

***Floating***

Curated by Anqi (Angie) Nee

Launching Thursday, May 7, 2020 at [macp.sva.edu/floating](http://macp.sva.edu/floating)

Artists: Chongqing Work Institution (Including artists Bao Dachen, Li Linyu, Liu Haonan, Shan Zixi, Wu Jianping, Yan Ran, Yu Guo, Yang Guangying), Furen Dai, Zening Fan, Simi Gu, Ji Min Hwang, Shuting Jiang, May Meng, Yam Chew Oh, Gyu Ho Park, Yingwei Pu, Lane Shi Otayonii, Wei Tao, Sicheng Wang, Hanwen Zhang, and Andong Zheng

MA Curatorial Practice at the School of Visual Arts is pleased to present *Floating*, curated by Angie Nee.

Numerous global mass-migrations have caused people to experience various disordered self-perceptions: the ego and the id, hometown and elsewhere, rebellion and reconciliation, space and body, nostalgia and futurity. Human diasporas help us to understand cultural identity in terms of movement rather than of absolutes. Unstable and changing environments are often stimulating and inspiring for artists, and *Floating* presents paintings, installations, and video works that externalize the complex conditions of abstract psychological states and geographical migration. Like other keywords of our time—*transparency*, *migration*, *instability*, *rootlessness*—*Floating* points to a lack of psychological belonging and the physical and mental states of being that result from that lack.

*Balloon in the City* (2019) explores physical urban space. Wei Tao uses floating balloons as a metaphor for his own floating, revealing the relationship between the body and the space of the city. The video work *Chongqing Drift* (2018) constructs a complex collective memory of the city through the narration of artists. Andong Zheng's practice puts forward the paradox of Chinese-American identity construction and the inevitable contradiction between diversity and assimilation.

Nomadic life involves renouncing so much. *Where We Came From?* (2020) and *Floating on Detritus: a Karung Guni Story* (2019) focus on objects—the emotions they elicit and information they carry. Ji Min Hwang's paintings and Sicheng Wang's artworks deal with the aesthetics of nostalgia. Furen Dai and May Meng's narrative techniques pay close attention to the global diaspora in New York. GyuHo Park's *New York Guide* (2019-ongoing) focuses on the common problems of Mexican immigrants living in New York. Various public themes in human history have been unveiled under the surface of Pu Yingwei's personal narrative.

The word “floating” can suggest contingency, change, and instability. In East Asian culture, the term describes people who leave their hometown to live elsewhere in uncertain circumstances, drifting as if floating on water—everything becomes flexible, changeable, and transient. The exhibition *Floating* takes the works and related practices of Asian diasporic artists to explore

how people and their environment shape each other mutually. Asia and America comprise the two ends of the exhibition's geography. Geography here is understood as a repository where human emotions, memories, genetics, and dimensions of cognition can be mapped. The exhibition divides the experience of floating into sections: Diaspora, Nomadism, Nostos, and Cosmopolitanism: four clues forming a floating atlas the audience can use to create new orientations.

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#### ABOUT MA CURATORIAL PRACTICE, THE SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS, NEW YORK

The Master of Arts degree in Curatorial Practice at the School of Visual Arts is a two-year program that focuses on intensive professional training, with a thorough grounding in the study of art and exhibition history, research, and theory. Students work with leading experts in an academic setting and in internships around the world, providing continuous opportunities to gain practical experience, acquire intellectual breadth, and develop a professional network in the field. The program takes full advantage of the vast number of arts institutions in New York City and the professionals working here and visiting, who constitute our distinguished faculty and weekly guest speakers. Go to [macp.sva.edu](http://macp.sva.edu) to find out more.