

### Wang Du, an artist who denounces and disturbs

As Laurent Godin Gallery presents to visitors a strange "Clinic of the world" by Wang Du, let's go back to the career of this artist of Chinese origin installed in France since 1990. In the 80's, Wang Du was a committed and critical artist in China. He was imprisoned from September 1989 to June 1990. Today the artistic approach of Wang Du is mainly centred around a criticism of the hegemony of media, their power and manipulation. In 1999, at the Venice Biennale, the artist created a "Marché aux puces", an installation of 11 sculptures in plaster. On a table of 9 meters length, Monica Lewinski, Yasser Arafat and Patrick Poivre d'Arvor coexisted, as a sort of media cover telescoping of this time. Wang Du, "is Rodin plus a century of mass media", explained Pascal Bausse of the National Centre of Plastic Arts. The artist creates painted resin sculptures that are massive, with provocative postures, astonished expressions and vibrant colours and also numerous crushed newspapers. Wang Du is well renowned in France but also abroad: very recently, in October 2016 he had a solo exhibition untitled "Post-Fetishism" at the Tang Contemporary Art in Hong Kong. Based on his keen observations of society, Wang Du proposed a series of "post-fetishist" artworks: objects to signify absurd phenomena related to the intersection and alienation of humans and objects. At the moment Wang Du presents at the Laurent Godin 2 Gallery "the Clinic of the world": the visitor is invited to enter into a labyrinth of white veils that divide the exhibition into eleven rooms as hospital services. To Wang Du, the world looks like a sick body and the artist "dissects" the issues of our society.

"I push the curtain and discover an empty room, except a huge rascal painting with garish colors", reports Thierry Hay in his blog. "This is a clear allusion to canteens and hospital guard rooms where doctors somewhat relax before going back and face pains of the world". Then "I find myself in a long corridor, I notice a few signs evoking medical specialties: ENT, Surgery, Urology, Neurology etc. I enter into the ENT room. I face one of Du's specialties: crushed newspapers. I see several enormous paper balls in bronze. I move closer, I can read Arab calligraphies on one of them, Cyrillic from the Pravda journal on another one and economic articles of the New York Times on a third one. In this work, Wang Du denounces the arrogance of the world of finance. These crushed papers become imposing and monumental works". "In the Internal Medicine room, a very big cat is playing with a rat. This is a very surprising installation and also a new fable: the biggest always eat the smallest". There is also a room dedicated to neurology, another room bears the name of Psychiatry and Cardiology. Wang Du is an artist of great intensity who never stopped striking the minds since 1990, as shown in this exhibition at Laurent Godin 2 Gallery: 36 bis rue Eugène Oudin , 75013 Paris, till December 23, 2016.