」是蕭旭繼 2018 年「潺湮」之後與 Ora-Ora 合作的首次個展。他舉辦的其它個展包括在台北當代藝術館舉辦的「瀛洲排演」，他也定期參與 Ora-Ora 的香港巴塞爾藝術展。

關於 Ora-Ora

Ora-Ora 2006 年於香港成立，並迅速成為推動創新和開放表達的促進者。我們的藝術家不僅具備嚴謹的學術態度和哲學思維，還富於持久的探索精神。藝術家通過闡釋和重新檢視已有的思想框架，力求以非同尋常的視角觀察周遭世界。Ora-Ora 相信跨界的力量，既尊重古老的傳統，又懷有對最當代、最新穎的藝術媒介的熱情。我們長期培養亞洲創意人才，飽受讚譽，並逐漸發展壯大，代理藝術家來自亞洲、歐洲和美國。我們不斷拓寬視野，與世界各地的機構建立聯盟和夥伴關係，將我們的藝術家推廣至全球各地。

梁徐錦熹博士為 Ora-Ora 創始人，也是香港畫廊協會聯合創始人，該協會在培育香港多元繁榮的藝術生態系統方面發揮了主導作用。

「隙響」

蕭旭個展

2023 年 1 月 19 日至 2023 年 3 月 5 日

Ora-Ora, 香港中環荷李活道 10 號大館 3 座 105-107 室

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