

CRITIC'S GUIDE - 16 AUG 2016

Critic's Guide: Shanghai

BY GARY ZHEXI ZHANG

The highlights of the city's summer shows



Yu Honglei, 'Swallow Century', 2016, installation view Antenna Space, Shanghai

Yu Honglei, 'Swallow Century'

[Antenna Space](#)

8 July – 2 September

Yu Honglei's solo show is an alien arena populated by sculptural figures of fibreglass and acrylic. Part sino-historical, part science-fictional, Yu's installations are marked by an artificial gloss which speaks to his reputation as one of China's recent wave of post-internet practitioners. Sculptures standing on mint-green plinths suggest visual quotations welding together folk-mythical symbolism and smooth manufactured forms, rendered in fluorescent blue and green acrylic. Evidently he raids the same store cupboard as his partner, Guan Xiao, who recently had a solo show at London's ICA. Like the digital images he scavenges, Yu's sculptures – each standing at around 8 feet – equalize the meaning of these commodified forms even as they exalt their tacky eroticism. Together, they resemble a showroom of futuristic garden furniture. The physical pieces are accompanied by the two-channel video, *En Route* (2016), a sonically pulsating travelogue which combines speculative sci-fi narratives with Lawrence Weiner's slick typographical works. Melding enigmatic personal mythologies with the simulacral gloss of digital image production, 'Swallow Century' is a glimpse into Yu's artifactual pantheon.

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