

Edouard Malingue Gallery

馬凌畫廊

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≡ [edouardmalingue.com](http://edouardmalingue.com)

Galleries Section

Booth 3C09

Cho Yong-Ik

Laurent Grasso

Eric Baudart

Su-Mei Tse

Fabien Mérelle

Encounters Section

Wang Wei

Hong Kong Exhibition

Su-Mei Tse

'Elegy'

20 March - 13 May 2017

Shanghai Exhibition

Eric Baudart

'Choo Choo Mama...'

18 March - 28 May 2017

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Dates: March 20 - 25, 2017

Encounters Section: 1E04

Wang Wei 'Slipping Mural 2' (2017)

Edouard Malingue Gallery is pleased to be participating in the Encounters section of Art Basel Hong Kong, presenting a floor-based installation by Chinese conceptual artist Wang Wei (b. 1972). 'Slipping Mural 2' (2017) follows from Wang Wei's interest in creating immersive settings that are not so much artworks but rather vehicles for situating artifice in the context of life. As such, Wang Wei actively appropriates existing spaces and visual elements, which he then enlarges and adapts according to the exhibition setting. Through this intrinsic process of engagement and decontextualisation, he questions the veracity of natural forms before fresh eyes and constructs windows for investigating new layers of meaning.

'Slipping Mural 2' in particular is based on an earlier sculpture installed at the Red Brick Art Museum in Beijing (2016). Set around the base of a pillar standing in the Art Basel Hong Kong exhibition hall rather than falling off a wall, the mosaic tile platform illustrates an idyllic beach, framed by a palm tree, distant ocean, pink sunset, fluffy clouds and bird flying into the distance. Viewed in this flat, base-like manner, Wang Wei aims to return nature to its most basic form and to reflect upon the nature of 'reality'.

Indeed, a direct link can be made between 'Slipping Mural 2' and Wang Wei's running 'Natural History' series, which began in 2009 and addresses our relationship with manmade visions of nature. Commenting on artificial environments, Wang Wei extracted backdrops from the cages at Beijing zoo, which presented fictitious landscapes for the held animals, which they were seemingly meant to consider as reality. Reproduced in exhibition spaces, they deliberately defy their original purpose and present their contradiction of actual reality,

'Slipping Mural 2' ultimately follows from this consideration of zoo interiors; the natural comfort they are supposed to bring yet ultimately not. Additionally, Wang Wei adds a further layer of thought by challenging how such artificial reality may be thought of in the context of an art fair where all is open for observation from the works to the artists and the visitors.

Wang Wei's work has been exhibited in numerous important exhibitions including: A Beautiful Disorder, Cass Sculpture Foundation, West Sussex, UK (2016); 12th Chinese Pavilion, International Architecture Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, Italy (2010); Shenzhen Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism, Shenzhen, China (2009); The Real Thing: Contemporary Art From China, Tate Liverpool, UK (2007); Foreign Objects, Kunsthalle Wien Project Space, Vienna, Austria (2007); Beyond: The Second Guangzhou Triennial, Guangdong Museum of Art, (2005); A Second Sight, International Biennale of Contemporary Art, National Gallery in Prague, Czech Republic, (2005); Between Past and Future: New Photography and Video from China, International Center of Photography, New York (2004); The First Guangzhou Triennial, Guangdong Museum of Art, China, (2002).

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Edouard Malingue Gallery was founded in Hong Kong in 2010 to build a critical dialogue between Asian and international contemporary artists, both emerging and established, who combine aesthetic concern with conceptual enquiry, and work across different disciplines from video and installation to painting and sound. In 2016 the gallery opened a second space in Shanghai, creating a wider platform of exchange for its roster of artists. In addition to presenting dynamic solo exhibitions, the gallery pushes the boundaries of art in public spaces and stimulates artistic discourse through collaborations with curators worldwide.



Wang Wei, 'Slipping Mural II', 2017  
Mosaic Tiles