

ANGST, KEINE ANGST / FEAR, NO FEAR / 畏无所畏

Times Art Center Berlin

April 7–July 17, 2021

Artists: Thomas Adebahr, Hank Yan Agassi, Dorothee Albrecht, Nine Budde, Chen Dandizi 陈丹笛子, Iyad Dayoub, Nina DeLudemann, Abrie Fourie, Anne Gathmann, Ge Yulu 葛宇路, Anja Gerecke, Olivier Guessele-Garai, Huang Xiaopeng 黄小鹏, Klaas Hübner, Franziska Hünig, Mwangi Hutter, Yuko Kaseki, Ange Kayifa, Friederike Klotz, Ulrike Kuschel, Lei Lijie 雷丽洁, Li Juchuan 李巨川, Li Lulu 李璐璐, Li Xiangwei 李翔伟, Li Yifan 李一凡, Mikhail Lylov, Ma Xinyu 马馨钰, Ma Yujiang 马玉江, Antje Majewski, Sajan Mani, Elke Marhöfer, Maternal Fantasies, Alice Musiol, Paulo Nazareth, Bettina Nürnberg & Dirk Peuker, Pinar Öğrenci, Qin Jin 秦晋, Stefan Rummel, RZhen 阿珍, Song Ta 宋拓, Erwin Stache, Sun Haili 孙海力, Tam Waiping 谭伟平, Vangjush Vellahu, Janin Walter, Wang Yinjie 王音洁 & Yao Chunchun 姚纯纯, Wei Yuan 魏源, Wu Sibao 伍思波, Wu Tiao Ren 五条人, Xi Lei 奚雷, Yang Xinjia 杨欣嘉, Zhong Jialing 钟嘉玲, Zhu Tao 朱涛

ANGST, KEINE ANGST / FEAR, NO FEAR is curated by four artists: Huang Xiaopeng, Dorothee Albrecht, Antje Majewski, and Stefan Rummel. Initiated by Huang Xiaopeng, the project focuses on the present global state of collective fear and anxiety and will unfold in three chapters at Times Art Center Berlin from April 7–July 17, 2021.

Fear is rooted in and influenced by different cultural and historical experiences. The group exhibition **ANGST, KEINE ANGST / FEAR, NO FEAR** explores the broad spectrum of fears that have emerged in different geographical, historical and contemporary contexts. Through the lens of these perspectives, the artist-curators, together with the exhibiting artists, seek to understand our present era.

The presentation will evolve as an ongoing process over three months, in episodes entitled *Uncertainties – Walking on Unstable Grounds*, *Panic – The Moment of Fear*, and *Potentialities – Growing Out of Damaged Ground*.

The curatorial team invited artists across generations, from the 1960s to the 1990s, to present their works on the complex spectrum of themes mentioned above, with the artistic media spanning sculpture, installation, video, performance, painting and photography. The artists of diverse international backgrounds are predominately based in Berlin, as well as Beijing, Chengdu, Chongqing, Wuhan, Hangzhou and the Pearl River Delta; one young performance artist is based in Yaoundé. Many of these practitioners have been exploring the theme of fear from their individual perspective for a long time.

In our current, complex realities, it is not unusual that fear takes hold of our bodies. We encounter difficulties breathing because of anxiety. This may originate in “objective” immediate threats and dangers, or in psychological factors. This condition leads to further anxiety about an uncertain and unpredictable future.

Fears of the nature, mice, insects, death, ghosts, strangers, heights, or enclosed spaces seem to be part of ancient human nature. There are fears of intimacy, obesity, drugs, social barriers, overpopulation, North-South conflicts, immigration, terrorism, ethnic conflicts, world famines, global warming, viruses, ecological crises, nuclear accidents, political incorrectness, and Orwellian nightmares. All these common fears are reinforced through the widespread use of smartphones and social media in the present day. Once internalized into consciousness, it is difficult to resist the sirens of fear.

When fear becomes a phantom, it becomes fear of fear itself. In 1768, a rumor about “Soulstealers”—beggars and monks who secretly absorb human souls—spread over 12 Chinese provinces (with a population of more than 200 million) in a few months. A mass hysteria triggered by fear took many lives. The witch hunts in the Middle Ages in Europe, and the persecution of “Communists” by McCarthyism in US, or the nuclear competition between East and West during the Cold War all caused widespread fear and anxiety because of a specific “superstition” or ideology. Today, in totalitarian states, fear is part of political repression. Abuse of power and the control of information make it difficult to enable room for dialogue. At the same time, in democratic countries, social media may manipulate the fear of the masses politically and culturally. Politicians can use the fear of the masses to enhance their control over society and suppress any radical impulse that tends toward social experiment.

Artists use their sensitivity to capture inner feelings, through sensory and physical experience, using multiple media in different ways of perceiving fear: cold, hot, dull, sharp, sticky, loud or too quiet, or empty.

In the current world, both living conditions and interpersonal relationships lack stability. Environmental, social, and cultural values are facing serious tests. Fear, as an instinctive and self-protective mechanism, occurs not only in response to some current stimulus, but also largely as a psychological projection. Can we become more sensitive and aware of our fragile nature? Can fear be a source of knowledge and lead us to interpretations of the unknown? Are we able to choose courage instead of fear? Can this inspire a common response to future threats in an age of globalization in which the boundaries between reality and science fiction become increasingly blurred? How can we make a new start, a new beginning?

The project will be divided into three chapters:

Chapter 1: *Uncertainties – Walking on Unstable Grounds*

April 7–May 1, 2021

Nine Budde, Anne Gathmann, Anja Gerecke, Huang Xiaopeng 黄小鹏, Klaas Hübner, Franziska Hünig, Friederike Klotz, Ulrike Kuschel, Li Juchuan 李巨川, Li Xiangwei 李翔伟, Li Yifan 李一凡, Ma Xinyu 马馨钰, Ma Yujiang 马玉江, Antje Majewski & Vangjush Vellahu, Alice Musiol, Bettina Nürnberg & Dirk Peuker,

Qin Jin 秦晋, Stefan Rummel, Erwin Stache, Tam Waiping 谭伟平, Wei Yuan 魏源, Wu Sibao 伍思波, Zhu Tao 朱涛

Chapter 2: *Panic – The Moment of Fear*

May 14–June 12, 2021

Iyad Dayoub, Abrie Fourie, Anne Gathmann, Ge Yulu 葛宇路, Anja Gerecke, Huang Xiaopeng 黄小鹏, Franziska Hünig, Ange Kayifa, Friederike Klotz, Lei Lijie 雷丽洁, Li Lulu 李璐璐, Li Yifan 李一凡, Alice Musiol, Pinar Öğrenci, Stefan Rummel, RZhen 阿珍, Vangjush Vellahu, Janin Walter, Xi Lei 奚雷, Yang Xinjia 杨欣嘉

Chapter 3: *Potentialities – Growing out of Damaged Ground*

June 25–July 17, 2021

Thomas Adebahr, Hank Yan Agassi, Dorothee Albrecht, Chen Dandizi 陈丹笛子, Nina DeLudemann, Olivier Guesselé-Garai, Huang Xiaopeng 黄小鹏, Yuko Kaseki, Ulrike Kuschel, Mikhail Lylov, Sajan Mani, Elke Marhöfer, Maternal Fantasies, Mwangi Hutter, Paulo Nazareth, Song Ta 宋拓, Sun Haili 孙海力, Wang Yinjie 王音洁 & Yao Chunchun 姚纯纯, Wu Tiao Ren 五条人, Zhong Jialing 钟嘉玲