

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Friday, December 7, 2018

Wang Xu: Garden of Seasons December 8, 2018 – March 9, 2019



(MONTEREY PARK, CA) – In *Garden of Seasons*, artist Wang Xu brings together a new monumental sculpture, *Athena* (2018), and a two-channel video that both records the sculpture's physical creation and reflects upon the historic and economic conditions that help determine its significance. Taken together, these works establish a distinction between the creation of an artwork and the interpretive activity through which its meaning is established, contested, and revised.

Central to the exhibition is Heritage Falls Park, located in Monterey Park near the Vincent Price Art Museum, that was built in the 1920s and includes a niche that originally housed a marble sculpture of a female figure referred to as "Athena." The sculpture, which disappeared shortly after it was installed, was not replaced until 2005, when the Monterey Park Historical Society installed a replacement "Athena," which like its predecessor, bears no formal signifiers commonly associated with the Greek goddess Athena.

Equitable Vitrines, a Los Angeles nonprofit committed to expanding the collective understanding of art in public places, worked with artist Wang Xu on a proposal to the City of Monterey Park in 2017 for an intervention at Heritage Falls Park to temporarily present Wang's sculpture *Eve* (2015). Wang's *Eve*, produced in Quyang, China where the 2005 "Athena" sculpture also hailed from, was made by recovering a damaged statue of the Biblical figure and re-carving it in the image of a woman who worked at the marble quarry and factory where it was created. The proposal generated debate about the site in relationship to the nature of public artwork, leading to the rescinding of the plan, and prompting the production of these new works.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Wang Xu (b. 1986, Dalian, China) received his BFA in sculpture from Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, before pursuing an MFA at Columbia University in New York City. He is a 2018 resident of The Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, and has exhibited recently at 47 Canal, New York; Shanghai Project, Shanghai; and SculptureCenter, New York.

RELATED PROGRAMS

OPENING RECEPTION

Saturday, December 8, 2018
5:00 – 7:00 pm

WANG XU IN CONVERSATION WITH SIMON LEUNG

Saturday, January 19, 2019
6:00 – 7:30 pm

Join artists Wang Xu and Simon Leung in conversation about Wang's monumental sculpture, *Athena* (2018), and accompanying two-channel video currently on view in the exhibition *Garden of Seasons*.

ABOUT THE VINCENT PRICE ART MUSEUM

The mission of the Vincent Price Art Museum at East Los Angeles College is to serve as a unique educational resource for the diverse audiences of the college and the community through the exhibition, interpretation, collection, and preservation of works in all media of the visual arts. VPAM provides an environment to encounter a range of aesthetic expressions that illuminate the depth and diversity of artwork produced by people of the world, both contemporary and past. By presenting thoughtful, innovative and culturally diverse exhibitions and by organizing cross-disciplinary programs on issues of historical, social, and cultural relevance, VPAM seeks to promote knowledge, inspire creative thinking, and deepen an understanding of and appreciation for the visual arts.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Admission to all exhibitions and programs at the Vincent Price Art Museum is free. Hours: Tuesday–Saturday 12:00pm–4:00pm, with extended hours on Thursday until 7:00pm. Closed Sundays and Mondays and national holidays. Vincent Price Art Museum, 1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez, Monterey Park, CA 91754–6099. Onsite parking \$2 in the structure located at Collegian Avenue and Floral Drive.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PAGE 1 IMAGE CREDIT: Wang Xu, *Garden of Seasons* (still), 2018, two-channel video, Courtesy of the artist.

PUBLICITY IMAGES

Below is a selection of approved images for publication in conjunction with promotion of *Wang Xu: Garden of Seasons*. Image reproductions must include the full caption information. Images may not be cropped or altered in any way or superimposed with any printing. High-resolution files of all approved images are available through the Vincent Price Art Museum's Google Drive account. To request access, please email vincentpriceartmuseum@elac.edu.



TOP ROW, ARTWORK IMAGE CREDITS: Wang Xu, *Garden of Seasons* (still), 2018, two-channel video, Courtesy of the artist.

BOTTOM ROW, GALLERY INSTALL IMAGE CREDITS: Installation view, "Wang Xu: Garden of Seasons" on view at the Vincent Price Art Museum, East Los Angeles College through March 9, 2019. Photo by Monica Orozco.