

YANG YONGLIANG STUDIO



Still Image of YAN, Film, 2015

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FEBRUARY 07 - APRIL 07

Shanghai Gallery of Art, Shanghai, China

Shanghai Gallery of Art is pleased to present the solo exhibition of Yang Yongliang, where the artist's first feature film YAN will be on premiere. A 50-minute offering, YAN is, metaphorically, both as a dream one could never wake up to and as a dilemma one could never pierce through. The protagonist is, seemingly, a swordsman existing in a metropolis; he appears to have an ambition with nowhere to express. Chasing after a tripod raven's guide, the swordsman travels back and forth between reality and his mental space. The narrative expresses Tao Yuanming's longing of reclusion exemplified in *Peach Blossom Spring*. It also introduces Zhuangzi's paradox of *Dream of Butterfly* written in *On the Equality of Things*.

Yang Yongliang's early works compose the structure of overwhelming cityscapes, in which he describes objective world to its ultimate. Meanwhile, the film could be viewed as a subjective extension. This black and white filmic journey allows the audience to associate with the unknown man in the swordsman's outfit. Along with him, we drown in the stress of current lives and scenarios. Onward with him, we are challenged by our other selves. Being with him, we reflect the warmth and bid farewell.

