

Liu Wei Named Artist of the 2015 Year, one of China's most prestigious art awards

On May 16, 2016, Liu Wei was awarded the price of Chinese contemporary art, Award of Art of China (AAC). AAC Director Wu Hung stated about Liu Wei: "Liu Wei has been consistently dedicated to the exploration of the use of materials. Whether in his paintings or his installations, his formal world has always transformed the condition of contemporary society, concentrating a chaotic and constantly shifting modern china into a dynamic artistic language. As others complain about the chaos of the world, Liu Wei has constructed a new world of his own amidst this chaos." In 2008, Liu Wei was already awarded Best Artist in Chinese Contemporary Art. Liu Wei has currently an exhibition in New York at Lehmann Maupin Gallery, from November 2 to December 17, 2016.

Liu Wei's art matured during an important phase in China's development, and the artist was heavily influenced by the shifts taking place in Chinese society. Liu Wei likes exploring materials in surprising ways with formidable skill to create works with strong visual impact and profound reflection on social and political issues. From 2006, his works have been about corruption, alienation or the immense verticality of infrastructure of a megapolis. Liu Wei stated: "Cities are a reality ; the whole China is a city under construction and for sure it influences me". The artist plays with architectural space, destabilising both the structural environment and viewers' perceptions. In 2015 in the White Cube Gallery in Hong Kong, his sculpture titled 'Puzzle' presented a towering of mirrors and steel, metaphor for China's relentless progress and its social and political implications. His work "Love it, Bite it" in 2005 represented an urban scene with miniature buildings made of pieces of dried bowels. Another aspect of his work, 'Indigestion' (2004) was a pile of two meters of tar, a petrochemical residue. In 1999, Liu Wei was one of subversive artists known as the Post-Sense Sensibility group. Since then he has explored a wide range of mediums from painting to film, installation and sculpture as he shaped a unique artistic approach that has garnered increasing acclaim across the world. Liu Wei has exhibitions everywhere, in China and across the world ; in February 2015 the Centre for Contemporary Art (Ullens) in Beijing organized the largest solo exhibition of the artist.