



## REN HANG

野生

19.03. – 19.06.2015

**Press Conference: Wednesday, 18 March 2015, 10 am**

Ren Hang is present

**Exhibition Opening: Wednesday, 18 March 2015, 7 pm**

Ren Hang is present

**Provocative and direct. At the same time, aesthetic, humorous and poetic. The photographs of the Chinese artist Ren Hang (b. 1987) fascinate because of their radical imagery. OstLicht. Galerie für Fotografie presents the most comprehensive exhibition of the young shooting star in Europe to date.**

Ren Hang's analogue photographs are about human emotions, relationships and friendships, and also fear and loneliness. Young women and men – mostly friends of the artist – pose naked in vulnerable, occasionally explicit poses. With their gaze often directed straight at the camera, the models always assume an active role. In the portraits, taken in front of monochromatic backdrops, on the roof of high-rise buildings or in natural landscapes, animals such as snakes, birds or cats and flowers appear as props. In twisted poses and unusual arrangements, bodies are an abstract element to Ren Hang. **The naked human body becomes a malleable sculpture and is thus desexualised.** Still, the artist's photographs are always suffused with a subtle humour.

Living and working in Beijing, Ren Hang is influenced by Chinese culture and his immediate environment. His images also constitute **a portrait of his own generation and of China's urban youth culture, longing for individual freedom and spiritual liberty.** They reflect a spontaneous lifestyle which seeks out liberty.

**Hang's intimate photographs directly challenge moral and social taboos in China** by exploring the human body and sexuality, especially homosexuality, which was considered a mental illness in China until 2001.

His experience of regular censorship has influenced his artistic practice and the aesthetic of his photographs. On the one hand, they are carefully censored, yet on the other hand, they are inherently of the moment: a consequence of his – not always voluntarily – quick working method.

**Curated by Raphaele Godin and Rebekka Reuter**

Ren Hang is represented in Austria by OstLicht. Galerie für Fotografie. All photographs are available for purchase in two different formats. Complementing the exhibition, dienacht Publishing will produce an exclusive poster photo book edited by Michael Kollmann and Calin Kruse, as well as a limited special edition of the artist.

### BIOGRAPHY

**Ren Hang** was born in Chang Chung in the Province of Jilin, China, in 1987. He works as a photographer and poet. In 2010 he received the Third Annual Terna Prize for Contemporary Art. Ren Hang's artistic work has been exhibited widely in China and Europe. He has published numerous photo books, most of which are already out of print. He lives and works in Beijing, China.



#### **Publications**

2014 THE BRIGHTEST LIGHT RUNS TOO FAST, Editions Bessard, France  
2014 PHYSICAL BORDERLINE, ThreeShadows +3 Gallery, China  
2013 SON AND BITCH, Neurasthenia, Taiwan 2013 REPUBLIC, Éditions du LIC, Norway  
2013 MY DEPRESSION, self published, China  
2012 NUDE, self published, China  
2011 ROOM, self published, China  
2011 REN HANG 2009-2011, self published, China

#### **Solo exhibitions**

2015 MY MUM, Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong, China  
2014 HIDE, Soy Sauce Factory, Bangkok, Thailand  
2014 REN HANG, Nicolas Hugo Gallery, Paris, France  
2014 ANATOMY OF THE IMAGE 104, Galerie 104 Kléber, Paris, France  
2014 PHYSICAL BORDERLINE, Three shadows +3 Gallery, Beijing, China  
2014 IN ADDITION TO SLEEP, Copenhagen Photo Festival, Copenhagen, Denmark & Vasli Souza Gallery, Malmö, Sweden  
2014 LA CHINE A NUE, NUE Galerie, Paris, France  
2013 PULSE, Galerie Jane Zhang, Frankfurt, Deutschland  
2011 STILLBIRTH, Yugong Yishan Live House, Beijing, China  
2011 ALLERGY, Kubrick, Beijing, China  
2010 INTERCOURSE WITH BEIJING, Yugong Yishan Live House, Beijing, China  
2010 EAT NAKED LUNCH!, YuYinTang Live House, Shanghai, China

#### **Group exhibitions (selection)**

2015 THREE SHADOWS + 3 GALLERY ANNUAL EXHIBITION, Three shadows +3 Gallery, Beijing, China  
2015 FACELESS, De Markten, Brussels, Belgium  
2014 PARIS PHOTO 2014, Grand Palais, Paris, France  
2014 CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY IN CHINA 2009-2014, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China  
2014 NEW FRONTIERS IN CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY, Tryffel Grisen Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden  
2014 ARLES PHOTO FESTIVAL, Le Magasin de Jouets Gallery, Arles, France  
2014 FACELESS, Stichting Mediamatic, Amsterdam, Netherlands 2014 CHINESE SPRING, Stieglitz 19, Antwerpen, Belgium  
2013 TRUE PANIC – PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION, Bowl Island Gallery, Beijing, China 2013 AURA AND POST AURA, 1st Beijing Photo Biennial, China Millennium Monument, Beijing, China  
2013 NETWORK REAL-TIME EXHIBITION, Museum of Contemporary Art Shanghai, Shanghai, China  
2013 ATYPICAL, Gallery Beijing Space, Beijing, China 2013 FUCK OFF 2, Groninger Museum, Netherlands  
2013 A MISCELLANY OF ARTS --- THE VISUAL RHETORIC OF THE YOUNG GENERATION, Jinji Lake Art Museum, Suzhou, China  
2013 REMOTE PLACES, CLOSE SPACES, Street Level Photoworks Gallery, Glasgow, Schottland  
2013 FUCK TABOO, Camera16 Gallery, Mailand, Italy  
2013 EQUAL RELATIONSHIPS, Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong, China  
2012 SECRET LOVE, Oriental Museum, Stockholm, Sweden  
2012 MEMORY LOST AND FOUND, Gallery Beijing Space, Beijing, China  
2012 FÉROCES REN HANG / JORDANE YARDEN GAUDENZI, Avi Niang Silk, France  
2012 ORIGINATE FROM ENERGY RESOURCE, Multimedia Art Museum Moscow, Moscow, Russia  
2012 SYMPTOMS, Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China  
2011 RESTAURANT LIGHT ROOM PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION, J Gallery, Shanghai, China  
2011 SOUR SWEET BITTER SPICY – FOUR PHOTOGRAPHERS' EXHIBITION, Angers, France  
2011 RENCONTRES D'ARLES FESTIVAL -THE VIEWER, Arles, France  
2011 RECURRENT SHADOWS -- Selected Works from Three Shadows Photography Award 2008 -2011, He Xiang Ning Art Museum, Shenzhen, China  
2011 YOUNG MOVEMENT, Tel Aviv, Israel  
2011 THREE SHADOWS PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD EXHIBITION, Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, Beijing, China  
2010 THIRD TERNA CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITION, Rome/Milano, Italy  
2010 WARMTH 2010 -2011 NEW YEAR ART EXHIBITION, Shanghai, China  
2010 NEW PHOTO MAGAZIN KLACK & 7FEI, The Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre, Hong Kong, China  
2010 THIS! THIS IS ME, 789 Festival Young, Beijing, China  
2010 THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL ART CONTEMPORARY FESTIVAL OF CHINA JI ME, Xiamen, China  
2010 INTO THE MOOD, A- Artcenter, Hong Kong, China  
2010 TORA TORA TORA: CHINESE CUTTING-EDGE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION, CaoChangDi, Beijing, China  
2010 SCREENAGE ART DOCUMENT EXHIBITION, Songzhuang Art Museum, Beijing, China  
2009 80'S PEACEFUL EVOLUTION, The Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre, Hong Kong, China  
2009 FEMINITY. PHOTOGRAPHY, Nanjing, China 2009 GENDER DIVISITY, Songzhuang Art Area, Beijing, China



#### **Publication**

##### **REN HANG 野生 POSTER PHOTO BOOK**

Complementing the exhibition, OstLicht Gallery and the independent publisher Calin Kruse of dienacht Publishing from Leipzig present an exclusive poster photo book with an individual design.

In a limited edition of 600 copies, the large-scale publication gathers the photographs on display in a unique book form. Each page can be removed individually and used as a poster.

Edited by Michael Kollmann and Calin Kruse

96 pages, 28 x 40 cm, full colour, 250 GSM paper quality

Price € 49

Available at OstLicht Gallery and in our online Book Shop

#### **Guided tours**

Thursday, 09.04.2015, 5.30 pm

Thursday, 07.05.2015, 5.30 pm

Wednesday, 10.06.2015, 5.30 pm

Tour fee: € 3

Duration: 45 minutes

No registration necessary.

#### **OSTLICHT. GALERIE FÜR FOTOGRAFIE**

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#### **Opening Hours**

Gallery Wed-Sat 12-6 pm and by appointment

Library Wed-Fri 12-6 pm

#### **Directions**

OstLicht Gallery can be reached by public transport: take the U1 to Reumannplatz or the U3 to Enkplatz or the tram line 6 to the stop Absberggasse.

#### **Press Contact**

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