

99 Days of China

Gao Yuan

haphazard is pleased to present to you a solo exhibition of new works by the China-based artist **Gao Yuan**. Reception for the artist will held September 24th 6 - 9:00 pm.



在中國的九十九天

高遠

99 Days of China

Gao Yuan

September 24 - October 22, 2016

Opening Reception:

Saturday, September 24, 2016, 6 - 9 pm

From the slogan "A Hundred Flowers Bloom, Let a Hundred Schools of Thought Contend" in 1956, to the Four Modernizations" in 1975 and to the "The Eight Honors and the Eight Shames" in 2006, Chinese culture has had a penchant for pairing numeration with big concepts. In this spirit, haphazard proudly presents "**99 Days of China**," by artist **Gao Yuan**, a diaristic collection of daily ink paintings addressing the social, economic and cultural tensions of China today.

When the Cultural Revolution ended and China opened its doors to the west in the late 1970's, a flood of different artistic styles entered. This marked the beginning of a new Chinese art, one identified by the increasing influence of western sources. From then till now, China contemporary art has oscillated between varieties of tradition and avant-garde on the one hand and between idealism or cynicism toward China's official ideology on the other. **Gao Yuan's "99 Days of China"** participates in this discourse and extends it further. Through satire, humor, and fantasy, "**99 days**" situates present-day China and its citizens in what is their new psychological landscape in modernization. The year is 2015. And for the many Chinese living in big cities, gone are the days of hunger and hardship; and in comes progress and with it the tumultuous and boiling consequences of a new era. From the outcry to limit "weird" architecture to the reality TV show "bling" dynasty, a new culture-war rages, setting private desires and expectations fueled by an ever-expanding capitalism against the collective pull of traditional Chinese values.

Progress continues to bulldoze the past, many urban Chinese find themselves credulous in this new land of follies. Feeling under threat from China as it does, there is no shortage of criticism coming from the west, sometimes expressed in headlines mocking the vulgar "tuhao," which loosely translates to "nouveau riche," who function as a convenient sign of moral decline. By contrast, "**99 Days**" offers stories of ordinary individuals struggling in these new settings where values collide. In this they are perhaps like Mo Yan's novels of social observation or the wicked satires of Lu Xun before that. Each a unique tale, these images depict the commoners face to face with the new China. **Gao's** pictures, using a visual vocabulary and painting sensibility that is undeniably Chinese, are disastrous and hideous rendering of mankind. The apparent lack of subtlety in this artist's condemnations and parodies may trouble some viewers, for the protagonists in these hyperbolic scenes exhibit little sense of remorse or embarrassment. Here however, outrage trumps subtlety, winning humor in the bargain.

haphazard

1543 Sawtelle Boulevard, West Los Angeles, CA 90025
hello@haphazard.co 213.610.4110 www.haphazard.co

Gao Yuan
"this is my task", 2015
ink on 8"x 10" paper



who are you



smile kidnap



quiet alive

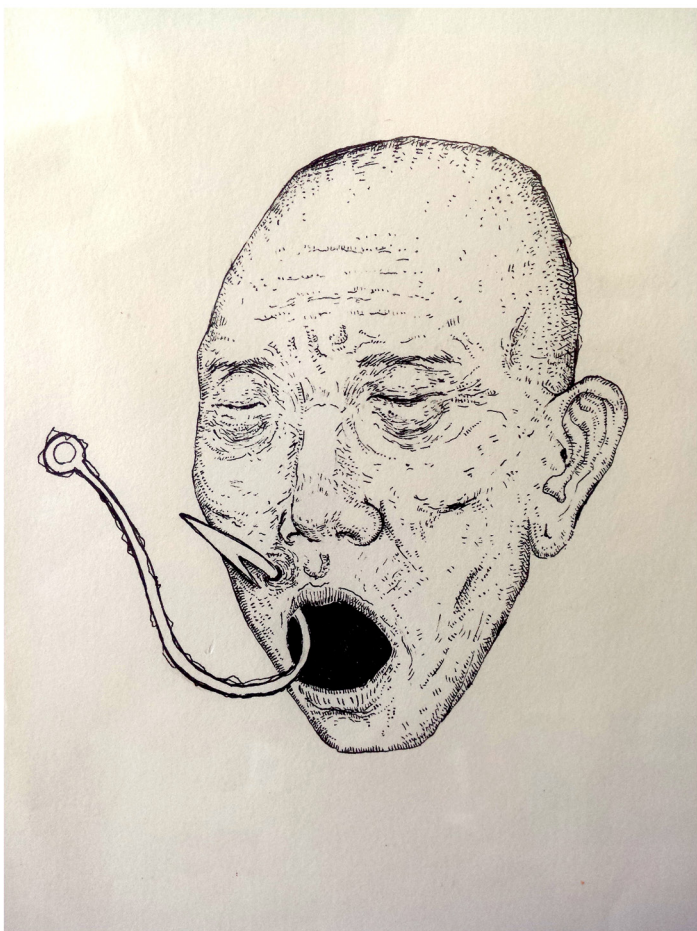
99 days of China,
Gao Yuan



shut up and make a fortune



hey! kid.



fish



elsewhere scenery



cate



dummy and cheater

Born in Liaocheng city of Shandong Province, People's Republic of China in 1990, **Gao Yuan** graduated from the animation department, SiChuan University of Media and Communications. Having received a former Soviet Union style fine art education while learning from his grandfather traditional Chinese calligraphy and ink painting, Lao picked up ink and brushes and begun to make daily sketches as meditative reflections of everyday life in China.

".....I did not deliberately perceive or think about issues like human nature, social problems, and surrounding histories; but back then I continued to paint on paper randomly every day. I was just a normal employee who lives in a small city in northern China where I grew up, and working for the government in a position that has nothing to do with painting.

As is known to all, China's network is closed. In China, Google, YouTube, Twitter and Facebook and other websites alike are not accessible. It took me a very long period of time, but driven by curiosity, I got in touch with better contemporary art, and saw the country from a third-party angle... More contradictions came along. I continued to show them on paper while considering them. For a long time, I have been examining these flood-like realistic problems from the perspective of an ordinary citizen. Some of the problems affect me on the spot and make me think deeply, from politics to human nature, from what I knew before to what I don't know,I have so many words that I want to say,so many words that I need to say.

..... I used traditional Chinese paints and brushes.the formal art education I received did not involve the field of Chinese painting, this form of painting was learnt when I painted as a child. I have been doing it even today. Most traditional Chinese painting artists today put too much stress on the delicacy of the work, it inherits "the essence" of traditional Chinese painting over two thousand years. But the real issues are hidden profoundly, and even become invisible. And somethings cannot be reflected by "beauty" and "hiding" alone. Incisions are always needed. Therefore, I bring warnings of the invisible dangerous goods around to this world."

Gao Yuan, 2015

haphazard

1543 Sawtelle Boulevard, West Los Angeles, CA 90025
hello@haphazard.co 213.610.4110 www.haphazard.co