

For Immediate Release



LEO GALLERY | HONG KONG

EXHIBITION VENUE
SOHO 189
189 Queen's Road West
Sheung Wan
Hong Kong
(Entrance at Wilmer Street)
Sai Ying Pun MTR
Exit A1

OPENING HOURS
11 am - 7 pm
Monday - Saturday
(Public Holidays closed)

Assembling Found Images

A group exhibition exploring the works of Cai Dongdong, Lei Lei and Wang Ningde
Curated by Gu Zheng

Opening Reception: 2019.09.25 (Wednesday) , 6pm – 8pm

Exhibition Duration: 2019.09.25 – 2019.11.07

Venue: Leo Gallery, SOHO 189, 189 Queen's Road West, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong (Entrance at Wilmer Street)

(27 August, 2019) Leo Gallery Hong Kong is delighted to present ***Assembling Found Images***, a group exhibition curated by **Gu Zheng**, one of China's most influential photography theorists, critics and curators, and featuring three award-winning Chinese contemporary artists; **Cai Dongdong, Lei Lei and Wang Ningde**. The exhibition, which explores and challenges perceptions of photography as a medium, will showcase 14 recent and new works, encompassing photo sculpture, collage and video.

Thematically anchored in the artistic practice of working with found objects to explore new possibilities and subvert assumed restrictions around concepts of art production, the exhibition challenges perceptions of photography as a medium. Conceptually inspired by originators Marcel Duchamp and Pablo Picasso the use of *found objects* has evolved into creation methods using the *found image* and *found footage*.

Through the reconstruction of images and the concept of 'the image', as well as the use of found objects, the works exhibited collectively extend the visual scope of photography. In an age of vast image and information overload the three artists in turn utilise or strip away the contexts, pressures and illusions embedded in existing images and objects to reveal new visual interpretations of the image, of history, nostalgia, collective human behaviour and identity.

Wang Ningde's *No Name* series is inspired by Chinese urban management officers who erase the content of 'illicit' and 'inappropriate' graffiti and fly-posting by painting over them. While the content is obscured the trace of a now untold story is still evident. Drawn by the dual power of the paintbrush to narrate and abstract, Ningde captured photographs of this state practice of erasing information to create a new journey of questioning and aesthetics. The artist selects fragments of the photographs using computer software to create a new picture, in doing so he broadens the imaginative space while questioning the processes of image production.

The four exhibited works by **Cai Dongdong** are installations inspired by his old photography collection. In each the meaning of Dongdong's original image is extended or manipulated through the use of found objects, which at the same time transfer the work from a two-dimensional surface to a three-dimensional space.

One of China's leading young artists, **Lei Lei** often uses pre-existing material to create works. The artist's collage *Movement* and *Coming Soon* series which will be shown in *Assembling Found Images* use a photo album originally taken as reference points for painting, and China's official pictorial

propaganda from the cold war as their starting points respectively. The photos which each existed in a specific context with specific meanings are broken into smaller elements and combined into a new image system. As the original meaning is lost, a new meaning is gained and a new horizon for examining the meaning of images is created. *Recycled*, a documentary by Lei Lei and French artist and photography collector Thomas Sauvin will also be presented, showing the process both artists editing and giving new life to the old photographs which Sauvin collected and found in China. The film was selected by the Annecy animation festival and won the Grand Prix shorts - non-narrative at the Holland International Animation Film Festival in 2013.

'By using the 'found image' as the basis for new creation the artists Cai Dongdong, Lei Lei and Wang Ningde subvert the concept of art production. This exhibition brings together their individual approaches to the production of art and celebrates new possibilities for the photographic image.'

Gu Zheng – Exhibition curator

'For over a decade Leo Gallery has supported young and established artists with the ambition of broadening the conversation surrounding contemporary art practices. Assembling Found Images provides a unique insight into the work of three important Chinese artists who are each pushing the boundaries of image creation and the medium of photography.' said **Vincent Chan**, Co-Founder of Leo Gallery.



Cai Dongdong
Smooth Sailing

Gelatin Silver Print, Ancient Pottery V
53 x 53 x 53 cm
2018



Lei Lei
Coming Soon 9

Digital collage of old photography
18 x 14 cm
Edition 5 + 1 AP
2015



Wang Ningde
No.1

Pigment inkjet print on archival acid p
299 x 450 cm
Edition 3 + 1 AP
2015

For high-resolution photos, please visit: <http://gallery.sinclaircomms.com/>

Password: talkofthetown

All images Courtesy of artist and Leo Gallery

About Leo Gallery

Established in 2008, Leo Gallery is respected for being a progressive force in nurturing young and representing established contemporary artists regardless of nationality.

Situated in Ferguson Lane in Shanghai, the diplomatic quarter of Shanghai's former French Concession, Leo Gallery has 2 galleries at 374 and 376 Wu Kang Road. Leo Gallery has expanded its operation to Hong Kong after 6 successful years in Shanghai, which is situated at 189 Queen's Road West, Sheung Wan.

Apart from our recent exhibition programs that promoted Asian and European art, Leo Gallery has also been working on a number of public art projects with commercial and educational entities ranging from various shopping malls like Shanghai Time Square and Crystal Galleria, Ferguson Lane to public and private schools.

Leo Gallery has participated in a number of international art fairs, including Art Basel Hong Kong, Art Stage Singapore, Photo Fairs Shanghai, West Bund Shanghai, Art 021 Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair, Art Shenzhen and Art Beijing, etc.

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