



歡迎光臨

姚瑞中的人間天堂



放

眼台灣當代藝壇，擁有藝術家、策展人、藝評人、藝術空間負責人與教師等多重身份，姚瑞中豐沛的創作能量無疑是其中佼佼。早從國立藝術學院（國立台北藝術大學前身）在校期間就極為活躍，與友人籌組涵蓋藝術、戲劇、電影、舞蹈等的跨領域團體「天打那實驗體」，同時創辦登山社，登臨台灣三千公尺以上之百岳不知凡幾，也促使他以仍滿佈迷霧的台灣歷史與政經社會發展急遽變化下所遺留、生成的種種奇特景象，對照人們忽視與漠不關心的荒謬情境作為創作的核心所在。

姚瑞中從 1992 年榮獲第一屆「台北國際攝影新人獎」後踏入藝壇，並曾代表參加 1997 年威尼斯雙年展台灣館，國際大小展覽豐富，還曾經有一年超過五十檔展覽參展的紀錄，讓人佩服其旺盛的精力與企圖心。其作品廣被台北市立美術館、高雄市立美術館、國立台灣美術館、澳洲昆士蘭美術館、美國康乃爾大學美術館、法國國家圖書館以及許多國內、外私人單位收藏，偶爾有作品出現在拍賣市場上，普遍也都有不錯表現。

像是中誠拍賣「亞洲現代與當代藝術」在 2016 年秋拍推出姚瑞中《天堂變》一作，此件完成於 2001 年的大型攝影裝置作品集結了數十件其在台灣各地所拍攝收集的影像，內容無一不是充滿超現實況味的空間，在貼上金箔後更強烈地展現了台灣人文與地景之間某種精神斷裂的荒謬感，如同姚瑞中對這樣作品的描述：「作為靈



姚瑞中《天堂變》。Yao's Heaven

## Yao Jui-chung's Paradise on Earth

Text by 張禮豪 · Photo from 張禮豪





姚瑞中《漁隱圖》。Yao's Mermaid

魂逃避現實的短暫住所，人性讓位給潛藏的慾念，無論是頹敗的樂園、廢棄的神偶或張狂的怪獸，都指向一處處無人跡的疏離境界。影像不再只是影像，它全面的滲透到各個創作領域中，互為所用的開展新的語法及世界觀；而這只是個起點，新的天堂在那裡等著你，雖然我們從沒見過真正的天堂。」堪稱其創作生涯當中，頗具代表性的一件，以預估價的新台幣 240 萬成交，在景氣相對較為低迷的情況下，展現了抗壓能力。

除了攝影，姚瑞中在 2007 年獲「格蘭菲迪駐村計畫」邀請，前往蘇格蘭地區，在別具特色的自然風光圍繞下，讓他發展出單純以紙筆描繪出揉合了個人經驗與記憶，以及中國山水繪畫傳統的當代變奏，使得敘事既古且新、既近且遠地穿插遊走在虛實之間，生命的痕跡也隨著繞轉的線條筆觸而顯得益發清晰。例如目前仍在內湖耿畫廊展出的「週休八日」一展，即是其在步入中年、身為人父之後，眼見小孩日漸長大，而自己整個生活重心與節奏也隨著改變，透過創作表達個人心情的慰藉，較之此前所作，更增添不少逗人童趣。

其中，與展覽同名的《週休八日》一作以尺幅巨大的長卷形式，寫繪了姚瑞中在婚前的藝壇交友錄，不管是相約在溫泉裸裡相見、癡狂高歌，或是一起編寫《在台北生存的一百個理由》到走訪各地廢墟拍照的戰友，乃至於每逢佳節即群聚在一塊

打麻將的藝術圈友人們，都成為畫中所強調的自由精神的具體象徵，似乎也有舊日蘭亭雅集的影子。「寶寶」系列的幾件作品則將小孩熟悉的諸多卡通人物轉化為畫作框景，在其中填入山川鄉野景緻，藉由真實與幻夢之間的明顯反差，流露出浪漫純真的想像。確實，人生苦短，唯情至真，只要你我願意，都能來到姚瑞中的人間天堂，莞爾一笑。■

Looking at Taiwan's contemporary art arena, Yao Jui-chung, with great energy and passion in his creations, is undoubtedly one of the most exciting artists today, and fills this role with multiple identities – an artist, curator, critic and art teacher. While studying at the National Institute of the Arts, the predecessor of the Taipei National University of the Arts, Yao was active in school activities. He and his friends organized the Tiandana Experimental Club, which revolves around arts, drama, film and dance. At the same time, he helped run a mountain-climbing club. These experiences inspired him to adopt some special topics for use at the core of his creations, such as the effects of the formerly taboo status of parts of Taiwanese history, as well as rapid political and economic changes and people's carelessness and indifference toward society.





姚瑞中《週休八日》。  
Yao's *My Eight Day Weekend*

Upon winning the first Taipei International Photography Newcomer Award in 1992, Yao officially entered the art arena. He later helped create the 1997 La Biennale di Venezia Taiwan Pavilion as well as numerous international exhibits over the past 20 years. He even exhibited more than 50 pieces of art within a single year. His works have been purchased by organizations such as the Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Queensland Art Gallery (Australia), Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art (U.S.), and Bibliothèque Nationale de France. His works also occasionally appear in auction markets, selling for good prices.

One good example is Yao's *Heaven*, which sold at the "Asia Modern and Contemporary Art Auction," held by the Zhong Cheng Auction in autumn 2016. The large-scale photographic work comprises dozens of images collected from various parts of Taiwan. The content represents a surrealistic space. The gold foil in the work represents the gap of Taiwan's humanities and natural landscape, imparting a sense of absurdity. Yao said: "In the temporary shelter where souls escape reality, humanity is replaced by people's hidden desires. Whether a decadent paradise, abandoned

idol gods or insolent monsters, all represent uninhabited alienation states. Images are no longer just images; they connect to each other in various areas and create new syntaxes and world views. And this is just a starting point. A new paradise is waiting for you, though we have never seen a real one." The painting is sold for NT\$2.4 million. Considering the recent economic downturn, the sale price was indeed quite remarkable.

In 2007, he was invited to participate in the Glenfiddich Artists in Residence Programme, promoted by the famous Scotch brand. Surrounded by Scotland's unique natural scenery, Yao developed his sketching skills by simply using a pen and paper to capture his experiences and memories – with a style inspired by traditional Chinese paintings. This gives his paintings both an ancient and modern style, dancing between reality and imagination. The traces of life seem clearer through the lines in Yao's paintings. For example, Yao's recent exhibition, *Eight Days a Weekend*, explores his mood. As he entered middle age and became a father – and saw his children grow up – Yao experienced deep changes in his entire life and the pace of his life. Through the exhibition, which shows a much more childlike disposition compared with his previous works, Yao delves into these changes.



姚瑞中《寶寶—超人老爸》。Yao's *Superman Daddy*

Yao's work *Eight Days a Weekend*, with the same name as the exhibition, is a long scroll painting. It depicts Yao's life with his friends before getting married. The topics include going to hot springs, singing loudly without inhibition, writing One Hundred Reasons to Live in Taipei, visiting ruins to take photos and playing mahjong with art circle friends during every Mid-Autumn Festival. All of these have become specific symbols of freedom for Yao. In the painting, you can see the spirit of ancient scholars gathering at Lanting. In the *Baby* series, Yao brings together many cartoon characters familiar to children. By placing these characters in mountains and rural scenery, Yao highlights the obvious contrast between reality and imagination and shows his pure, romantic imagination. Life is short; therefore, being true to yourself is very important. If you like, you're welcome to Yao's paradise on Earth; enjoy your visit. ㄖ