

MIAO XIAOCHUN

Restart, 2008-2010

3D animation, 14 min 22 sec

Born in 1964 in Wuxi, Jiangsu, China lives and works in Beijing, China
Miao Xiaochun graduated from the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA), Beijing, China and the Kunsthochschule Kassel, Germany. He is presently a professor at CAFA and one of the leading digital artists in China. While studying in Europe he familiarised himself with western art history and motifs from famous classic paintings are often animated in his videos. Miao Xiaochun is considered one of the most representative and influential artists in the domain of China's new media art. He started in 90s his creative explorations on the interface between the real and the virtual. His extensive body of work includes photography, painting and 3D computer animation which are parallel to each other. He works in contemporary photography based on the "multiple view point" perspective to pioneer connections between history and the modern world. Miao Xiaochun successfully uses 3D technology to create upon a 2D image a virtual 3D scene, to transform a still canvas into moving images, concurrently changing the traditional way of viewing paintings and giving a completely new interpretation and significance to a masterpiece of art, especially with the striking use of his idiosyncratic imagination about history and the future. His works add an important example to contemporary negotiations with art history, and open up new potential for art as he experiments with new possibilities, taking a step forward into new potential spheres.

RESTART, 2008-2010

The apocalyptic 3D video *Restart, 2008-10*, begins with an animation of Pieter Breughel's *The Triumph of Death* (c. 1562). Here one famous Western masterpiece morphs into another and classical civilisation crumbles into modern chaos. As the video continues, images of the present begin to take hold, some reflecting China's recent economic growth and technological prowess. yet no triumphalism is intended in what after all is a continuing cycle. In Xiaochun's works the naked homogeneity of seemingly oriental CG figures based on the artist's body, dead or alive, represent everyman his joys and horrors as well as the endless struggles between life, love and death. [DAVID ELLIOTT]

RESTART, realized between 2008 and 2010, puts forward a series of decisively new approaches. Aspects of the clash of civilizations, the entanglement of our technologies in the forms of our desire, the role of cultural - and intercultural - memory in commerce with our contemporary situation intersect in a medial attentiveness that lays before us the ambivalence, the seduction, and the disquiet in the experience of the virtual 3-D space and the - transbiomorphic - animation in a completely new manner. Let's be clear from the start: RESTART is frightfully beautiful, unsettling, and enticing all at once, and it thereby hits a nerve with our contemporary desires and fears(...)The canon of European classical art history is supplemented by the icons of progress of China's cutting-edge technological and urban modernization. In toto, it is a mighty undertaking and it is amazing how effortlessly the most varied objects of artistic, architectural, and design reference are combined in the almost 14-minute 3-D animation. [EXTRACT FROM DOUBLE INTERFACE - MIAO XIAOCHUN'S RESTART BY URSULA PANHANS-BÜHLER]

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2013** *Republic of China Pavillion*, 54th International Art Exhibition, Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
- 2011** *The Global Contemporary. Art Worlds after 1989*, ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany
Future Pass from Asia to the World, 54th International Art Exhibition, Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
New Horizon - Contemporary Chinese Art, National Museum of Australia, Canberra, Australia
4th Guangzhou Triennial, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
- 2010** *Mediators*, National Museum in Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland
Negotiations - The Second Today's Documents, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China
Made in Korea, China and Japan (Made in Pop Land), National Museum of Contemporary Art, Korea, Gwacheon, Korea
- 2009** *Beijing Time (La hora de China)*, Matadero Madrid, Madrid, Spain;
Santiago de Compostela Museum, Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Guangzhou Photo Biennial, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China