



LIU WA & YANG BAO
SAVAGE CONFESSIONS

MAY 4-9, 2022

Studio 170



GOETHE
INSTITUT

SAVAGE CONFESSIONS

The exhibit *Savage Confessions* by Liu Wa & Yang Bao creates a multi-sensory and ever-evolving visual-soundscape through video, music and painting, seeking to heighten our sensuous receptivity to the more-than-human world and question the man-made boundaries amongst ourselves.

The first part of the exhibit features two-channel video *Late Night Savage* which focuses on the day and night of three plants at nuclear sites in the United States, the former Soviet Union and China during the Cold War. The two artists embarked on an 11,000-mile journey to conduct field research in Washington State, U.S. and Gansu, China, and lived among the plants. As a continuation of the video work, an installation of paintings titled *Savage Confessions* by the two artists captures their impression and imagination of the plants that they encountered on their journey. In the daytime, the plants dedicate themselves to fulfilling the obligations assigned by humans, but in the nighttime, they morph into phantoms and savages. The intent of these works is not to anthropomorphize the plants, but to “vegetalize” our human perceptions and question the man-made boundaries amongst ourselves.

The silent carnival of these nameless actors has never been alien to us. We are all savages.

LIU WA

is a multimedia artist who explores questions of boundaries, power and intersubjectivity through installation, video, painting and assemblage sculpture. She seeks to decentralize human's dominant role in knowledge production and world-making through a multi-species lens. Liu Wa received her B.A. in Anthropology and Art from Yale University and is pursuing her M.S. in Art, Culture and Technology at MIT. She won the International Emmy Awards Young Creatives Award, Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list, Porsche Young Chinese Artist of the Year, and participated in Busan Biennale and Guangzhou Triennial.

YANG BAO

is an artist, composer and pianist based in New York, classically trained in piano performance at The Juilliard School and New England Conservatory of Music. Bao's multi-media works create an experiential “synthesis of the arts” that is precise in texture while hypnotizing in motion, inspired by classical music and post-human minimalism. Bao's works have been exhibited at prestigious museums including TANK Shanghai and commissioned by international brands such as LOUIS XIII. Bao has frequently performed at Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, Lincoln Center in New York, Jordan Hall in Boston, and Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing.

CONTACT

Goethe-Institut Boston

170 Beacon Street, Boston

Opening Reception

Friday, May 6, 4-7 pm

Panel Discussion

with Bruce Brubacker & Gediminas Urbonas

Sunday, May 8, 5 pm

Gallery Hours

Wednesday, May 4, 10 am-5 pm

Thursday, May 5, 10 am-5 pm

Sunday, May 8, 4-7 pm

Monday, May 9, 10 am-5 pm

Studio 170 is a project initiated by
the Goethe Institut Boston
www.goethe.de/boston/studio170