

**ACAF**

# **THINKING PROJECTS**

Across New York City Fall, 2017

# *Thinking Projects: Solo Pop-Up Exhibitions*

Asia Contemporary Art Week 2017  
Signature Program  
Hosted by Multiple New York City Institutions

Curated by Leeza Ahmady  
Showcasing long term process-oriented artistic  
endeavors in and out of the region today.

October 12 - 22, 2017



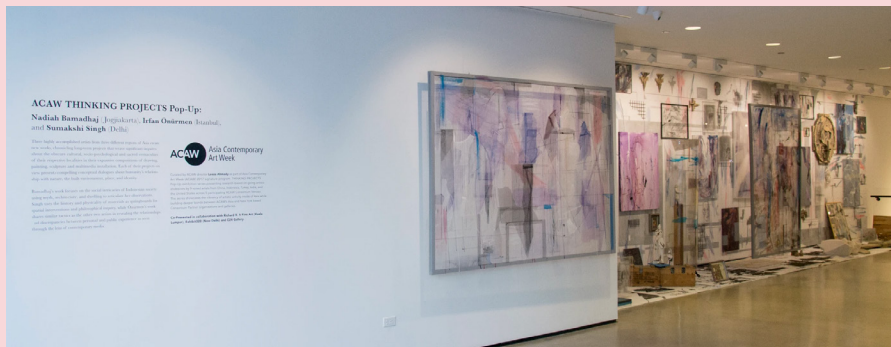
As an extension to FIELD MEETING, a series of pop-up exhibitions are organized across a network of select venues in New York City to showcase long term process-oriented artistic endeavors in and out of the region today.

Consortium Partner host venues for ACAW Pop-ups in New York include C24 Gallery, Chambers Fine Art, Klein Sun Gallery, Mana Contemporary, and Sundaram Tagore Gallery. These pop-up exhibitions also highlight the vibrancy of ACAW's growing community of Asia-based consortium partners, including collaboration with Exhibit320 (New Delhi), Richard Koh Fine Art (Kuala Lumpur), and Space Station (Beijing).

As part of **THINKING PROJECTS: Solo Pop-ups**, ACAW co-presents with Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation's inaugural Creative China Festival three special projects by contemporary Chinese artists **Li Jun**, **Song Dong**, and **Yu Fan**. Hosted at ACACW Consortium Partner venues Sundaram Tagore Gallery and Mana Contemporary, the collaboration features a new site-specific rendition of internationally recognized artist **Song Dong's** large-scale public project *Eating the City*, the first US presentation of emerging artist **Li Jun's** community conscious *Zi Jie at East Lake* (2010-2015) on urbanization and gentrification in China, and a selection of new sculptures produced by **Yu Fan** during his residency at the School of Museum of Fine Arts in Boston at Tufts.

#### About Creative China Festival

Organized by BCAF, the very first **Creative China Festival (CCF)** will be launched this autumn with a specially curated program of events in select US cities. Supported by the Chinese Ministry of Culture, the Festival aspires to highlight the depth of creativity and talent that contemporary China has to offer and encompasses a diverse programme of film screenings, China-US cultural conference series, music performances, fashion, visual arts and introducing a guest city program in partnership with Nanjing Week.



ACAW Thinking Projects Pop-Up: Irfan Önüren, *Diffusion*, 2017. Installation view at C24 Gallery.

## Thinking Projects Solo Pop-Ups Presented Artists & Host Venues

#### Guo Hongwei (Beijing)

Sponsored and hosted by Chambers Fine Art

#### Irfan Önüren (Istanbul)

Sponsored and hosted by C24 Gallery

#### Judy Blum-Reddy (New York)

Sponsored by Twelve Gates Arts (Philadelphia) and hosted by Chambers Fine Art

#### Li Jun (Shanghai)

Sponsored by Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation and hosted by Mana Contemporary

#### Nadia Bamadhaj (Yogyakarta)

Sponsored by Richard Koh Fine Art (Kuala Lumpur) and hosted by C24 Gallery

#### Song Dong (Beijing)

Sponsored by Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation and hosted by Mana Contemporary

#### Sumakshi Singh (New Delhi)

Sponsored by Exhibit320 (New Delhi) and hosted by C24 Gallery

#### Yang Xin (Beijing)

Sponsored by Space Station (Beijing) and hosted by Klein Sun Gallery

#### Yu Fan (Beijing)

Sponsored by Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation and hosted by Sundaram Tagore Gallery



ACA W Thinking Projects Pop-Up: Song Dong, *Eating the City*, 2017. Live Performance and installation at Mana Contemporary, New Jersey. Photography by Zhang Pengpeng. Courtesy of Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation.

## Thinking Projects Pop-Ups

**YANG XIN**

HOSTED BY KLEIN SUN GALLERY

6-8PM Opening Reception

Yang Xin's (Beijing) fascination with microbiology is interpreted in an impressive scientifically infused set of multi-media works that are profoundly reflective of various essential mechanisms within the building blocks of the human body. Co-organized with ACAW Consortium Partner **Fu Xiaodong** of Space Station in Beijing. Through November 25.

**Klein Sun Gallery**

522 W 22nd St  
(10th & 11th Ave.)



ACAW Thinking Projects Pop-Up: Yang Xin, *Micro 2*, installation view at Klein Sun Gallery, 2017. Co-organized with Fu Xiaodong Space Station Beijing.

THU, OCT 12



## Thinking Projects Pop-Ups

**IRFAN ÖNÜREN, NADIAH BAMADHAJ,  
SUMAKSHI SINGH**

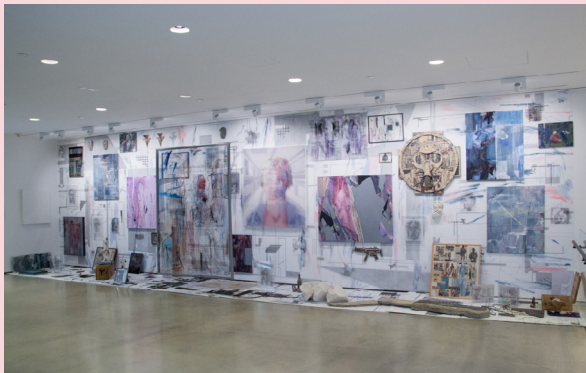
HOSTED BY C24 GALLERY

**6-8PM Opening Reception**

Three highly accomplished artists from three different regions of Asia **Irfan Önüren** (Istanbul), **Nadiah Bamadhaj** (Jogjiakarta), **Sumakshi Singh** (New Delhi) create new works chronicling their long-term projects that weave significant inquiries about obscure cultural, socio-psychological and sacred vernaculars of their respective localities in their expansive compositions of drawing, painting, sculpture and multimedia installation.

### C24 Gallery

560 W 24th St  
(10th & 11th Ave.)



ACAW Thinking Projects Pop-Up: Irfan Önüren, *Diffusion*, 2017. Installation view at C24 Gallery.



ACAW Thinking Projects Pop-Up: Sumakshi Singh, *Tree*, 2015. Lace Drawing pinned on board installation at C24 Gallery.



ACAW Thinking Projects Pop-Up: Nadiah Bamadhaj, *Pessimism is Optimistic IV*, 2017. Charcoal on paper collage. Installation view at C24 Gallery.

## *Thinking Projects Pop-Ups*

**YU FAN**

HOSTED BY SUNDARAM TAGORE GALLERY

**6-8PM Opening Reception**

Known for his sleek and delicate sculptures, the renowned Chinese sculptor **Yu Fan** (Beijing) presents an intimate set of sculptural clay works culminating from his residency at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts in Boston, with particular inspiration drawn from the Asian art collection.

**Sundaram Tagore Gallery (Chelsea)**

547 W 27th St,  
New York, NY 10001



ACAW Thinking Projects Pop-Up: Yu Fan, 2017. Part of installation at Sundaram Tagore Gallery, co-presented with the Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation.





## Thinking Projects Pop-Ups

### SONG DONG: *Eating the City*

HOSTED BY MANA CONTEMPORARY

5:30-8PM Participatory Performance + Opening Reception

In Mana's lobby on the first floor, **Song Dong's** (Beijing) *Eating the City* will punctuate the end of Asia Contemporary Art Week's 2017 FIELD MEETING program. For this installation, Song Dong invites the public to feast on his world-traveled *Eating the City* (2017) performative-installation built from thousands of edible biscuits, crackers, and sweets. Food is a recurring element in Song Dong's works. He has enacted various iterations of this project in cities around the world including Antwerp, Barcelona, Beijing, London, Nepal, Paris, and Shanghai to encourage public reflection on the rapid developments of urban cities and the dramatic disappearance of older infrastructures.

#### Mana Contemporary

888 Newark Ave  
Jersey City



SUN. OCT 15



ACAW Thinking Projects Pop-Up: Song Dong, *Eating the City*, 2017. Live Performance and installation at Mana Contemporary, New Jersey. Photography by Zhang Pengpeng, courtesy of Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation.



## Thinking Projects Pop-Ups

**LI JUN**

HOSTED BY MANA CONTEMPORARY

The second installation at Mana Contemporary is **Li Jun's** (Shanghai) *Zi Jie at East Lake*—a poetic archive of the artist's creative engagements with a large-scale public art project and environmental awareness initiative that he has co-organized with participation by over 100 local artists since 2010—known as *Everyone's East Lake Project*. Comprised of videos, writings, illustrations, and installations, it encompasses a series of the artist's acts countering the massive real-estate boom that is rapidly eradicating the communal recreational sites and public spaces all around the East Lake areas in Wuhan (a large, populous city in Central China).

### Mana Contemporary

888 Newark Ave  
Jersey City



ACAW Thinking Projects Pop-Up: Li Jun, *Zi Jie at East Lake*, 2017.  
Installation at Mana Contemporary, New Jersey.

SUN. OCT 15

## Thinking Projects Forums

**SONG DONG, LI JUN, YANG XIN,  
GUO HONGWEI, CHRISTOPHER K. HO**

HOSTED BY ARTNET | NYU SCHOOL OF LAW

### 2-5PM Panel Discussion

Presented by Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation. An insightful forum with presentations and perspectives by notable invited ACAW 2017 participating artists working in the field of contemporary art today.

### NYU School of Law

108 W 3rd St,  
New York, NY 10012



Christopher K. Ho, *I personally believe...*, 2017. Strathmore paper, wood, paint sculptures. Courtesy of the artist.

TUE. OCT 17



## Thinking Projects Pop-Ups

**GUO HONGWEI, JUDY BLUM-REDDY**  
HOSTED BY CHAMBERS FINE ART

**3-6PM Opening Reception + Conversation**

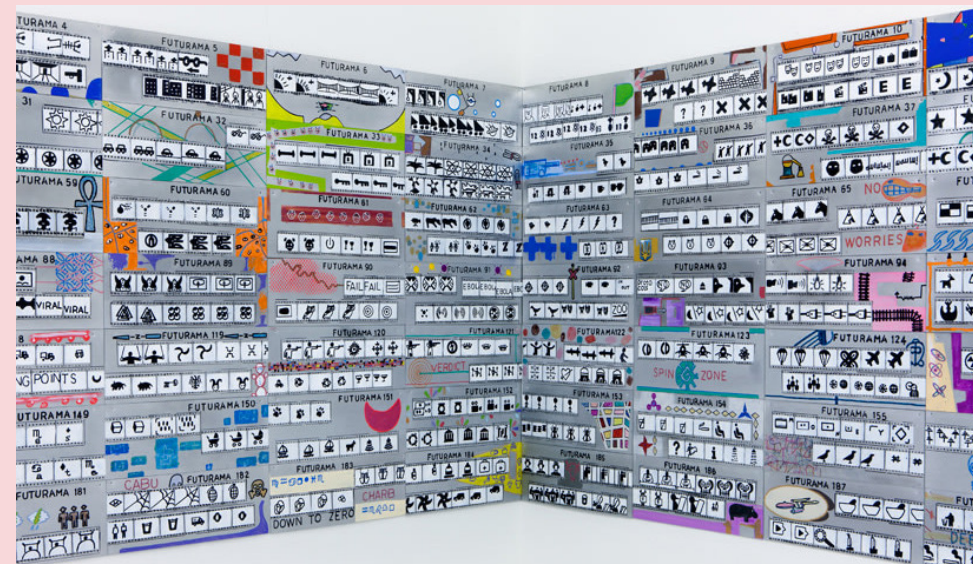
*The Pre-existent Painting* by Guo Hongwei (Beijing) converts the main gallery into a natural history lab, composed of 80-100 new-water colors and painted objects rendered through relentless observation and conceptual deduction of natural minerals. These experimentations are juxtaposed with a series of drawings about India made in 1990's by Judy Blum-Reddy (New York), exploring acts of tracing, archiving and ultimately processes of collecting that are evident in both artists' practices.

While Guo meticulously traces the growth pattern of natural minerals and ultimately recreates them through painting and artificial materials, Reddy who works mainly with texts and symbols painstakingly reproduces names of various natural and manmade entities in India, from railroad stations, phonebooks, to listings of official governmental offices to rivers and mountains. Blum-Reddy's approach to documenting places and events where she lives, at once creates a direct dialogue with Guo's pictorial archiving of organic objects he comes across.

Co-organized with ACAW Consortium Partner Twelve Gates Arts in Philadelphia.

**Chambers Fine Art**  
522 W 19th St  
(10th & 11th Ave.)

SAT. OCT 21



ACAW Thinking Projects Pop-Up: Judy Blum-Reddy, *Futurama*, 2015. Mixed media on aluminum panels. Installation view at Chambers Fine Art.



ACAW Thinking Projects Pop-Up: Guo Hongwei, *The Pre-Existent Painting*, 2017. Installation view at Chambers Fine Art.

## Thinking Projects Forums

### ROYA KHADJAVI PROJECTS

HOSTED BY RUBIN FOUNDATION

2:30-5:30PM Panel Discussion + Reception

This panel discussion derives its title from an old tradition shared by Middle Eastern and Eastern European cultures, a common manner of welcoming guests with a symbolic offering of bread and salt. With slightly different variations across regions the essential components of this offering represent symbolic bond of loyalty, friendship, trust, acceptance, and generosity; showing good will and the desire to create and maintain a bond together. This folk tradition traverses Judaism, Christianity and Islam. At this point of time when cultures are clashing at the intersections of politic and economy, we feel that it is necessary to dig into the basics and work on the possibilities of connection.

Prompting such positive symbolic and real methods of interaction, (on the occasion of Asia Contemporary Art Week) the program addresses immigration policies, the recent ban, and their effect on artistic practice and discourse. It aims to promote reflection on the challenges, needs, and possible approaches towards immigration from the perspective of cultural policies and cultural management in New York City.

#### Rubin Foundation, 8th Floor

17 West 17th Street  
(5th and 6th Avenues)

SUN. OCT 22



In collaboration with **ICON** (Iranian Community of North East) and **Nahid Siamdoost** (author, journalist and professor at NYU Steinhardt)- an urgent and timely discussion with artists, policy makers, cultural producers, and institutional leaders, including **Shahzad Changaavae** (Artist), **Felicity Hogan** (Director of NYFA learning), **Siddhartha Joag** (Artist- Artistsaftey.net), **Clarinda Mac Low** (Director, Culture Push), **Sebastien Sanz Santamaria** (Director of Residency Unlimited), **Laurel Ptak** (Director, Art in General), **Diya Vij** (Special Projects, Commissioner's Unit NYC Department of Cultural Affairs) and **Laura Raicovich** (Director, Queens Museum). Participating Artist: **Basim Mardan**, Poet Pen International



## Select Publicity Materials & Press Coverage

[ACAW 2017 FIELD MEETING-Thinking Projects Booklet](#)

[ACAW 2017 FIELD MEETING Banner](#)

[ACAW 2017 FIELD MEETING Podium](#)

[ACAW 2017 Fall ArtAsiaPacific Ad](#)

[ACAW 2017 PopUp Exhibitions Banner](#)

### Press Coverage:

[OCULA | Tianyuan Deng | "ACAW FIELD MEETING Take 5: Thinking Projects"](#)

[ArtAsiaPacific | Mimi Wong | "A Bite of Everywhere : Song Dong's Eating the City"](#)

[HyperAllergic | Barbra Pollack | "Mining Mineral Structures with Watercolor and Sediment"](#)

[ArtAsiaPacific | "Yu Fan" | Mimi Wong](#)

[ArtAsiaPacific | Tausif Noor | "Asia Contemporary Art Week FIELD MEETING: THINKING PROJECTS"](#)

[NYFA | "Interview with Leeza Ahmady, Director of Asia Contemporary Art Week"](#)

[China Daily USA | Zhang Ruinan | "Festival fosters youth cultural exchanges- food meets art"](#)

[Arte Fuse | Audra Lambert | "Re-Thinking Home: ACAW's THINKING PROJECTS Pop Up at C24 Gallery"](#)

[OCULA | "An Intro to FIELD MEETING Take 5: THINKING PROJECTS, New York"](#)

[Art Radar | Junni Chen | "Highlights from Asia Contemporary Art Week 2017 in New York"](#)

[Blouin Artinfo | "Guo Hongwei & Judy Blum-Reddy at Chambers Fine Art New York"](#)

[State of the Arts NYC | Savona Bailey-McClain | "Radio Interview with Leeza Ahmady"](#)

[Taipei Cultural Center | "Two Taiwan Artists Present New Projects at ACAW FIELD MEETING"](#)



In 2019, **Asia Contemporary Art Week (ACAW)** updated its name to **Asia Contemporary Art Forum (ACAF)** to reflect nearly two decades of programmatic evolution and growth. In 2014, the "n" was dropped from "Asian" in the organization's name to emphasize Asia as an expansive and inclusive artistic state of mind, transcending geographical and national boundaries.

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