



TANG Kwong San: Nightbirds

15 May – 19 June, 2021

Opening: Saturday, 15 May 2021, 2 - 5 pm

Gallery EXIT is pleased to present “Nightbirds”, a solo exhibition of new works by TANG Kwong San. The exhibition will open on 15 May 2021 and remain on view through 19 June 2021.

TANG Kwong San is known for his mixed media work combining elements including photographic images, line drawings, pre-existing objects and videos. The artist explores his identity and personal memories through his work and integrates into it related historical elements. Surrounding the theme of night and darkness, his new series plays with the symbolic meanings of the five-pointed star. Through appropriation and reinterpretation of international films and historical documents as well as capturing late-night street scenes that caught his attention, he touches on the topics of identity, power and migration in his oil paintings, graphite drawings and installations.

Large-scale paintings “Fragrant Dracaena, carousel” and “Furniture, potted plants” capture the curious quotidian beauty of the waste collection points close to his home and studio. The scenes he randomly discovered embody change, migration and memories of a bygone era. One of them shows a carousel horse dumped in the dark, its pole crowned with a star; the other portrays scrap furniture and potted plants scattered all over the ground.

“London Bridge is Falling Down” is a mixed media installation whose central wooden pillar connects the ceiling of the gallery with a tank filled with water. Moulded pottery figurines modelled after toy birds are trapped in the tank, while at the bottom of it is a book “The Traditional Games of England, Scotland, and Ireland” being pressed down by the pillar. The nursery rhyme “London Bridge is Falling Down” is mentioned in the book, its various versions pointing to the history behind it regarding the monarchy, prisoners and a superstitious idea of burying children in the foundations to ensure the safety of the bridge. Similarly, the young fledglings of our society are drowned in the savage reality like sacrificial offerings.

The “Night Birds” series rearranges and transforms pre-existing texts and images centring around nonfiction work “Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea”. The artist extracted excerpts from the book about six North Korean defectors living under the Communist regime and how they crossed the border on moonless nights. Images were transferred onto cotton cloth using the cyanotype technique – paradoxically under the sun. On the other hand, graphite on paper drawings were mounted behind sepia acrylic films to give them an appearance of old film negatives.

鄧廣榮《夜夜鳴》

2021 年 5 月 15 日至 6 月 19 日

開幕：5 月 15 日（星期六）下午 2 時至 5 時

安全口畫廊呈獻鄧廣榮最新個人展覽《夜夜鳴》，展覽於 2021 年 5 月 15 日至 6 月 19 日開放。

鄧廣榮一向以混合媒介創作，結合照片、素描、現成物和錄像等。作品探索藝術家自身的身份議題及個人回憶，並蒐集其關聯歷史。是次展覽新作以「黑夜」的主題作切入點，搜集五角星的符號拼湊星象，挪用並重新詮釋不同國家的電影、歷史文本以及記錄遊走在夜間遇見的場景。藝術家再以油畫、石墨紙本、裝置等手法表達有關身份、權力、遷徙等的命題。

其中兩幅大篇幅油畫作品《香龍血樹、木馬》描繪了一個鄧廣榮於日常經常路過的地點——其住處及工作室附近的垃圾收集站。作品聚焦在漆黑中遇見被棄置五角星的木馬、散落一地的破碎傢俱和盆栽，有著一種轉變、遷離及逝去往昔的意味。

《有隻雀仔跌落水》是一件混合媒介裝置。作品主軸的木柱由上而下貫穿畫廊空間的頂部和一個注滿水的水缸，缸中放置由玩具鳥倒膜而成的陶俑。缸底則壓著一本書——《The Traditional Games of England, Scotland, and Ireland》，內容關於英格蘭、蘇格蘭和愛爾蘭的傳統遊戲。書中記錄英國童謠《London Bridge is falling down》提及其歷史背後的政權和罪犯、居民曾迷信把小孩埋地基之中，以保障地建築物安全等不同的論述。社會中未能飛翔的雛鳥，被現實淹埋在水缸中祭祀。

另一石墨紙本作品系列《夜夜鳴》則以現成的文本及圖像重新編輯、排版、創作，當中以《我們★最幸福》為主軸。藝術家節錄書中記述六名北韓人在共產政權下黑夜生活的故事與脫北者在沒有月色的黑夜跨越邊界的經過，在太陽下以藍曬技法在布本上投影、調色。石墨紙本再裝裱上茶色膠片展示，使作品看起來像菲林底片，呈現陳舊記錄影像的媒介，亦配合展覽「黑夜」的意景。