

I AM A MOUNTAIN

KATRIN KORFMANN & JENS PFEIFER

25th October – 22nd November 2014
opening: 25th October 2014 at 17.00 -19.00

In different ways and with diverse media, Dutch/ German artist couple Katrin Korfmann and Jens Pfeifer investigate cultural identities and juxtapose unfamiliar and common ideologies. At Lumen Travo Korfmann and Pfeifer present the results of a three-month residency at the Chinese European Art Centre (CEAC) along with new works as a surprising manifest of how entrenched we are in our own culture.

In Korfmann's new body of work she highlights the visual report between social realism and euphoric utopianism referencing the visual and material facilitation of socially unifying rituals. In various places on earth collective rituals are photographed: events sustained by individual euphoria in which colour, or colourful garments dissolve individuality. This uniformity consists of freely deployed 'closed ranks' and shows a euphoric play. The work presents a painterly, varied flurry of colours but on closer inspection, it reveals a physical, material essence of individuals who blend together into one large organism through their common actions.

Wen ji qi wu is the title of her large-scale photograph (244 x 352 cm). During her residency at CEAC Korfmann devised, designed and carried out a 'fake' ritual which took place during Easter. Korfmann created special costumes and a choreography together with dance students from Xiamen University. The photograph is a result of her made up ritual, merging European tradition of collecting hard-boiled coloured eggs during Easter celebration with a Chinese traditional dance.

Staying close to his ongoing interest in the manner in which cultural identities are commonly expressed through archetypical phenomena of nature found

in local geography, Jens Pfeifer moves out of his personal context admitting to work with iconic images of a dissimilar culture. In his recent work Pfeifer moves towards representation of the iconic, which his work embodies, introducing a new materiality to his oeuvre and emphasizing his most current narrative.

Pfeifer exhibits two installations and several drawings that deal with this manifestation of 'nature in culture'. **Elevated Nation** is a stack of glass tubes in the shape of bamboo, which reaches for the ceiling but is bound to collapse when carried out to its end. His other sculptural work is a series of hammered stainless steel objects. These depict some of China's holy mountains but are titled after Pfeifer's own personal saints, **I-Shan, J-Shan, K-Shan**. At first glance the material he uses holds no association with the context. Pfeifer offers with this contradiction a different perception. What we see is not what we get, the work has it's own rules.

Two recently published artist-books accompany the **I AM A MOUNTAIN** exhibition:

Katrin Korfmann
Ensembles Assembled
published by: Onomatopee
Texts: Gregory Volk,
Freek Lomme and
Nanne op 't Ende
Graphic design:
Studio Adriaan Mellegers
Japanese Binding
116 pages
17,5 x 24 cm/7 x 9,5 inch
2014

Jens Pfeifer
The Night I Shot My Dog
Text: Alice Smits
Graphic Design:
Jens Pfeifer & C Platform
Full colour
92 pages
17,5 x 24,8 cm/7 x 10 inch
stitched binding
imprint on front-cover
2014

LUMEN TRAVO



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