中国风景第三回展中国风景第三回展

视時識主編

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CHINESE LANDSCAPES The third exhibition

/LINE OF VISION

目录

- 2 风景的种种可能性 颜长江
- 8 LANDSCAPING CHINA TRANSLATING
 MODERNITY MUTATIS MUTANDIS Cheng-Hsuan Kao
- 13 作品
- 15 归山 颜长江+肖萱安
- 29 格林威治时间 藏 策
- 35 国际旅游者 邵文欢
- 45 欢乐颂 敖国兴
- 59 北流活活 张克纯
- 75 日常 李 勇
- 89 喀拉库勒湖·冬 JONAS BORCHERS
- 99 瘴 丘
- 113 敬丌上 塔 可
- 125 漫步 路 泞
- 137 原乡 罗凯星
- 147 大江风情录 李朝晖
- 161 消逝的三峡 杨铁军
- 173 从渝州到金陵——李白诗意 许培武
- 186 "中国风景"第三回展后记 许培武
- 187 "中国风景"大事记
- 188 艺术家简介



风景的种种可能性

。 颜长江



许培武先生发起的"中国风景"群展终于迎来第三回展。这一次,我们引入了彩色摄影,这也是蓄谋已久的。同时一如往届,我们也没定下一个主题。放下了也就开阔了,无主题,也就全面了。我们可以看到当下风景摄影的种种可能性,并且,不可避免地会显露出时代心理,或"价值建构"的意思。大致看,这些作品可以分成两大类,一类是从文化背景出发的观点看,另一类是从社会批判的角度观察,也可以说是诗意自然的人文传统与工业社会的理性反思这两条路。当然,实际操作中,往往两者交织,要复杂一些。

前一种,正是近年的一个小流行。我且称之为"文化母题",就是有一个文本,或文化意象,以其为法,"照见五蕴皆空",去对应现实景物。最杰出者,即是塔可的《诗山河考》。简言之,是揣着《诗经》找感觉,感觉之种种,既构成现实批判,也凝成文化追问,最后他也集成了一个庞大复杂而又极具价值与魅力的文本。我首先视其为文化研究,视他为学者。虽然,他的学术是影像化的"模糊学"。重要的是,他可能形成了属于他自己的一个"母题"——一种"诗经一当代"的场域,供人借用与研究。这一次,他的新作,其名也是来自古代经典——《敬丌上》,也是承接《诗山河考》的创作传统,这次可能隐晦些,但内里

是有一个老庄式的"大道"在的。

同样的,许培武去年游走江湖时,并不似以往那样注重社会批判,而是渐渐地回到他年少时练习的山水美学中去了。例如,上一部作品,就叫作《林泉高致》。这一回他的作品又叫作《从渝州到金陵——李白诗意》,他的作品说明也尽是唐诗。渝州、金陵,两个多么浪漫的名字啊,属于唐宋李杜,这一次,许培武是一路缅怀,沉浸在长江文化的"核心价值观"里的,那是关于自然与人生的长叹,充满宇宙之思、历史之感的文人精神道场。许培武的摄影轨迹似乎说明,一个纪实摄影师,往往不一定能从现实中得到救赎,他可能渐渐转向文化与宗教,寻找形上的寄托。我认为,在中国,这是一条必由之路。这样,不止是在借助于文化,也是在修补我们残破的文化本身。

许培武这一次的手法,以草木轻微的晃动,而呈悠远之思,树欲静而风不止,风动草动而心不动,还是落到一个"静"字。而罗凯星,讲究的是绝对的速度,火车越快,那归家的心情就越急切,那窗外山水的皴擦效果就越有古意,越是中国的。这与他的老乡陶渊明也差不多,所谓"舟遥遥以轻飏,风飘飘而吹衣,问征夫以前路,恨晨光之熹微"。当然,他是以一个现代人的身份与速度回乡的,这就是其"当



从渝州到金陵——李白诗意/许培武

代性"。罗凯星反复追忆的文化主题,正是他的家乡——庐山脚下,自陶渊明以来,形成的乡土田园文化传统,这个古老的传统,于今已成大问题,凝结成一个并不恰当的时尚词汇:乡愁。此词略显轻飘,但点出了中国人精神家园失落的当代之痛。

与罗氏大异其趣,杨铁军以地理摄影的手法,拍摄了另一个巨大的人文场域:川江。三峡诗性与血性交织的独特气质,在他那里化成了平静的凝视。杨铁军的影像有类似于景观摄影的一面,但不完全是,因为他似乎没有高度的主观化、风格化。他只是描绘其大美,服从、尊重对象。我也常常有类似的旅程,类似的摄影,表面上作品化程度不高,但天地人文之美已无须自我表现太多。这里面有很珍贵的摄影品质。杨铁军明显有高超先进的摄影技术,但也许是因为偏居三峡小城,未受太多"污染",他的影像安静平实,有 20世纪80年代的心境,我甚至联想起80年代两部杰出的电影作品,

《待到满山红叶时》和《巴山夜雨》。附带一句,三峡文化 气质,有80年代成分,至今犹在发展,如大江流水,生生不息。

外表的沉默,内在的胶着,杨铁军留下了三峡遗像,同样的区域,李朝晖拍摄的则是三峡"死亡后"的景象。此时山河已改,风平浪静,适宜景观化表现,独特的是,他将人



消逝的三峡/杨铁军



原乡/罗凯星



大江风情录 / 李朝晖

物肖像景观化了。人物与风景此时有同样的气质,都是历尽劫波,大彻大悟,只能以终极的沉静面目,面对古往今来,此时这一地区,已成圣域。这是三峡及长江的独特之处,总是拥有诗性与神性。所以李朝晖、杨铁军、许培武,还有许多朋友,都不约而同拍摄了长江,放在一起说是合适的。即便是科学家,李朝晖也和其他人一样,透着浓浓的长江文化情怀。

与以上文化抒怀不同的,是另一个"阵营": 理性的景观摄影,这尤以敖国兴、李勇、张克纯较为明显。敖国兴,是标准的德国类型学派,内容是钢铁废墟,方法是客观平视。制作也极讲究工艺,几乎没有抒情性(那作品中唯有一些怀旧的黄色调可以算是)。其作品的完成度极高,拿东北话来说,"杠杠的"。这与丘、罗凯星、许培武等南方人的影像完全不同,呈现出风景摄影的另一极。到他这儿,如墙壁,再杠也没可能了。敖国兴的作品,什么意义咱不说了,就这气质与手艺,是中国摄影需要的。如同路泞、付羽一样,这是基本的脸面。

真正懂照片的人知道,景观摄影看似平白,一览无余, 但其杰出者,会引人入胜,如饮琼浆,回味不已,陶醉其中。 李勇与张克纯也许是两个最好的代表。两人的作品,卷面 整洁, 法度谨严, 色彩晶莹, 调子干净, 显示出两人有一种精神洁癖, 有"无人信高洁, 谁为表予心"的感觉。当然, 两人也有不同, 李勇的作品不避现实的复杂, 中正理性一些, 而张克纯的作品则多简笔, 有悠远之思, 不避抒情, 其《北流活》的命题, 也表明了他暗含一种艺文意识。总之, 张克纯更极端, 可以说其形式感与高士气质, 已成为此类摄影一极。至于他们的内容, 不再多说, 景观摄影就是为现实立证, 不扭曲、不夸张、不"手法", 宁静致远, 不动声色, 反而有机会"为天地立心,为生民请命"。例如发展中的李勇, 以后也许会说明这一点,哪怕只积累了几十张到百来张作品, 其浩瀚的内容, 也可成为一个时代的文献。

正如景观摄影可以暗含中国式抒情意识一样,社会批判也可以不只是理性的,也可以是大写意的。这次我们又有另一极的代表,"摄影巫师"邵文欢。他擅长暗房炼丹术,黑、白、灰,加上彩色颜料,手工涂布、上色,使他的作品充满色彩与语义的狂欢。他以黄山、苏州园林等为题材的作品很引人注意,但我认为,《国际旅游者》这组最有难度,也最见灵光。外国人难拍,旅行团最无趣,这两者他都克服了,而且拍出了超越性。最无聊的临时旅行团,竟被他拍得像神秘的宗教仪式,这种神性,其素材却最无神性,这其中巨大



北流活活/张克纯



欢乐颂/敖国兴



日常/李勇



国际旅游者/邵文欢



格林威治时间/藏篆

的反讽,正是作品妙处所在,禅家有言,"道在屎溺中"。 这作品,借尸还魂,指出现代人正处于一种全球化的精神困 境中。

藏策的摄影思考,也是以全球化为背景的,他的作品 虽然费解,但可一言以蔽之:全球化时代的华山。那年 4月, 在华山之上,他并未只是耽于华山的中国意境,而是呆立窗 前一天,以同样的曝光量,拍同一位置看出去的同一座主峰。 以不变应万变,这朴实而智慧的作品,是华山那一次摄影活 动中,最让我心动的一组。我的解读是:无论怎么全球化, 华山还是华山;还有,不管白天晚上,你看见还是没看见, 华山就在那里。这也启发我们理解"风景"一词:风景是人 化的自然,自然本身是无所谓美丑的。天地只是"一""道", 众生平等。借藏先生爱用的一个字眼,可以叫"元意识"。 附带说一句,藏先生以理论家身份而摄影,是值得赞赏的。 这有助于他理解摄影与摄影师的幽微之处。

至于颜长江与肖萱安的《归山》,看似平静,实际上是两人历经精神与现实的磨难后,一次拼尽全力的超越。要解决我们的精神困境,只有将自己放到最广大无垠的终极场域,只能是站得高,想得远,才能跳出当下,获得救赎,得到平静。于是他们试图让死去的标本,回归绝对的自然,没有人类,没有时间,面对浩渺大空。这是我们这个没有信仰

的国度,一个艺术家式的解决方案。要进行终极思考,要有 超越性、这已经是一个非常现实的问题了。

在展览编辑过程中, 塔可来邮件说, 自《诗山河考》后, 他几乎只愿意拍摄洪荒。我想这是很有意思的,《归山》就 是回到洪荒,路泞几次参加本展,拍的也是终古般的景象。 其他朋友的作品中,多少也有一种强烈的洪荒感。 骆丹最重 《素歌》,游莉最喜欢她拍的无人的北方溪流与岸。我认为 这都不是偶然的, 这是摄影家十几年探索的必然结果, 在面 对当下之后,必然试图解决当下,必然让风景摄影有一个更 大的尺度,鉴于中国问题之严重,比如文化断裂,并无前朝 的肩膀可站,又加上异形迭出,其荒诞不经也不是两方文明 能想象的,因此,我们面对如此前所未有的现实,自然会下 手重一些,表面上会弃绝人世,恨不能到宇宙之始,推倒重 来! 所以, 中国摄影师, 举最有代表性的, 无意中形成一条 极粗的线: 侯登科(纪实当下)——王宁德(针对近几十 年) ——魏壁(回到明清) ——刘铮(反思第一个千年的帝 王时代) ——塔可(重归先秦素朴时代) ——路泞、阿斗的 洪荒摄影。大家看,时间在提前,至少,提前到一个产生宗 教的年代! 让我们重新回到像原始人一样, 面对上苍吧!

我们这次展览,也希望大家,看到风景摄影,这巨大的 尺度,多元的视向与思考,还有这无穷的可能性与苦心。 其实每件作品,都是复杂的、综合性的。丘的新作就是这样,它是南方水乡文化的追忆,也同时展现了荒诞的新地景,甚至也有个人的孤独与彷徨。他杂糅各种素材,加以漂白,而成为影像之丘——关于这个时代,一个人能有的所有认识。

从纪实到观念,从黑白到彩色,从静拍、抓拍到摆拍,从镜像到心像,从写实到写意,从抒情到理性,从赞美到批判,甚至从忠实再现到歪曲……风景摄影有多种可能性。我们唯独忘了传统的风光摄影,是啊,手法这么多,这么多事儿、这么多观点要说,那么,哪里顾得上表面光影的追逐呢!这 14人的作品,已称得上五花八门,丰富多彩,是中国当代影像一个微缩标本——2014年,似乎依旧是个平庸的年份,没有什么引人入胜的文化思想思潮,国人依然迷恋于从电脑游戏到广场舞的浅表娱乐,仅剩的东方之美依然被围剿与扭曲,新的建设依然并无内在支撑。在此时,依然有一些真正的知识分子,不愿意过得浑噩、俗气,试图观察、批评与超越,想将自己从周围的平庸无聊往终极思考的方向拉一拉。这样的人、这样的事多了,中国还有点意思,虽然还有待于形成一个比较一致的价值宣言。

此次这南中国一隅的群展,恰好是 14个人。适逢 2014 年,这个数字很有意思。







归山/颜长江+肖萱安



LANDSCAPING CHINA TRANSLATING MODERNITY MUTATIS MUTANDIS

- Cheng-Hsuan Kao
 PhD in Geography, King's College London
- 。 高政轩 伦敦大学国王学院地理学博士

The viewing process is a dynamic interaction between the photographer, the spectator, and the image; meaning is actively constructed, not passively received. As Barthes (1964) and Byers (1966) characterize, photographs are not as a "message" in the usual sense, but as "polysemic", capable of generating multiple meanings in the viewing process. Following this line, one can adopt two-headed view of photography: photographs as data or as data generators. As Byers (1964: 79) notes, in the former, the primary concern is the vision of the photographer-artist who uses the technology to produce a creative photograph of which the photographer is the "source". In the later, the primary concern is the accuracy with which the subject is recorded on film, in which case the subject is the "source".

Referencing this statement does not mean to relaunch the concerns ranging from the exploration of formal aesthetic issues, such as Neue Sachlichkeit, nostalgia, and contemporaneity, to the expression of the photographer's inner emotions. Instead, the question is: How to deploy the unique properties of photographic articulation, interpretation and use, employing the inherent ambiguities of photographic imagery, to the extent that the reciprocal significance of both natural and cultural "factors" in the evolution of landscape can be made visible?

Under the guise of different terminology, the exhibition, "Chinese Landscapes", curated by Xu Peiwu (许培武), is underpinned by much of the discourse of modern spatial representation. It is a project trying to trace landscape's long journey from its medieval roots in Landschaft to its contemporary capacity to capture and materialize the idea of

relative space. In this project, landscape not only has long stood as the geographical concept that connects the discipline most closely to history and the humanities, but its roots in Anglophone geographic practice that are to be found in the German concept of Landschaft. The latter is of more than purely philological interest: The migrations of meaning that Landschaft/landscape has experienced make it particularly suited to contemporary ways of thinking about space and reconnecting geographical study to current humanities concerns with culture, identity, and meaning.

In a word, Landschaft is best understood in terms of relative rather than absolute space. Space, like time, is not treated as an objective phenomenon, existing independently of its contents. In this sense space is not seen as a container that had effects on the objects existing within it, but is itself affected by them. Thus, landscape/Landschaft as Noun and Verb becomes an alternative spatial conception. It differs from what the oft-quoted Oxford English Dictionary (OED) definition refers to as "a picture of natural inland scenery", noting that the word first comes into the English language in the early seventeenth century as a designation of a type of painting.

Xu Peiwu's commitment to landscape photography shares the German geographers' commitment to examining and explaining supposedly deep, organic connections between pre-modern cultures and the land. His commitment to the active agency of culture in shaping spaces, however, leads to a firm rejection of environmental determinism, which attributes causal agency to the physical



喀拉库勒湖·冬 /IONAS BORCHERS

environment in explaining human occupancy and relation with nature. Hence, questions of space become epistemological rather than ontological. Landscapes in this sense are culturally constructed and evaluated differently by different cultures, and may symbolically represent different aspects of modernity. By highlighting the "duplicity" of landscape – the capacity to veil historically specific social relations behind the smooth and often aesthetic appearance of "nature", the idea of "landscape" in this exhibition is reshaped as a geographical descriptor to engage the many studies that relate to urban and rural environments. It reveals a complex and flexible way of describing spatial relations between humans and nature that has acted to frame a variety of social and political contexts.

Kechun(张克纯) is best understood as a product of a set of social conventions, desires and memories, political practices, and specific performances whose architectural realization within urban form is treated as secondary to those processes and practices rather than as their container. In the photographs of Jonas Borchers and Yang Tiejun(杨铁军), what the serpentine lines of Yangtze River and Three Gorges Dam, and the reflection of Lake Karakul obscure beneath their "lines of beauty" is a tense and often violent social struggle between common rights and exclusive property; the images of natural abundance and undesirable non-place depicted by the Qiu(丘) and tourist images grasped by Shao Wenhuan (邵文欢) mask behind apparent naturalness a world



从渝州到金陵——李白诗意/许培武



北流活活/张克纯



消逝的三峡 / 杨铁军



of colonial oppression, disease, and seedy sexuality; Li Yong's (李勇) and Li Zhaohui's (李朝晖) use of family snapshot photographs within a "home-mode" context places a specific behavioral frame around the act of viewing which excludes consideration of the formal characteristics of the image.

Central to this exhibition is an event-determined narrative. As Yan Changjiang (颜长江) notes in the preface of this portfolio, "The Fertile Possibilities of Landscape": "There is no clear motif for this exhibition." The photographers in this exhibition are not always well integrated into a unity of narrative themes. They are still on their way to pay more conscious attention to the role or intentions of the photographer in the process of articulation. Nevertheless, they might have served as interesting and appropriate examples for the landscape morphology of Chinese modernity.

While relating landscaping China to the issue of translating Chinese modernity, "the authority to interpret" and "the privilege of defining" in conceptualizing the so-called "Chinese modernity" remind me the encounter of men and paper men in the photograph and short story, Paper Man, created by Yan Changjiang:

"Who are you?"

"And who are you?"

"I am a human being."

"So are we."

Both sides utter a sigh of relief.

国际旅游者/邵文欢

For so many years, people in the world had not reached such a consensus: all of us are human beings. Yet it comes at such an easy stroke. And they continue:

"Are you in trouble? You're drenched with water."

"Oh, it doesn't matter really, just some sweat."

"What? Sweat? You mean perspiration?"

"Don't you sweat? You don't have flesh under your skin?"

"Oh, flesh! Our skin is made of paper, and we are dressed in paper."

"Let's then call you Paper Men, to make it easy to differentiate."

"Then can we call you Flesh Men?"

"No, we are never addressed like that. We are simply humans, as always. It's a matter of principle."

The Paper Men fell silent. After exchanging a glance among themselves, they nodded in a muted concession.

Yan's Paper Man ironically points out that in "the East" and/or "the non-West" (the so-called residual category of "the West"), the episteme that discusses "modernity" is a site where boundaries of meanings are renegotiated and reterritorialized. This exhibition, therefore, as a strategic problematizing activity, is neither a career seeking for certain "equivalents" of the West; nor, by emphasizing "cultural incommensurability" of the East, a production of "real" discourses manoeuvred for a project of constructing a non-Western modernity. Instead, by deploying "landscaping China" as a temporal "le mot juste de l'espace", it reveals in the problematizing activity what are seen as neutral, self-evident, a-cultural, and universal, to

the extent that the postcolonial "epistemic violence" underpinning the "translational modernity" or "translation of modernity" can be made visible.

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瘴/丘



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