

One (Illegitimate) Child

A group exhibition on self and society in a time of post-socialism and surveillance capitalism in China

March 17, 2020–June 12, 2020

Opening Reception:
Tuesday, March 17, 2020,
6–8pm

Little Canon, performance
by Future Host at 7pm

Gallery Hours:
Tuesday–Friday
12–6pm

The International Studio & Curatorial Program announces the opening of the group exhibition *One (Illegitimate) Child*, organized by curator Jianru Wu, ISCP's 2020 Jane Farver Curatorial Resident. This exhibition explores the theme of self and society in a time of post-socialism and surveillance capitalism, in China and elsewhere. When the one-child policy ended in 2016, formerly illegal Chinese children abruptly became legal, leaving a huge gap between their past and future. This questionable legitimacy is complicated today by institutional intervention enabled by digital technology, which fuels conflicts between disenfranchisement versus hegemony, and minority versus mainstream.



Future Host, *Future Host: A Speech Opera*, 2018, production still, photo by Ke Peng. Image courtesy of the artist

Artists included in the exhibition are Dachal Choi, Future Host (Tingying Ma and Kang Kang), and Li Shuang. Dachal Choi's installation, *Carve and Crave* (2020), is comprised of sculpture and modified video footage of criminal activity collected from the Neighbors app using Amazon Ring technology. The project confronts the drastic erosion of individual autonomy and security. Li Shuang's video, *T* (2017-18), interweaves contemporary Chinese internet-sourced marketing imagery of women's socked feet with slang language and cultural symbols. Through non-linear narrative and fragmented visuals, the video interrogates socially imposed sexual stereotypes and other social constructs, as well as expansive performative possibilities of a virtual, suppositional world. Lastly, Future Host presents the sound work *Future Host: A Speech Opera* (2020), and *Little Canon*, a solo performance of a piece by New York-based artist and musician C. Spencer Yeh played by a child musician. *Little Canon* veers off from established rules, offering a deviation from the standards of music pedagogy. It alludes to promises of socialism, to a future that never was. ISCP will present an artist talk with Future Host on Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at 6:30pm.

Jianru Wu (born 1985) is a curator and writer based in Guangzhou and a curator in residence at ISCP in 2020 sponsored by the Jane Farver Memorial Fund. Her practice looks at the consequences of rapidly diversifying structures of relationships and power in East Asia within the digital era. Her curatorial projects include *Re/sentiment* (2016) at A+ Contemporary, Shanghai; *Southern Climate* (2017) at N3 Gallery, Beijing; and *Forget Sorrow Grass: An Archaeology of Feminine Time* (co-curated with Sirui Zhang, 2019) at Guangdong Times Museum, among others. Wu has been the Director of Media Lab at Guangdong Times Museum since 2019.

About ISCP

Founded in 1994, ISCP is the fourth-largest visual arts residency program in the world and a global leader in the field of visual arts residency programs. ISCP supports the creative development of artists and curators, and promotes exchange through residencies and public programs. Housed in a former factory in Brooklyn, with 35 light-filled work studios and two galleries, ISCP organizes exhibitions, events and offsite projects, which are free and open to all, sustaining a

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vibrant community of contemporary art practitioners and diverse audiences. Over 1,400 artists and curators from more than 85 countries, including the United States have undertaken residencies at ISCP.

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