

EXHIBITIONS

Evelyn Taocheng Wang "Spreading Elegance" at FRAC Champagne- Ardenne, Reims

"Spreading Elegance", the first monographic exhibition of Chinese-Dutch artist Evelyn Taocheng Wang in France, will be held at the FRAC Champagne-Ardenne.

With references to both social networks and great literature, Evelyn Taocheng Wang questions the notion of identity as a moving concept, intrinsically linked to space and time. Although Evelyn Taocheng Wang's work is made up of contradictions,—between its use of traditional and modern techniques, individual narrative and collective memory, and in its fusion of Eastern and Western references,—it nevertheless sketches the contours of a slightly less binary reality which participate in the free flow of imagination.

"Spreading Elegance"¹ is a new and ambitious installation that questions body representation and social images. In it, Evelyn Taocheng Wang uses her own clothes to dress her friends, making them the models of an imaginary fashion show. Excerpts from their epistolary exchanges find their way into rice-paper drawings by the artist, where she disconcertingly mirrors the writing of the authors.

Especially designed for the FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, this new show also features three works by Franco-Japanese painter



Léonard Foujita (1886-1968), an icon of modernity and closely linked to the city of Reims. This is an encounter of sorts between two artists who in their respective work freely explore the classical representations of male and female bodies in Western art. Elegance, like confusion, spreads.

The exhibition also allows visitors to discover Evelyn Taocheng Wang's video work through three recent films that showcase the body, clothing and architecture. In *Dusk*, acquired in 2018 by the FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Evelyn Taocheng Wang revisits the atmosphere and composition of classical Dutch painting.

The films *Three Versions of Change* and *Hospital Conversation*—in direct resonance with the history of the FRAC building, a former Jesuit college used as a hospital for almost two centuries—present anonymous bodies, transformed by the process of pain and healing.

The serie of performance *Idle Chatter* was part of performative project based on conceptual artist Ulises Carrión's society of "Doing gossip and manners", this project was launch by Amsterdam based intellectuals, historian, writer Arnisa Zeqo in space Rongwong in 2013. This performance focus on play with language, understanding of translation, imagery communications and daily talking among people in a social context. It was presented by artist Evelyn Taocheng Wang in many city-tour(s) including Amsterdam, Haarlem, Rome, Kassel (Kassel Documental 14th), and now is going to have our first trip in Reims in 2020 February.

[1] The second chapter of the Four Season of Women Tragedy project, initiated by the Fons Welters Gallery, Amsterdam, 2017.

At FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Reims auntil 23 February 2020



Evelyn Taocheng Wang "Spreading Elegance" at FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Reims, 2019-2020
Photo: Martin Agyroglou