

1  
**Goose Rider**  
 2016, Oil and acrylic on canvas  
 51 x 40 cm



13.10.2016 > 12.11.2016

## Wei Dong Observer

The uneasiness and ambiguity in Wei Dong's earlier work has continued, and has led him into more perplexing and metaphoric compositions in his recent paintings. In *My Pet* (2016), the artist depicts an effeminate figure sitting in the center of the piece, a goose is in his arm, looking to the left. Dressed in western and classical apparel, the figure looks languid and serene. On the right, a miniature black cat turns its head towards the figure. Situated as such, the goose, the figure and the cat are as if forging a connection among each other. The indifferent facial expression of the figure, along with the goose that perhaps carries out a phallic connotation, mystify the painting even more.

Presenting the artist's recent focus in a multi-layered and obscure language, *Observer* shows Wei Dong's sophistication in subverting and complicating his visual imagery. In recent works, the artist explores an interweaving relationship between the female and male genders as well as the exclusive connection between males. The artist's inspiration is revealed in the perplexing and peculiar narrative, illustrated throughout this exhibition.

His artworks are included in permanent museum collections including M+ Sigg Collection, Hong Kong, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco and Denver Art Museum.

2

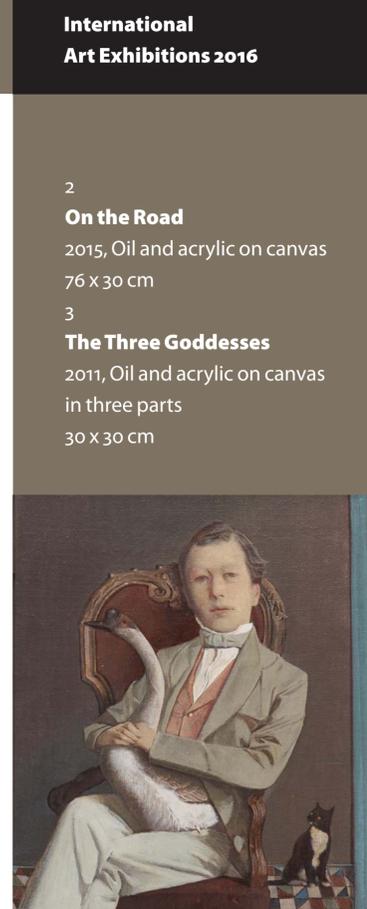
Wei Dong was born in Inner Mongolia in 1968. He graduated with a BFA from Capital Normal University, Beijing, China in 1991. He currently lives and works in both Beijing and New York.

Growing up under the repressive sociopolitical environment during the Cultural Revolution, Wei Dong's early works are profoundly shaped by the political legacy of this period of the time. Over the course of his career, the artist's oeuvre has departed from the grotesque imagery of voluptuous women and a deformed reality in a political context. Discovering a new pictorial language, the artist has paired men and women with animals, disclosing a secretive and sensual intimacy that results in a voyeuristic aesthetic.

In Wei Dong's earlier works, this kind of intimacy is often decoded in anachronistic scenes with oddly mismatched elements and protagonists.



3



2  
**On the Road**  
 2015, Oil and acrylic on canvas  
 76 x 30 cm  
 3  
**The Three Goddesses**  
 2011, Oil and acrylic on canvas  
 in three parts  
 30 x 30 cm

4



5

4  
**My Pet No1**  
 2016, Oil and acrylic on canvas  
 25 x 20 cm  
 5  
**Silent Is Cambridge Tonight**  
 2016, Oil and acrylic on canvas  
 25 x 20 cm

Courtesy Klein Sun Gallery,  
 © Wei Dong