

## Unknown Artists Agency – Wang Xin Solo Show

2018.09.16 – 2018.12.15

Shenyang chi K11 art space

4F K11 Art Mall, Shenyang, China

Producer: Adrian Cheng

Artistic Director: May Xue

Shenyang chi K11 art space is pleased to present Wang Xin' s latest solo exhibition, "Unknown Artists Agency" , from September 16 to December 15, 2018. The exhibition features 12 recent immersive interactive art installations. These works are independent as well as interlocking parts of an organic structure, forming an interesting model of the contemporary art ecosystem. Visitors are invited to explore the reciprocal relationships between individual artists, artistic practices and the public.

Without borrowing from social reality and emotional experiences, Wang Xin' s practice is rooted in the ecosystem that artists actually rely on. Taking the system' s insiders — including gallerists, artists, art agencies, artworks — and the system' s set rules as materials, her installations, videos and new media works challenge the art world' s established framework in playful ways, while addressing philosophical propositions of the value of art and the future in a technologically advanced, environmentally dilapidated anthropocene. As a certified hypnotist, Wang Xin engages into the working of the subconscious and is familiar with creating ambiguous situations to influence people' s perceptions. These experiences are utilised by Wang Xin in her art practice. Two most significant elements throughout her work are the use of pink colour and a ubiquitous use of slogans. Artists often employ symbolic elements and icons to emphasize individualistic characteristics. Wang Xin' s frenetic use of these two elements is no less a reference and a sarcastic retort of such normalcy in the art world. At the same time, the pink haze implies that there is always a relationship between speculation and fantasy projection between the audience and the works of art. These upfront slogans also embody Wang Xin' s questions about the identity of the artist and the operation of the art market.

In this solo show, Wang Xin transforms Shenyang chi K11 art space into an Unknown Artists Agency, and divides it into four areas with distinct functions: **Business Meetings**,

**Virtual Space Capsule, Island** and **Socialising Area**. At the entrance is the area for **Business Meetings**, arranged as a waiting area normally found in a corporate space, welcoming its visitors with an iconic “product” – an artwork in the shape of a gigantic pink Ping-Pong ball – in addition to corporate-looking promotional brochures. Together, this area magnifies the professionalized operations in the current art system. Soon afterwards, visitors are invited to sit on a so-called “space chair” in the **Virtual Space Capsule**, to enter into the artist’ s surreal art world in an immersive VR installation, “Enchanted Art World” .

The central area of the Agency is an **Island** where one has to pass a ticket gate to enter. The audience goes through a passageway with suspended headphones that repeatedly play descriptions of the artworks by different viewers. The island is surrounded by 60,000 pink “art energy balls” , each of which contains an unknown artist’ s information. These small balls are constantly manufactured by the agency’ s “staff” and transported to the ocean of balls via a track next to the agency’ s enormous billboard. In a system controlled by social media and whose scale continues to expand, artists’ growing presence simultaneously takes away their individualities. For Wang Xin, each of these constantly manufactured pink balls represents an artist’ s spiritual energy. A visitor entering the area with a checked ticket and getting an unknown artist’ s contact is to participate in the affirmation of the significance of the artist’ s practice.

In the middle of the island is another VR experience zone. Visitors are requested to put on VR helmets and find Wang Xin’ s past artworks, as if abandoned, scattered in a desolate landscape. This reflects the anxiety related to the issues of artwork production and the problem of sustainability in a time of environmental dilapidation. In addition, there are also multiple interactive installations on the island, offering unknown artists a booth, a live stream studio and a hamster wheel with a screen displaying the scrolling slogan “chicken soup” . As visitors enter, they begin to hypnotise themselves into believing that they can become well-known artists. On the whole, the installations invite visitors to participate in a game, and at the same time, to experience an artist’ s emotional labour during the process of creation, as well as other aspects of the living conditions of an artist. The exhibition ends with a bar where unknown artists are invited to be bartenders, ready to share news and gossip about the art circle with the audience .

## **ABOUT WANG XIN**

Wang Xin was born in Yichang, Hubei, China in 1983. She graduated from China Academy of Art with a BFA in 2007, and has also attained an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2011.

Wang Xin has a penchant for challenging the archaic structure of the art world, as she often takes its institutions, systems, and dogma as her material. Wang Xin is also a certified hypnotist, and uses her work to alter a viewer's perception and affect their subconscious. Her signature use of pink adds to the hypnotising effect, and imbues a sense of ambiguity and fervency within her work. Her body of work takes the form of installations, moving images and new media. Unconsciousness, art world systems, and post humanism are key features in her creations. She incorporates loud language and signs to challenge the status of the artist and the functioning of the art market. Simultaneously, her bold slogans satirize her own position and relation to the art world, while critiquing the art ecosystem at large.

In 2007, Wang Xin was the recipient for the Pierre Huber Creation Prize Award of Excellence.

## **About chi K11 art space Shenyang**

chi K11 art space is a non-profit art space operating out of K11 art malls. Through its rich variety of exhibitions and public programmes, it is committed to promoting art and cultural life in Shenyang, engaging the public through on-going art events. chi K11 art space Shenyang is set to open in 2018, with a total area of over 1,000 square metres, the space aims to offer a continuous schedule of art programmes, and to collaborate with renowned international art institutions and curators to host significant exhibitions. At the same time, it is also dedicated to providing emerging artists with a platform to exhibit their work. Since 2013, the chi K11 art spaces located throughout mainland China have hosted over 100 art exhibitions and more than 500 public programmes that have truly changed people's lives in the realm of arts and culture.

## **About K11**

K11 is the world's first 'museum retail concept,' a revolutionary business model that combines art and commerce, setting a precedent for the global retail industry. Founded by Adrian Cheng in 2009, K11 opened its first space in Hong Kong in December, 2009; then in Shanghai in June, 2013; in Wuhan in November, 2017; and recently in Guangzhou in March, 2018. Since its inauguration K11 has presented a rich slate of exhibitions and events to explore different realms of culture, from art and design to sustainable fashion and technology, bringing art, culture, and the artisanal spirit to the public. K11 has sought to blend art, people, and nature with its unique operating model to bring revolutionary changes to the global retail ecosystem; the unique spatial division into different zones also guarantees its customers a unique shopping experience. K11 has introduced many outstanding international designer brands to its customers through its multiple retail lines, from K11 Design Store and K11 Select to K11 Art Store by Kuriosity, providing local and international designers both online and offline retail platforms to exhibit and sell their original products. More than a retail space, K11 is a cultural milestone that inspires infinite creativity.

Committed to fostering cross-cultural dialogue, K11 will continue to promote the local development of art, and facilitate the communication and exchange between local artists and the public. By 2023, K11 will reach nine Chinese cities, including Beijing, Guangzhou, Ningbo, Shanghai, Shenyang, Shenzhen, Tianjin, Wuhan and Hong Kong, further expanding its leadership role in the industry.

## **Media Inquiries:**

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