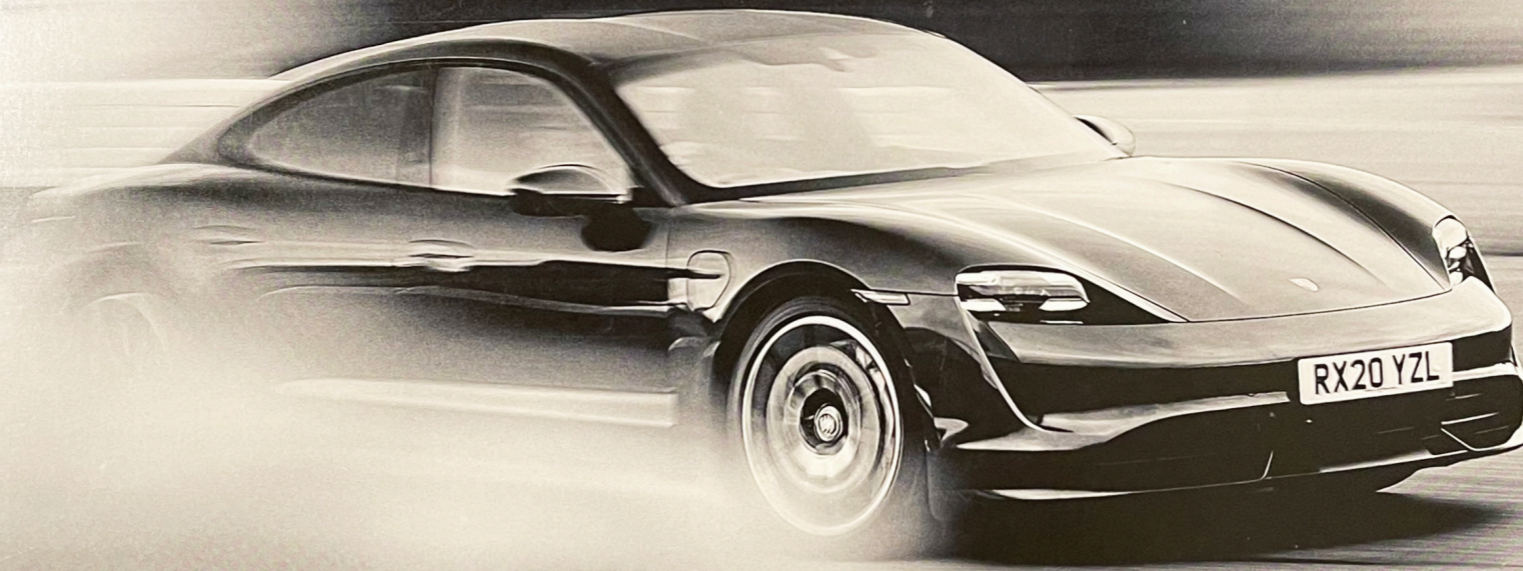


# CHRISTOPHORUS

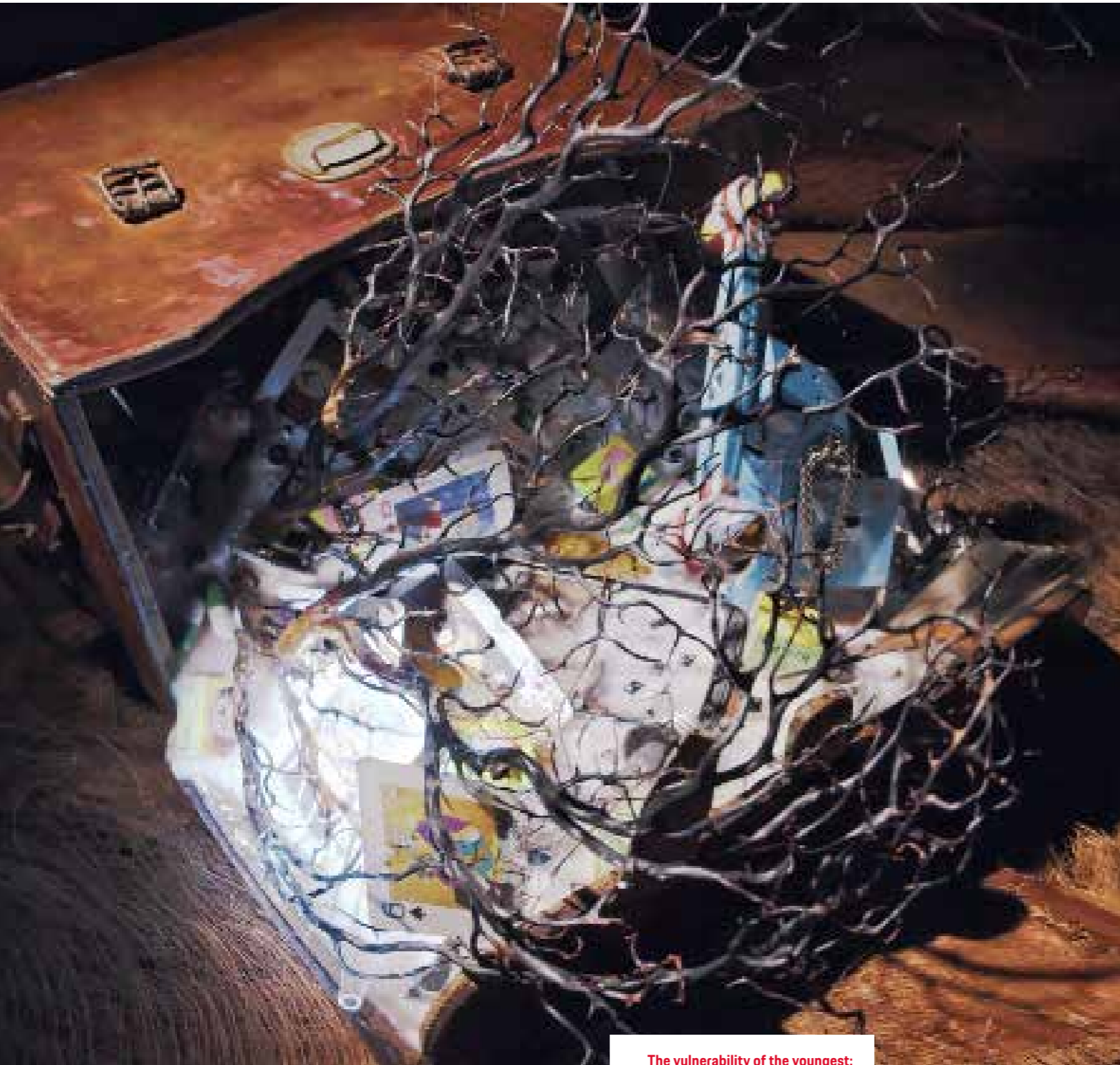
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Porsche 3/2020



## Balance

Chilling with the  
Taycan in Goodwood



**The vulnerability of the youngest:**

In her series *Moon Milk*, award-winning artist Liu Wa depicts, among other things, a satchel full of the detritus of civilization, out of which a small tree is growing.

**China is a huge source of inspiration that is rapidly developing and changing. Particularly in the field of art. With the “Young Chinese Artist Of the Year” competition, Porsche China promotes young creatives in China.**

of the submission, the jury's decision rested largely on the presentation in the competition. The selected students had one year to prepare, design and carry out their work. The spectrum of submissions ranged from sculptures and virtual reality to painting and video installations. The winners, who were chosen last November, will present their works this autumn at ART021, the contemporary art fair in Shanghai.

The emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic did not leave YAOY entirely unscathed. Some projects had to be postponed. JINGART in Beijing, where the candidates were to have exhibited their works, fell victim to coronavirus restrictions. But disasters and traumatic experiences have always been powerful engines for creative ideas, and often unleash a great deal of energy that can be used to overcome crises.

Together with the exhibition organizers of this year's ART021, Porsche launched the *Art heals* project. From November 12th to the 15th, the initiators will create a public space in Shanghai where visitors can release the emotional tension that the virus has caused them. Art as therapy, so to speak. The healing powers, as it were, will include not only the winners of the YAOY, but also western artists invited to take part in the event. The exhibition then moves to Wuhan—the erstwhile epicenter of the pandemic.

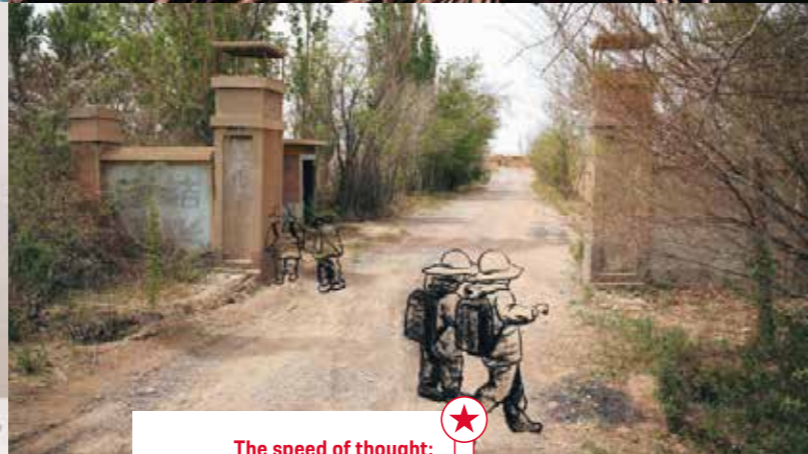
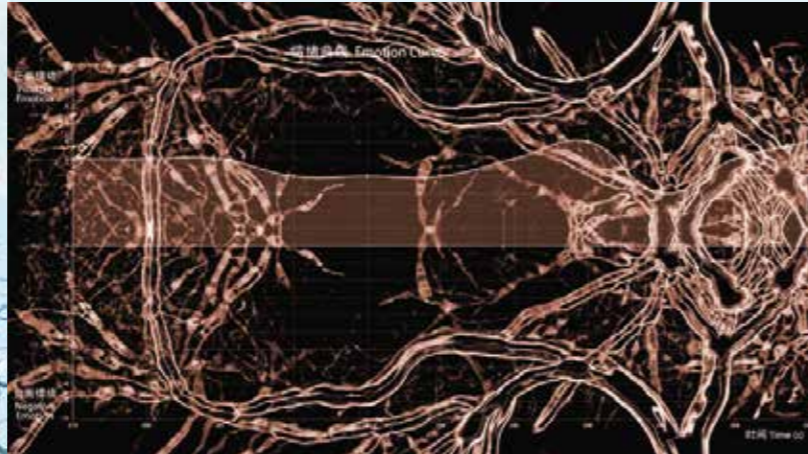
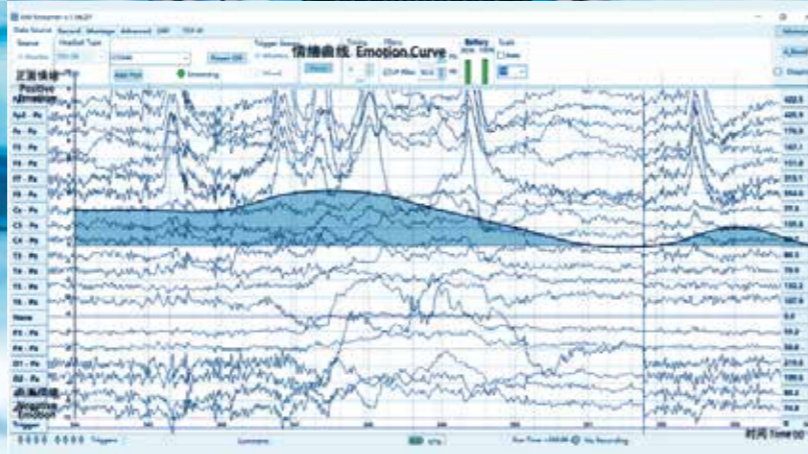
The original impetus for Porsche China's commitment to art was another natural disaster: An earthquake in Sichuan province on May 12, 2008 claimed 70,000 lives, with thousands of children in collapsed schools among the victims. The Stuttgart-based company immediately made donations to help affected families and support reconstruction efforts. The tragedy laid bare the vulnerability of the young pupils and led to the initiative *Empowering the Future*, which was established by Porsche China

together with the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute, in 2009. The program encouraged students to undertake art projects on the theme of “Caring for children” and thereby raise awareness of the fragility and needs of the youngest children.

The current YAOY program is intended not only to provide fresh ideas for China, but also to open up new perspectives for the rest of the world. To create a broader picture that goes beyond the conventional view of China that is widespread in traditional media. YAOY wants to be more than just a spark to get things started. It wants to keep the fire going long term. The competition has acquired such cachet over the years that winners enjoy ample opportunities for further exhibitions. Porsche continues to support the award-winners as they forge ahead in their careers. It also supports artists in Wuhan, and last year sponsored special scholarships for master's students in the field of art.

The “Young Chinese Artist of the Year” project is certainly a competition, but hardly a Darwinian elimination race. Just as at the 2017 premiere, four winners were on stage in 2019. The idea is not so much to crown a triumphant champion at the finish line, but rather to generate the sort of momentum that can pull further talented young artists into its slipstream. •

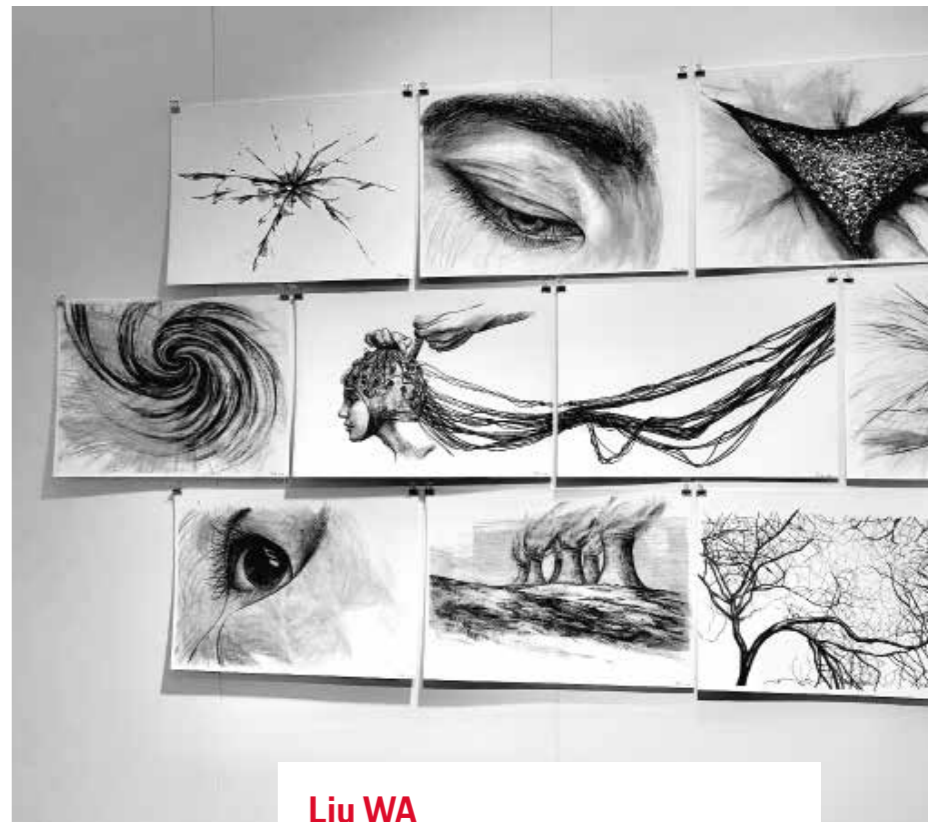
By **Markus STIER**  
Photos by **FENG Lei / Felix Studio**



**The speed of thought:**  
In her prize-winning installation *Racing Thoughts*, Liu Wa makes the speed and complexity of brain waves visible.

“Our today is the future of our childhood.”

Liu WA



**Liu WA**

The 25-year-old artist studied art and anthropology. Perfect qualifications for the latest YAAY competition theme: “What makes life today so different?” Liu Wa is one of the four winners. The daughter of painting teachers in Beijing, she was captivated by a passion for art an early age.

Though frustrated in her youth by her seemingly still naive drawings, the Yale University graduate now effortlessly jumps back and forth between genres, from classical painting to video installations. The work that garnered her the YOAY award, *Racing Thoughts*, depicts an electroencephalogram—a way of measuring electrical brain waves better known as an EEG—showing her racing thoughts as wild curves as she simultaneously surfs the internet. “With my work, I want to represent both the clinical and human aspects of feelings,” she explains. Liu is enthusiastic about the possibilities of the digital age, yet at the same time feels overwhelmed by the speed and flood of information. Her way of mastering that balancing act: “I find my inner peace with meditation apps.”

Liu Wa alternates between her studio in Beijing and her apartment in New York. She has begun further studies in art and technology at the renowned Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). In her opinion, the fact that more and more young Chinese are pursuing an education abroad has made the art of their homeland more intelligible and established worldwide, but has also cost them a bit of independence. Her big goal: “To find my own voice.”

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