

**Liu Wei**

**November 2 – December 17, 2016**

**536 West 22nd Street & 201 Chrystie Street, New York**

#liuwei | #lehmannmaupin

**Opening Reception:** November 2, 2016, 6-8 PM



Installation view. Courtesy the artist and Lehmann Maupin, New York and Hong Kong. Photo: Max Yawney.

New York, October 12, 2016—**Lehmann Maupin** is pleased to announce an exhibition of new work by **Liu Wei**. The gallery's second exhibition with the Chinese artist will be shown in both its New York locations. Each space will feature an installation alongside new paintings in which Liu Wei continues his examination of the physiological and psychological conditions that shape reality. The gallery will host an opening reception for the artist on Wednesday, November 2, from 6-8 PM at 536 West 22nd Street and 201 Chrystie Street.

Over the past two decades, Liu Wei has resisted commitment to a specific medium or way of making, choosing instead to work with a wide range of media that facilitates the conceptual nature of his work. While many of his paintings, sculptures, installations, and videos reference Chinese culture and its modern landscape, his focus lies in universal issues affecting contemporary society, such as the transformative effect of urbanization on the landscape and unbalanced hierarchies of authority. Liu Wei approaches these concepts with an open mind, without imparting a particular political line of thinking. As part of the post-Mao generation, the artist has expressed how the rapid development of China and the constant shifting of ideology and values created an uncertain state of reality, which has deeply informed his artistic pursuits. Central to Liu Wei's practice is his manipulation and alteration of perception as a tool to create environments where viewers encounter a complex and varied existence.

For his sculptural installation at 536 West 22nd Street, Liu Wei was inspired by the Jorge Luis Borges poem *Mirrors* (1960), particularly the segment that reads, "...Everything happens and nothing is recorded, In these rooms of the looking glass...." The monumental sculpture—comprised of mirrors that form a single, floating box—passes through walls and blocks off established pathways of the gallery as a way to drastically alter the existing architecture and the experience of the space. For Liu Wei, the presence of the viewer, who will be able to circumnavigate the box, is as important to the installation as the physical and material characteristics of the sculpture. The piece is intended to provoke a phenomenological experience of space that can be only activated by the viewer.

Architecture has long been a source of inspiration for the artist, as one of the defining characteristics of both modernity and urbanism. This is echoed in the gray monochromatic paintings also installed at West 22nd Street. The thick, tactile impasto of oil paint applied like rough plaster to the canvas recalls industrial building materials, while a series of metal bars installed in front of the paintings creates a visual and conceptual disruption to the viewing experience. This metal barrier, like the mirrored sculpture, provides a framing structure for the paintings, while also activating the viewer's awareness of their physical presence within the space, as a consumer of visual information.

At Chrystie Street, Liu Wei builds upon his concern for activating space with a complex installation composed of objects made from military canvas, metal, and wood. Surrounding the installation is a series of colorful, irregularly shaped paintings on steel that resemble views of the horizon. This entire installation is intimately linked to Liu Wei's fascination with the ways technology has enhanced and altered our understanding of the world. His representation is fragmented and disjointed in a way that mimics how we receive and process information. Liu Wei's work suggests that the illusion of a panoramic view of the world drastically alters our own perception of reality, which is no longer simply informed by our immediate locale.

### **About the artist**

Liu Wei (b. 1972, Beijing; lives and works in Beijing) graduated from the National Academy of Fine Arts, Hangzhou in 1996. Liu Wei's work has been featured in international exhibitions, most recently at the Qatar Museum, Doha (2016); Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris (2016); PLATEAU, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul (2016); the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing (2015); the Rubell Collection, Miami (2014); Long Museum, Shanghai (2014); Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai (2011); Centre Pompidou, Paris (2010); National Art Museum of China, Beijing

(2010); Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing (2010); Long March Space, Beijing (2010); Saatchi Gallery, London (2008); Bonniers Kunsthall, Stockholm; and Mudam Luxembourg, France (2008), to name a few. He has participated in numerous international biennials, including the 11th Shanghai Biennale (2016); 3rd Aichi Triennial, Nagoya (2016); 13th Biennale de Lyon (2015); 11th Sharjah Biennial (2013); 4th Gwangju Triennial (2012); 8th Shanghai Biennial (2010); 6th Busan Biennial (2008); 3rd Guangzhou Triennial (2008); and 51th Venice Biennial (2005). In 2016, Liu Wei was awarded the Atron AAC Award, Artist of the Year.

### **About Lehmann Maupin**

Founded in 1996 by partners Rachel Lehmann and David Maupin, Lehmann Maupin has fostered the careers of a diverse group of internationally renowned artists, both emerging and established, working in multiple disciplines and across varied media. With three locations—two in New York and one in Hong Kong—the gallery represents artists from the United States, Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, and the Middle East. Known for championing artists who create groundbreaking and challenging forms of visual expression, Lehmann Maupin presents work highlighting personal investigations and individual narratives through conceptual approaches that often address such issues as gender, class, religion, history, politics, and globalism.

### **Current & Upcoming Exhibitions**

OSGEMEOS, *Silence of the Music*, through October 22, 2016, New York, West 22nd Street

Alex Prager, *La Grande Sortie*, through October 23, 2016, New York, Chrystie Street

David Salle, through November 12, 2016, Hong Kong, Pedder Building

Mickalene Thomas, *the desire of the other*, November 18, 2016—January 7, 2017, Hong Kong, Pedder Building

Lee Bul, January 12—February 11, 2017, New York, West 22nd Street

Kader Attia, January 13—March 5, 2017, New York, Chrystie Street

Liza Lou, January 19—March 11, 2017, Hong Kong, Pedder Building

For more information on Liu Wei or other Lehmann Maupin artists, please contact Marta de Movellan or Kathryn McKinney at +1 212 255 2923, or visit [lehmannmaupin.com](http://lehmannmaupin.com).

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