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# ASIANART NEWS

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## YING TIANQI



\* Hossein Valamanesh \* Ai Weiwei  
\* Jose Tence Ruiz \* Helen Pynor  
\* Simon Ogden \* Haifa-Jerusalem-Tel  
Aviv Exhibition \* Achia Anzi \* Reviews

Dake, a design company. He was also founding editor of *Culture & Morals*, a journal for the contemporary arts in China. He began exploring the medium of digital video in 2002 and his first documentary film, *Street Life*, premiered at Austria's *Viennale* in October 2006. His second documentary, entitled *Ghost Town*, premiered at the *New York Film Festival* in 2009. *The High Life*, his first feature, premiered at the *Hong Kong International Film Festival* in 2010, winning both the FIPRESCI Award and the Silver Digital Award. *The High Life* made its European premiere in the main competition at the *Mannheim-Heidelberg International Film Festival* in November 2010, where it won both the Werner Fassbinder Prize and the FIPRESCI Jury Prize.

Karin Weber Gallery is located at 20 Aberdeen Street, Central. E-mail: art@karinwebergallery.com. Tel: (852) 2544 5004.

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### HONG KONG

#### The Constant Metamorphosis

**B**lindspot Gallery will present Jiang Pengyi's *Luminant* series at the gallery and also in the *Asia One* section of *Art HK* in May 2012. Excessive urbanization and redevelopment in China have been the recurrent themes in Jiang's works. As a former professional photographer of cityscapes, Jiang employs skyscrapers as an essential subject in his works to allude to the constant metamorphosis of major Chinese cities. In his most iconic series, *Unregistered City*, Jiang uses digital manipulation to reduce skyscrapers to miniature sizes and juxtaposes them at truncated interiors and corners.

While *Unregistered City* suggests scenes of apocalypse from demolition, works in *Luminant* are images of



Jiang Pengyi, *Luminant: BTV (A) Beijing*, 2008, light box: 180 x 240 cm / 79 x 100 cm (each edition of 3); and archival inkjet print: 90 x 125 cm (edition of 3). Image: Courtesy of the Artist and Blindspot Gallery.

glowing luminance of modern skyscrapers by night. Against the darkened cityscape, the skyscrapers stand glowing in intense brightness created by overexposure. Such overexposure instills a feeling of a departure from reality, which urges the viewers to contemplate the city's over-development and the society of spectacle dominated by consumption and mass media. Shopping malls, commercial buildings, and even skyscrapers that are not yet occupied light up in the night for the purpose of alluring consumers and showing off their splendors. Such spectacle illustrates the reality in today's China. *Luminant* series comes in light box and archival inkjet print formats. Inkjet print versions of the whole series will be exhibited at Blindspot Gallery.

Born in Yuanjiang, Hunan province in 1977, Jiang Pengyi graduated from the Beijing Institute of Art and Design in 1999. He received the Tierney Fellowship Award from the first annual Three Shadows Photography Award in 2009. Jiang currently lives and works in Beijing. He was awarded the Jury Grand Prize from the Société Générale Chinese Art Awards in 2010 and i Premi Aletti Art Verona 2011 Award, for his *Unregistered City* series. He has been invited to participate in the *Helsinki Photography Biennial 2012* and is nominated for the *Prix Pictet 2012*.

Blindspot Gallery is located at 24-26A, Aberdeen Street, Central. Tel: (852) 2517 6238. Fax: (852) 2517 6100. www.blindspotgallery.com.

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### MALAYSIA

#### Emerging Talent

**W**ei-Ling Contemporary will present *Pricked!*, a solo exhibition by Cheng Yen Pheng, May 7 through June 4, 2012. Cheng Yen Pheng epitomizes the new generation of serious contemporary Malaysian artists whose works go beyond the aesthetic to reveal more than what meets the eye and her works have already been collected by Galeri Petronas and feature in The Aliya and Farouk Khan collection.

The exhibition shows the artist in her element with eight cavernous paintings that depict images that are decidedly erotic

yet maintain a subtlety and *naïveté*, which is veiled beneath a blanket of fluorescent, feminine, mostly pink and purple hues and lace-inspired motifs.

Her works often touch upon her feelings about being a woman, emotionally and physically, and deals with the social pressures that come with being one. From sexual relationships and desires to fetishes and erotica, she aims to act as a critic through her paintings, to emphasize the roles both women and men play, in this day and age.

Born in Penang in 1982, Cheng Yen Pheng graduated from the Dasein Academy of Art in 2004. She was a recipient of the Malaysian Emerging Artists award in 2009 and was one of three local artists commissioned to make an artwork for Absolut Vodka in 2011. Although fairly new to the local art scene, her dexterity as a painter has not gone unnoticed and she has worked closely with well-respected Malaysian artists such as Liew Kung Yu and Chuah Chuan Yong on important public art projects in Malaysia.

Wei-Ling Contemporary is located at G212 G/F, The Gardens Mall, Kuala Lumpur 59200. Tel: (60-3) 2282 8323. www.weiling-gallery.com.

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### HONG KONG

#### New Works

**G**affer will present an exhibition of new works by Chen Ping and Annie Hsiao-Wen Wang,



Cheng Yen Pheng, *Air Balls No.1*, 2012, acrylic on canvas, 168 x 244 cm. Image: Courtesy of the Artist and Wei-Ling Contemporary