

For Immediate Release

CATHERINE LAN Secret Gardens

On View: Jan. 15 – Feb. 15, 2015

Online opening: Jan. 15, 2015 (www.wmingart.com)

Gallery opening: January 15 (Thursday), 2015, 10 am; with a reception at 2 pm

Address: Beijing Beijing Gallery

St. Regis Hotel, Jianguo Menwai Dajie, No. 21, Residence Rm 3007
Beijing, China 100020

Organizer: Beijing Shangmin Culture Company, International Club Magazine and W.Ming International Ltd.

"When I cut, the fur is like my body. For me, the process of cutting means constantly looking for the intrinsic nature of painting by continuing to go in reverse—backward in the continuous passage of time."

- Catherine Lan

W.Ming Art and Beijing Beijing Gallery are pleased to present **Secret Gardens**, Catherine Lan's first solo exhibition in Beijing. The exhibition debuts Lan's newest fur works, *Orange Field at Grandma's* and the *Floral Series*, which incorporates a garden installation with live plants and trees. **Secret Gardens** juxtaposes an artificial furry landscape with an indoor garden, inviting the viewers to survey the show as they look back and forth between the real and the created. The exhibition presents around twenty faux-fur relief paintings, a concept she has worked on since 2009. The entire installation looks at the ideas of mirroring, reflection and repetition.

Lan has been continuously experimenting with the materials of paintings. As far back as the 2000s, when she was in Paris, she devoted herself to the physical materials of her art. Prior to the faux-fur works, Lan created paintings with stretched and twisted canvases, dotted with lace, rhinestones and fake pearls.

Since 2009 Lan has used faux fur as her canvas. She employs a technique that she terms "eliminating": Instead of applying paint or adding materials, Lan literally cuts out the faux fur with scissors, rendering relief-like paintings. Her works are originally inspired by pop culture in Asia in the 1990s, with references to feminism and Western fairytales. Evoking desire, the furry material invites the audience to directly touch the image, which reflects contemporary notion of theatricality and performativity.

Lan's *Magic Windows* series consists of delicately carved Manchu window frames, as well as fluorescent color glues (used as paints) that are treated as a surface added on top of the faux fur. In 2012 Lan worked in collaboration with composer Angel Lam and in the same year, Lan also launched her *Magic Mirror* series, which utilize a similar technique to create a vivid visual expression.

In the latest *Floral* series, which includes the smaller pattern works, in the more scenic Floral Mountain series and most recently, in the large-scale *Spirited Trees* (2014), *In the Mist of Lights and Shades* (2014-2015), and *Orange Field at Grandma's* (2015), Lan has taken inspiration from personal memories, other private images and decorative floral motifs. These series embrace the spontaneity of traditional ink drawings. In these recent works, Lan cuts out but also incorporates additive elements into her mesmerizing flower art.

Since Lan cuts out the fur spontaneously, the working process is both improvisational and irreversible, as well as labor-intensive. The repetitive act of eliminating the fur becomes a meditation and exploration. In a tradition ranging from Chinese folk paper cuts to Lucio Fontana's slits cut into canvas, Lan further elaborates the idea of transcending a two-dimensional plane. Without being overtly symbolic, the juxtaposition of artificial colors with natural landscapes in her works epitomizes the modern world.

Catherine Lan

Catherine Lan was born in Taiwan in 1980. She immigrated to Australia with her family at the age of nine, and has received education in multiple countries—first as a classically trained musician, then as a visual artist. Lan obtained her MFA in Painting/Printmaking from Yale University in 2009. She received a diploma in fine art from the Ecole nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts (ENSBA), Paris, in 2006, and her bachelor's degree in oil painting from the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, in 2003.

Lan has been awarded several scholarships, including the Sanyu scholarships from Yale University in 2008, and the New York Arts Beijing Residency Scholarship in 2009. Her work has been exhibited in galleries and museums internationally, including the Howard Salon in Taipei, Art Beijing, the Kingston Sculpture Biennale, Field Project, the China Institute, and Queens Museum in New York. Lan is currently based in New York.

Beijing Beijing Gallery

Beijing Beijing Gallery is a Beijing based gallery, founded in 2012. Beijing Beijing Gallery holds exhibitions, talks and events for artists and collectors.

W.Ming Art

W. Ming is a private international art advisory and consulting company founded in 2010 by Xiaoming Zhang. W. Ming represents artists for exhibitions and sales, and provides private sales and art advisory services for private and institutional clients globally. The company specializes in modern and contemporary art, particularly Asian modern and contemporary art.

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