

GALLERY 4 5 6

456 Broadway 3rd Floor
New York NY 10013
Tel: 212 431-9740
Fax: 212 431-9789

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Contact: Sean Chen, Curator

Phone: 212.431.9740\Fax: 212.431.9789

Email: shiehwen@yahoo.com

Yu Zhang and Yi Chen - Refiguration

October 24 to November 26, 2003

Gallery 456, SoHo

456 Broadway, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10013

www.gallery456.org

Tel: 212.431.9740

Opening Reception: Friday, October 24, 2003, 6 - 8 pm

Gallery 456 is proud to present a two-person exhibition, ***Yu Zhang and Yi Chen - Refiguration***, revolving around the complex issue of existence in a global era, that is, how globalization and modernization have influenced our everyday life and transformed our consciousness of identity.

Yu Zhang and Yi Chen were both born in China and came to the United States in their 20's and 30's. Yu Zhang's work revolves around photography. The images of her paintings are derived from pictures taken by herself -- an observation of New York city life by a newcomer. For instance, one of her series of oil paintings -- depicting people who wear swimsuit-like outfits and suntan on the grass in Central Park -- are modifications of her photos to oil paintings. These paintings reveal her observation of cultural differences resulting in varied codes of behavior and life styles. She has also published a collection of photos recording her life when she first came to New York from China. With the eyes of an immigrating artists and then of a resident in New York City, she portrays her desires, her curiosity, and her own parody of people's everyday life in New York. Likewise, in her Wedding Photo series taken in China, Yu Zhang uses her staged wedding pictures at Tiananman Square to explore the correlation between clothing, rituals, and the commercialization of culture.

Like Yu Zhang, Yi Chen also explores consciousness of identity through the modification of photography and print materials. Yi Chen's paintings are based on snap shot photos and media images; he presents his observation and rumination of people living in the digital age. Globalization has swept the world with unprecedented speed with the aid of the advancement of digital technology. In the eyes of a young man brought up in Communist China, the drastically changing urban environment and people's everyday life in China testify the power of globalization. His earlier series of oil paintings integrate Chinese landscape painting and the homogenous and faceless images of a young generation in Asia. Chen's recent works are collages composed of facial features cut from printed media. The work demonstrate the essence of performance in our everyday life including political and commercial fields.

The exhibit will be shown at Gallery 456, located at 456 Broadway, 3rd. Floor, New York City, (two blocks north of Canal St., between Howard and Grand Street) Monday through Friday 12 to 5pm, from October 24 through November 26, 2003.