



Reaching Nirvana

Long-time Kee contributing photographer Olaf Mueller stages his first solo exhibition entitled 'All Under Heaven' at The Cat Street Gallery from June 9th to July 9th, and he unveils his most adventurous work to date. Kee offers a preview of the stunning visual works.

In his latest exhibition 'All Under Heaven', German-Korean photographer Olaf Mueller juxtaposes conventional photographic methods with modern digital technologies to create surreal and visually potent compositions. Featuring 12 new works, in the new series Mueller takes as his subject the spectacular scenery of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China.

To prepare for the exhibition the artist undertook an artistic journey of epic proportions, creating extraordinary shoots at a myriad of spectacular locations including the Li River, the Yulong River, the 1,000 year-old Xingping Town, Langzi Town near Yangshuo, the Silver Cave in Lipu County, the Longsheng Rice Terraces in Longsheng County and the Chengyang Wind-Rain Bridge in Sanjiang County.

Known for his hybrid process that is both physical and digital, Mueller has taken his aesthetic and ambitious location design to a new level in these site-specific works. His theatrical shoots throughout the region include floating villages, scores of local fishermen and the ethnic tribe known as the Yao Minority Ladies. The sublime landscapes and intriguing cast of characters the artist photographed were only the building blocks for a series of images which have been digitally sewn together to create a cornucopia

of detail. A key component of the series are the giant soap bubbles painstakingly created with industrial chemicals.

Mueller is one of the region's premier photographers and in 2009 he was catapulted into the Hong Kong art scene with a series of visually potent and critically successful fine art works. Taking inspiration from the Dragon Garden Heritage site and featuring Kay Tse as his muse, the series entirely sold out setting a new precedent for photographic artwork at The Cat Street Gallery.

In 2010, Mueller created a second body of artwork inspired by champagne for the charity exhibition 'Art Smile' organised by The Cat Street Gallery to benefit the Operation Smile China Medical Mission. Of the various artworks on display in the group exhibition Mueller's work generated the most commercial and critical attention. The signature work of the series sold at auction for over HK\$160,000.

Mueller's new body of work will undoubtedly catapult him into yet higher stratospheres of fine art photography.

'All Under Heaven' shows at The Cat Street Gallery, 222 Hollywood Road, Central from 9th June - 9th July, 2011. www.thecatstreetgallery.com

*Words: Ann Tsang
Images: Olaf Mueller*















