

GAZING BACK

8 January - 7 February 2026

Curated by Dario Veréb

Gazing Back brings together three contemporary Chinese artists whose practices in photography, video, and sculpture reflect on displacement, identity, and cultural perception shaped by life abroad. Rather than presenting China through a Western lens, Gazing Back reverses the perspective, inviting Swiss audiences to encounter how the West is seen, remembered, and questioned from Chinese viewpoints. By foregrounding lived experience over representation, the exhibition creates space for reflection on belonging, migration, and the shifting dynamics of the cultural gaze.

All three artists have lived or worked outside China. Their works do not simply illustrate cultural difference; they emerge from states of distance, memory, and displacement. Here, the West appears not as a fixed place but as something experienced and later questioned. The exhibition is less about explaining China to a Western audience and more about prompting viewers to consider their own position within these exchanges.

List of artists and artworks.

Ronghui Chen (b. 1989) is a Chinese photographer based in Shanghai and New York. He graduated with a master's degree in Photography from Yale University. His work explores social identity, emotional undercurrents of everyday life, and the experience of living between systems and cultures. His photographs combine documentary sensitivity with personal memory. Chen has won a number of awards including World Press Photo; BarTur Photo Award; Three Shadows Photography Award & Alpa special prize and Hou Dengke Documentary Photography Award. Chen has exhibited in Les Rencontres d'Arles, OCAT, ICP museum, Format Festival, Photoville, and more. His series Freezing Land has had dedicated reviews in Art in America, The Guardian, New York Times, and FT Magazine. A photobook of the same series published by Jiazaizhi was nominated for the 2020 Aperture Foundation & ParisPhoto First Photobook Award.



Ronghui Chen, Untitled 11 (behind the door), 2019
Archival Pigment Print

76 x 95 cm, edition 1/3, CHF 2'800
112 x 140 cm, edition 1/2, CHF 3'400



Ronghui Chen, Untitled 09 (bed), 2019
Archival Pigment Print

76 x 95 cm, edition 1/3, CHF 2'800
112 x 140 cm, edition 1/2, CHF 3'400



Ronghui Chen, Untitled 18 (doorway), 2019
Archival Pigment Print

76 x 95 cm, edition 3/3, CHF 4'400
112 x 140 cm, edition 1/2, CHF 3'400



Ronghui Chen, Untitled 01 (closet), 2019
Archival Pigment Print

76 x 95 cm, edition 3/3, CHF 4'400
112 x 140 cm, edition 1/2, CHF 3'400



Ronghui Chen, Untitled 16 (study room), 2019
Archival Pigment Print

76 x 95 cm, 1AP, TBD
112 x 140 cm, edition 1/2, CHF 3'400

Zeyuan Ren (b. 1997) is a Chinese video, performance, and installation artist working between Shanghai and Ningbo. Ren holds an MFA in Photography from Rhode Island School of Design. Spanning lens-based media, installation and performance, his practice is rooted in the composite experiences of displacement between coasts, ruminating on liminality in the context of historical and geographic specificity. His recent research concerns the imaginary lines charted by the West in the waters of the Yangtze River estuary during the 19th century, and the concrete representations of imperial optics. Ren's practice reflects on displacement, movement, and liminality, often emerging from intuitive actions rather than predefined concepts and his works have been exhibited and screened at venues including Fotografiska Shanghai, University of Nottingham-Ningbo, Guangdong Times Museum, Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival, de Young Museum and Microscope Gallery. He was the finalist of the Three Shadows Photography Award and the UCCA Lab X Perrier Emerging Artist Program.



Zeyuan Ren, A Kind of Displacement, 2021
Single channel HD video with color and sound
06'08"
1/3 + 1 AP
CHF 1'200

Moyan Wang (b. 2000) is a Chinese sculptor and textile artist whose practice explores personal, social and historical layers of Chinese and diasporic experience. Working with ceramics, fabric, lacquer, and papier-mâché, her works translate inherited myths and rituals into fragile contemporary forms. Wang holds a BA from Northwestern University and is currently pursuing an MFA at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Moyan Wang, Pricks II, 2025
wood-fired ceramics
13 x 9 cm
unique
CHF 70



Moyan Wang, Pricks I, 2025
wood-fired ceramics
10 x 7 cm
unique
CHF 70



Moyan Wang, The Fallen Moon, 2025
Urushi lacquer, cotton, ceramics, pearls
approx. 229 x 76 cm
unique
CHF 300



Moyan Wang, A Veil of Rain, 2025
ceramics, papier-mâché, acrylic and eggshell powder
unique
CHF 300

Dario Veréb

Dario Veréb (b. 1996) was born and raised in the canton of Zurich, Switzerland and currently works as the Chief Photo Editor of the NZZ am Sonntag. His professional and curatorial interests focus on photography, China, artificial intelligence, and traditions. He organized Gazing Back as his Graduation Project for the Asia Society Switzerland's Gen A Program, aimed at preparing the next generation for the Asian Century.

"As a Western curator engaging with Chinese artists and their work, I was acutely aware of the historical weight of the gaze and of the risk of reproducing inherited forms of representation. Rather than positioning these artists as subjects to be interpreted, this exhibition was conceived as a space in which their individual ways of looking take center stage."

-- Dario Veréb

Anggrek Agency

Founded in 2023 in Zurich by Steven Anggrek, a graduate of the Executive Master in Art Market Studies at the University of Zurich, Anggrek Agency is a private contemporary art space dedicated to presenting works by emerging and established artists who challenge conventions of identity, intimacy, and representation. The agency highlights queer, Asian, and female artists, as well as designers and photographers.

Located in a personal living space rather than a traditional gallery setting, Anggrek Agency offers an exclusive, domestic setting where art is experienced on an intimate scale. Visits are by appointment only, emphasizing privacy, dialogue, and curatorial precision.

For press inquiries, interviews, high-resolution images, or viewing appointments, please contact:

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