

Edouard Malingue Gallery

馬凌畫廊

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Listen | Wang Wei

Venue

St Saviour's, Aberdeen Park,
N5 2AR, London, UK

Opening

26 September | 6 - 8 PM

Date

27 September – 3 November 2019

Opening hours

Mon - Sat, 10 - 6PM
or by appointment

Panel Discussion

8 October | 6 - 8PM

All Enquiries

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Edouard Malingue Gallery (Hong Kong/Shanghai) is thrilled to announce the opening of a temporary project space in London that aims to create thoughtful dialogue across geographies and mediums.

Situated in a grade 1 listed building in Islington, the space will open with the performative installation 'Listen' by conceptual artist Wang Wei (b. 1972, China). First staged in Beijing in 2006 at Marella Gallery, the project addresses moments of quiet exchange, the act of seeing and listening, and how this can extend to voyeurism rather than connection. Nestled in St Saviour's Studios, which has a 30-year history of providing studio spaces for artists, the project space sits as a complementary area for mutual exchange and will be accompanied by an active public programme bringing together curators, academics and audiences.

Building a connection with the environment and context, 'Listen' is emblematic of Wang Wei's concern with the principle tenets of space, viewer interaction and sensory perception. Part of the artistic and curatorial 'Post-Sense Sensibility' movement in the late 1990s early 2000s, Wang Wei and the group had a tendency of organising underground exhibitions, at times unrehearsed, which brought his work into the realm of performance. 'Listen', in particular, involves a large frosted rectangular glass box in which a person stands, eavesdropping at regular intervals on the visitors. Lit from within, the person's silhouette outlines through the glass, making them, in turn and instead, the subject of attention.

Ultimately, 'Listen' is not so much conceived as an artwork but rather a vehicle for identifying artifice in the context of everyday life. Through the focus on exchange, interaction and visibility, the viewer is prompted to reflect on effective communication and connection. Furthermore, it encourages a quiet yet sensitive sense of awareness - a mode that extends beyond this installation to the rest of the project series and more widely our daily ongoings.

With thanks to Steven Albutt, Andy Wicks, Benjamin Allen, Ying Tan, Dr. Wenny Teo, Dr. Nixi Cura and Dr. Kate McMillan and all performers and team. Space design Benjamin Allen, EBBA Architects. Accompanying curatorial text Ying Tan.

About Wang Wei

Wang Wei's work has been exhibited in numerous important exhibitions including: 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).

About Edouard Malingue Gallery

Founded in 2010, Edouard Malingue Gallery aims to build critical dialogue between Asian and international contemporary artists who combine aesthetic concern with conceptual enquiry, working across different disciplines from video and installation to painting and sound. In addition to presenting dynamic solo and group exhibitions, the gallery pushes the boundaries of art in public spaces and stimulates artistic discourse through collaborations with curators and institutions worldwide.

About St Saviour's

Completed in 1866 to a design by William White, St Saviour's Church echoes the contemporary Oxford movement and Pre-Raphaelites. Its proportions, brick adornment and tile motifs are reminiscent of Keble College, Oxford. John Betjeman, the poet, has recalled how he worshipped at the church as a boy with his family, who lived in nearby Highbury New Park. In 1988 it became the home of the Florence Trust, a charity established by the English artist Patrick Hamilton to provide a peaceful space for artists to develop their work. Today, it is home to St. Saviour's and holds ten artists studios.

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Details of accompanying public programme:

October 8, 6-8PM

Panel Discussion with Joseph Constable (Serpentine), Ying Tan (British Council), En Liang Khong (Frieze), Dr. Wenny Teo (Courtauld).