

MoMA PS1

MoMA PS1 PRESENTS EXHIBITION OF ZHANG HUAN AND LI BINYUAN FEATURING PERFORMANCE WORKS THAT EXAMINE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BODY AND LAND IN CONTEMPORARY CHINA

MoMA PS1 presents *Land: Zhang Huan and Li Binyuan*, which brings together a selection of performance works by two Chinese artists of different generations who address the changing relationship between the body and land in contemporary China. Featuring works that mirror cultural shifts in Chinese society from collectivism to individualism, the exhibition juxtaposes videos and photographs of early performances by Zhang Huan (Chinese, b. 1965) alongside documentation of more recent performance works by Li Binyuan (Chinese, b. 1985) to reflect on evolving ideas of ownership, belonging, and alienation. On view through September 3, 2018, the exhibition marks the first museum presentation of Li Binyuan's work in the United States.

In the 1990s, Zhang Huan orchestrated encounters between the body and the landscape in ways both poetic and political. Performers stacked their naked bodies on a mountain to increase its height, or submerged themselves in a pond to raise its water level, suggesting an intimate desire to merge with the land or to be immersed within it. Photographs of these iconic performances are presented here alongside video footage, revealing additional details about the artist's process. After leaving China in 1998, Zhang Huan relocated to New York for much of the following decade. To mark his arrival in the U.S., he staged a seminal performance at MoMA PS1, documentation of which is included in the exhibition.

Li Binyuan's works often consist of sustained physical efforts, such as setting his body against rushing water from a burst roadside dam or repeatedly scaling a bamboo cane. In one of his better-known performances, the artist spent two hours leaping through air and falling into a muddy patch of soil that he inherited following his father's death. Both a work of mourning and a way of marking the legal and generational transfer of property, Li's act of endurance points to the changing value and significance of land in China during recent decades.

Land: Zhang Huan and Li Binyuan is organized by Klaus Biesenbach, Director, MoMA PS1, and Chief Curator at Large, The Museum of Modern Art; with Oliver Shultz, Curatorial Assistant, MoMA PS1.

About Li Binyuan

Li Binyuan was born in Hunan province in 1985 and is currently based in Beijing. He graduated from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in 2011. His work has been the subject of recent solo exhibitions at the Center for Chinese Contemporary Art, Manchester, UK (2015); Gallery Yang, Beijing (2015, 2013); and the Today Art Museum, Beijing (2014). His works have been included in group exhibitions at the Gangwon International Biennale, South Korea (2018); Hubei Museum of Art, Wuhan, China (2017); National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul (2017); Para Site Art Space, Hong Kong (2017); Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai (2016); Power Station of Art, Shanghai (2015, 2014), Tang Contemporary Art Center, Beijing

(2014); Kabuso Art Museum, Bergen, Norway (2013); and the Groninger Museum, Netherlands (2013).

About Zhang Huan

Zhang Huan is one of the most influential Chinese artists of his generation. Born in Anyang City, Henan, in 1965, he graduated from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing in 1993. He continued to live and work in Beijing until 1998, when he emigrated to New York for nearly a decade. In 2007, Zhang returned to China and is presently based in Shanghai. His work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at such institutions as the Palazzo Vecchio, Florence (2013); Art Gallery of Ontario (2012); Rockbund Art Shanghai Art Museum (2010); Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing (2010); White Cube, London (2009); Asia Society, New York (2007); Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (2005); Bochum Museum (2003); and Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto (2001). His work has been included in numerous group exhibitions and resides in major museum collections, including The Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; The Metropolitan Museum of Art; Philadelphia Museum of Art; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Centre Pompidou, Paris; and the Shanghai Art Museum; among others.

Land: Zhang Huan and Li Binyuan is supported by the MoMA PS1 China Initiative, which is made possible by Jerry I. Speyer and Katherine G. Farley. Additional funding is provided by the MoMA PS1 Annual Exhibition Fund.

ABOUT MoMA PS1

MoMA PS1 is devoted to today's most experimental, thought-provoking contemporary art. Founded in 1976 as the P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, it was the first nonprofit arts center in the United States devoted solely to contemporary art and is recognized as a defining force in the alternative space movement. In 2000 The Museum of Modern Art and P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center merged, creating the largest platform for contemporary art in the country and one of the largest in the world. Functioning as a living, active meeting place for the general public, MoMA PS1 is a catalyst for ideas, discourses, and new trends in contemporary art.

Hours: MoMA PS1 is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday. Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Admission: \$10 suggested donation; \$5 for students and senior citizens; free for New York City residents, MoMA members, and MoMA admission ticket holders within 14 days of visit. Free admission as a Gift to New Yorkers made possible by the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation.

Directions: MoMA PS1 is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Ave in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. Traveling by subway, take the E, M, or 7 to Court Sq; or the G to Court Sq or 21 St-Van Alst. By bus, take the Q67 to Jackson and 46th Ave or the B62 to 46th Ave.

Information: For general inquiries, call (718) 784-2084 or visit momaps1.org.

Press Contact: Molly Kurzius, (718) 392-6447 or molly_kurzius@moma.org

General Press Inquiries: press_momaps1@moma.org

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