



## **island6 @ SCOPE NY 2016**

Following on the heels of an incredible showing in SCOPE Miami, the collective displays its work in SCOPE New York, ushering in an art-filled spring on March 3-6. The fair venue is the Metropolitan West Pavilion on 46<sup>th</sup> street, right in the heart of downtown Manhattan. Just a stones throw away from Times Square, and situated across from the Armory show, SCOPE New York continues their ongoing mission of highlighting emerging and established talents from all corners of the globe. Amid a group of 60+ galleries, island6 presents an eclectic, special series of works made exclusively for the fair.

During art fairs (and even in our gallery spaces in general) there are a lot of people who encounter Liu Dao artwork for the first time. Maybe they heard about it from a friend or saw an image online. Quite often though, it is *totally new*. When this is the case, most visitors have flurry of questions. These begin with the standard *who, how, why* trio of artistic inquiry. There's plenty of that information readily available on our website, Wiki, Google, *whatever*. To give a more inside gist of things though- Liu Dao (the Chinese translation for *island6*) is a collective comprised of about fifteen people (some occasionally come and go as artists so often do). Members of this group are mostly Chinese but there have also been plenty of western painters, curators, art directors and technicians.

The group was founded in 2006 and has spent the years since artistically contemplating the clashes between traditional and contemporary culture: the good, the bad and the outright hilarious. That last part is one of the aspects we believe has allowed us to stand out, garnering international recognition and critical acclaim. There's plenty of room in the world for dark, serious and stark artistic work, even some of our pieces could fall into that realm. Most of what we make however, is soft, light-hearted, and romantically optimistic about our world, our era and the people that surround us.

If you're one of *those* people though, and looking for some darker humor, look no further than most of the blurbs that accompany the artworks. These are the short texts that compliment each piece as something akin to the artwork's *voice*. They are, if you'll excuse a cliché analogy, the yin to the artworks yang (or maybe it's the other way around?). These texts are the often gritty, occasionally morose side to the work's overall concept. If the visual artwork is your coddling mother, think of the blurb as your dad telling you to go get a real job. Maybe neither has the ideal advice but together they might offer a richer version of the truth.

"I'm a Hack" for example, shows a cheery lumberjack chopping away at a towering and bare winter tree. On its face it is just that simple, but the blurb offers viewers another side. It suggests some physical manifestation of feeling like a fraud: embarrassingly undeserving and incapable. It's about that anxious pursuit of feeling worthy and adequate when all evidence suggests you very likely *art not*. "Pug Luck" is, well, a pug looking at the viewer. The humor of the piece lies mostly behind the fact that pugs always look funny. The blurb however, offers a bit about the torrid true history of the pug breed, from their origins as the privileged pets of China's former empress (and once imperial concubine) Cixi.



This *dark blurb* thing isn't a rule though, sometimes the dynamic is turned on its head and an overtly pessimistic visual artwork is made lighter with the accompanying text. "Picture Perfect" and "Our Brave Discovery" are examples. The former shows a woman snapping photographs of a smoggy Shanghai skyline. The text focuses on the importance of setting goals and being relentless in their pursuit. "Our Brave Discovery" shows cleaning ladies wiping off the windows inside a skull. No doubt it looks sinister, but what the artists really wanted to convey was the sense that each person possesses their own reality unique to them, whether it be right, wrong, happy, sad or strange.

There are plenty of other Liu Dao artworks with a multitude of messages, themes, concepts and undertones. While this is meant to explain a bit about that, it is ultimately up to a viewer to ascribe what that piece means to them. If it is indeed true that every person has their own reality, then each artwork too must have endless versions of itself, all waiting to be discovered, adored, and given life... perhaps by you. Thanks for adding another version.

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**Dates:** From March 3<sup>rd</sup> to March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Curation:** Ryan Nimmo (for Booth D23)

**Art Direction:** Thomas Charvériat (for Booth D23)

**Research:** Jackson McHugh, Leven Smith

**Artistic Research:** Jin Yun 金云, Tang Dashi 汤大师 & He Dashi 贺大师

**Coordination:** Yeung Sin Ching

**Venue:** Metropolitan West Pavilion, Booth D23, 639 W 46th St, NY

**Artist:** island6 Arts Collective and many more

**Link:** [http://island6.org/ScopeNewYork2016\\_info.html](http://island6.org/ScopeNewYork2016_info.html)