

GAO

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Unit 7, 88 Mile End Rd
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Xenia Bond, Valerie Kong,
Michael Andrew Page,
Sam Risley, Joel Wycherley,
Yi Zhang
Group Show
26 April - 26 May 2018

Press Release

GAO is pleased to present a group exhibition featuring works by Xenia Bond, Valerie Kong, Michael Andrew Page, Sam Risley, Joel Wycherley and Yi Zhang.

Ranging from the austere to the expansive, the works demonstrate a variety of approaches towards making. Some are preordained by sketches or created to fulfil a narrative contract, while others discover possibility only through their craft-based processes, in a continuously shifting act of contingency that depends on the maker's response to the material in order for the work to emerge. There is an association of violence throughout much of the show. Not necessarily as concept or preoccupation, but rather something that binds them all together, pinioned within the works' design. The violence of colour snaking through the sheer refinement of a governing composition; slapstick, cartoon violence; the violence of bodies and digestion, of language pushed to the point of rupture, transformation. Materials are harmed, sculpture is forced to colonise other media. Elsewhere the violence is elliptical, linked to a succession of images whose meanings are themselves made from a scintillation of possible meanings, endlessly torn down and recombined, a movement of eddies and whirls, empty turns and abrupt sensations. The effect is cumulative. Taken as one, the works offer a dynamic contemplation of the contemporary moment, where the substance of experience is forever changing.

Opening reception:
6-8pm, Wed 25 April 2018

For any enquiries please
contact the gallery at
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Valerie Kong, Detail of *Tendrils*,
2018, twigs, ribbons, wire, paper,
plastic, plant holder, charcoal,
pencil on wall filler, 65 x 118 cm

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Artists' Information

Xenia Bond

b.1992. Graduated from the Slade School of Fine Art, 2016 Currently studying at Städelschule, Frankfurt.

Michael Andrew Page

b.1989, Northampton, UK. Graduated from the Slade School of Fine Art, 2012 and Royal College of Art, 2014. Selected shows include The Sleeping Procession (Cass Sculpture Foundation, UK, 2017) and Shrines to Speed (Leila Heller Gallery, NY, 2016), Count The Leaves in Vallombrosa (solo, Edel Assanti, London, UK 2014), Art Rotterdam (solo booth, Edel Assanti, 2015), Jerwood Drawing Prize 2010.

Valerie Kong

b.1994, Hong Kong. Graduated from the Slade School of Fine Art, 2017. Selected shows include If I Was Your Girlfriend: A Jam (Belmacz45, London, 2018), Le Carnaval des Animaux and Danse Macabre (San Mei Gallery, London, 2017) and La Diablesse (Tramps, London, 2017).

Sam Risley

b.1992, UK. Graduated from the Slade School of Fine Art, 2015. Selected shows include Two Glass Eyes (Thames-Side studio, London, 2017), Untitled Group Show (The Horse Hospital, London, 2017), You're Gonna Need a Bigger Fig Leaf: Act 1 (The Laughing Bell, London, 2016), Da Thirst x Baltic 39: Dawn of Justice (Baltic 39, Newcastle, 2016), I'MTen (IMT Gallery, London, 2015), Fat Relic (Fat Relic, London, 2014) and Group Show (Wellcome Collections, London, 2013).

Joel Wycherley

b.1991, UK. Graduated from the Slade School of Fine Art, 2015. Selected shows include Crumble Town (SET, London, 2017), Two Glass Eyes Are Better Than One (Thames-Side Studios Gallery, London, 2017), Dik Piks (Lady Beck, Leeds, UK, 2017), Night (The Horse Hospital, London, 2017) and Fat Relic 2 (Fat Relic, London, 2015).

Yi Zhang

b.1984, Shandong, China. Graduated from the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, 2008 and New York Studio School, 2014. Currently studying for an MFA at the Slade School of Fine Art. Selected shows include Yi Zhang Sculpture (solo, John Davis Gallery, Hudson, USA, 2014), The Secret Of The Human Soul (Freud Museum, London, 2016) and Decentralization (Jiujiang Art Museum, Jiujiang, Jiangxi, China 2016).