



Zane Mellupe, *Dowry Chest, Item No.4, the red sssock*, 2011
light installation, knitting, stainless steel frame, 70x50cm

another trilogy

Zane Mellupe solo exhibition

Vernissage friday 21 november 5-9pm

From 22 november to 25 january 2014

thursday to sunday, from 10am to 9pm

ifagallery • 藝法畫廊

rue des renards / vossenstraat 28 • 1000 brussels • belgium

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another trilogy

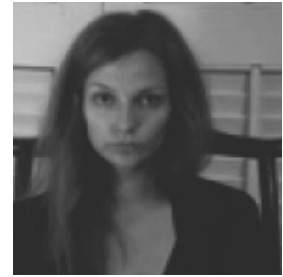
ifa gallery welcomes the Belgium premiere of Zane Mellepe, unveiling an exhibition presented as a trilogy. Each of the three chapters reveals unseen works of various mediums and techniques, hovering between irony and conceptual construction.

Embarking on photography studies at the age of fourteen in Riga, and subsequently in London and Shanghai, Zane Mellepe devises her artistic work as a way of “thinking in images”. Her installations and mixed technique photographic work reveal hidden interpretations of our feelings. How exactly can moods and emotions be most accurately described? Zane Mellepe employs in her art works three mediums important to her: the image, the object and the body. The object merges with the image; the body reclaims its functions and enters the photographic image. These three mediums are in a dynamic of simultaneous coordination and opposition, in the same way of literary figures of speech. Linguistic constructs such as the oxymoron (juxtaposition of seemingly contradictory words), or the synecdoche (in which the term for a part of something refers to the whole, or vice versa) become for Zane Mellepe systems of creation, construction methods allowing objects and images to resonate together. A recurrent element in her work is a questioning of photography, treating the image as if it were an object, and also multiplying the suggestive powers of the image. This oeuvre becomes a visualisation of metaphors that allow us to express mind states. She creates textual pieces, the “physical world of literature”, in an echo of her works.

The first chapter of the trilogy of Zane Mellepe, *Waiting*, refers to the successive stages in individual changes. The second chapter, *Milk*, explores the sources of existence, through images and their relation to the medium. The exhibition final page, *Family Relics*, assembles works devised as witnesses to the passing of values down through the generations.

Photography and reality merge together in Zane Mellepe’s work, through compositions inspired from our own linguistic expression, a constant back-and-forth between the material and the conceptual; between the body, the object and the image.

Zane Mellupe



Zane Mellupe is a Shanghai-based artist and Sinologist from Latvia (born in Riga in 1981).

The artist has been working in photography since the age of fourteen. She concurrently studied Sinology at the University of Latvia before moving to China in 2001.

Following her studies in Theatrical Direction at the Shanghai Theatre Academy and completing her Bachelor Degree in 2004 in Chinese Language and Literature at the Shanghai Teachers University, Mellupe then pursued a Masters program in the UK, in 2007 graduating in Photojournalism & Documentary Photography at the University of the Arts of London.

Between 2007 to 2010, Zane Mellupe worked as the creative director of the Island6 Arts Centre in Shanghai. In 2010, she developed a community art street "Yongkang Lu Art", featuring several experimental spaces, renovated from an unsuccessful fashion street, in previous times converted from a vegetable market, in the former French concession neighborhood in Shanghai.

Zane Mellupe's art has been shown in both China and Europe in various galleries and museum exhibitions. She is represented by ifa gallery since 2010.



Zane Mellupe, *Hammers*, 2014, print on hammers, 45x55cm

solo exhibitions

- 2014 - "Shanghai Lights". Professional Photography School, Riga, Latvia
- 2013 - "Shanghai Lights". Kultūras pils (The Castle of Culture), Viesīte, Latvia
- 2012 - "Šanhajas gaismas". M. Buclera Photograph Chamber, Lone City, Latvia
- 2010 - "Shanghai Lights". Center of culture Majori, Latvia
- 2009 - "Šanhajas gaismas", Bibliotēka Saldus, Latvia
- 2009 - "Shanghai Lights". Museum of Olaine, Latvia
- 2008 - "Shanghai Lights". Latvijas Fotogrāfijas muzejs. Rīga / Latvija
- 2011 - "In memory of the perfect wife", ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2008 - "Shanghai lights", Photography Museum of Latvia, Riga, Latvia
- 2005 - "Also in China", House of United Nations, Riga, Latvia

group exhibitions

- 2014 - Photo Shanghai, ifa gallery booth, Shanghai, China
- 2014 - Art Paris Art Fair, ifa gallery booth, Paris, France
- 2014 - "uncovered China", ifa gallery, Brussels, Belgium
- 2013 - "Investigation no.3: Mr & Mrs Zhang", Art Paris, ifa gallery booth, Paris, France
- 2013 - "Drawing and what", ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2012 - "secret 7", Chris Gill studio, Shanghai, China
- 2012 - "my country", ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2012 - "St-Art Fair", Galerie Libre Cours booth, Strasbourg, France
- 2012 - "secret 7", YY bar, Shanghai, China
- 2012 - "Red land, yellow stars", Galerie Libre Cours & ifa gallery, Brussels, Belgium
- 2012 - "Cells", SH Contemporary 12, Shanghai, China
- 2012 - "The left leg of a cat", Art: Gwangju:12, Gwangju, Korea
- 2012 - "closet", ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2012 - "Something in Common", ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2012 - "investigation no.2: facing distance", Art Paris, ifa gallery booth, Paris, France

- 2012 - "Trace, line, shadow", ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2011 - "Ruby, Roxy and the flaming Lamborghini", Studio Rouge, Shanghai, China
- 2011 - "The hell. the heaven. on the way. in between", ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2011 - "15 days without You", ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2011 - "Enquête n°1", Art Paris+guests, ifa gallery booth, Paris, France
- 2011 - "The Birth of a myth - part II - Art in a state of Alertness", YK Art Space, Shanghai, China
- 2010 - "The birth of a myth - part I", YK Art Space, Shanghai, China
- 2010 - "Come, take a walk with me", Yongkang Lu Art, Shanghai, China
- 2010 - "Police and Her", ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2010 - "Absolute 0:00", Island 6 arts center, Shanghai, China
- 2010 - "Fakirs", Island 6 arts center, Shanghai, China
- 2009 - "Placebo", Island 6 arts center, Shanghai, China
- 2009 - "30 Degrees", Island 6 arts center & Studio Rouge, Shanghai, China
- 2009 - "Synesthesia", Island 6 arts center, Shanghai, China
- 2009 - "Individual: New Art from Beyond Beijing", Red Gate Gallery, Beijing, China
- 2009 - "LEDs animés", Gallery Twenty-One, Paris, France
- 2009 - "ArtParis 09" (Art Fair), Gallery Loft & Gallery Twenty-One Paris, France
- 2009 - "The Artist Died Yesterday", Island 6 arts center, Shanghai, China
- 2008 - "Shanghai Lights" Solo Exhibition, Photography Museum of Latvia, Riga, Latvia
- 2008 - "Automata", Island 6 & ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2008 - "Urban Lust", Island 6 & ifa gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2008 - "Fernelmont Contemporary Art, second edition" Festival Fernelmont, Castle of Fernelmont, Belgium
- 2008 - "QuadrareilCerchio" (Squaring the Circle), Allegra Ravizza Art Project, Milano, Italy
- 2008 - "Clouds of Crowds", Island 6 arts center, Shanghai, China
- 2008 - "Roma Contemporary Art Fair", Manaart Roma, Italy
- 2008 - "Zero Gravity", Sun Gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2007 - "PlugIT", Blue Lotus Gallery, Hong-Kong
- 2007 - "Made in Shanghai", Island 6 arts center, Shanghai, China
- 2007 - "Festival Art Continu", Morocco
- 2007 - "Made in China", Island 6 arts center, Shanghai, China
- 2007 - "PlugIT", Island 6 arts center, Shanghai, China
- 2006 - "Life Circle", LCC, London, UK

2006 - "Cable Street& the art pavilion (70th Anniversary of the Battle of Cable St)",
London,
UK

2005 - "Also in China", Solo Exhibition, House of United Nations, Riga, Latvia

various

2010 – Fondatrice de Yongkang Lu art (espace artistique expérimental sur Yongkang road), Shanghai, China

2008 - Co-fondatrice du collectif artistique "Liu Dao", Shanghai, China

ifa gallery

ifa gallery is established by Alexis Kouzmine-Karavaïeff in 2006-2007 in a 700sqm converted textile factory space in Moganshan Road – M50 Creative Centre – Shanghai's contemporary art district. With a quality exhibition programme of principally Chinese contemporary art, and a supporting line-up of performances the gallery contributes to the dynamism of the area. Major exhibitions during that time include the solo shows of Park Sung-Tae (Korea) and sought-after young artist Liu Bolin (China).

From summer 2008 to summer 2013, ifa occupies a charming residence built in 1923 for an official of the British Customs House, located in Shanghai at 621 Changde Road (Jing'An district). The gallery offers an innovative and artistic angle to the central part of the city and acted as an artistic meeting point for contemporary art in Shanghai.

Fall 2013, ifa gallery moves its premises to the heart and capital of Europe, Brussels. Located in the old central district of Marolles, the gallery offers a dynamic programme with its main artists from China and new artists from the region. At the meantime, a new exhibition space opens in March 2014 in the district of Jing'An in Shanghai, where ifa gallery continues to showcase some local artists.

ifa gallery exhibits contemporary art from China and Beyond, regardless of artists origin. We represent both established artists such as Dai Guangyu, a leading figure of China's avant-garde, the Gao Brothers and Wu Junyong; as well as emerging artists, including recent graduates of the fine arts schools in Beijing and Hangzhou such as Fan Jiupeng and Li Rui, or foreigners based in China, such as Zane Mellupe from Latvia or Christophe Demaître from Belgium. ifa features work in a wide range of media formats, from painting to photography, video, installation and performance.

The gallery presents and supports artists that have an original language and means of expression, that shy away from clichés and conventions and that have strong concepts and artistic vision.

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Open on appointment