



Cao Fei, *Asia One*, 2018. Single channel HD video (16:9, colour, with sound), 63 min 20 sec. Courtesy of the artist and Vitamin Creative Space and Sprüth Magers.

Sep 01, 2022 11:19 CEST

## Immersive film installation by one of the most acclaimed contemporary Chinese artists at Kunsthal Charlottenborg

*Cao Fei is known for her ambitious multimedia installations, which reflect on the extensive changes and developments taking place in Chinese society today, shaping her generation. Alongside a major group exhibition in the south wing, Kunsthal Charlottenborg is proud to present Cao Fei's forceful film installation *Asia One* in the north wing. Both exhibitions reflect on the inherent paradox within a capitalist system that is both dependent upon and threatened by*

*technological progress.*

**Pressevisning: 16. september 11.00–12.00**

**Fernisering: 16. september 17.00–20.00**

**Udstillingsperiode: 17. september 2022 – 19. februar 2023**

Cao Fei is regarded a pioneer of a generation of artists for whom digital media and network technology are an integrated part of everyday life. She mixes social commentary, popular aesthetics, and references to Surrealism and documentary elements in a distinctive artistic idiom that has resonated around the world in recent years. In her carefully staged films, Cao Fei portrays a China divided between past and present, between its history and a yearning for all things new.

The exhibition at Kunsthal Charlottenborg presents the film installation *Asia One* (2018) which includes two film works, *Asia One* and *11.11* (63 and 60 mins, respectively).

*Asia One* is a fictional narrative which follows two people, the only human beings employed at a giant sorting center. Here they are surrounded by a highly efficient infrastructure, with fast robots and a wealth of materials and parcels in constant motion on long conveyor belts. At first, the two employees appear to feel closer to the machines and robots around them than to each other, but a bond gradually emerges between them as, together, they begin to rebel against the sorting center's efficiency and predictability. Skipping between time periods, the film is interspersed with scenes of visitors from the future who inspect the now-defunct facility, and a surreal sequence in which a group of workers, dressed to evoke the characters of Cultural Revolution-era model operas, dance to synth-driven disco music under a banner that proclaims, "Humans and machines, hand in hand."

*11.11* is a documentary film, which records the overload of labour within one of China's largest e-commerce retailers, [JD.com](https://www.jd.com), before and after the country's Double Eleven Shopping Day (the equivalent of Black Friday). From goods being sorted at JD.com's gigantic sorting centre in the outskirts of Beijing and the Double Eleven national command centre at the company headquarters, to the numerous delivery points spread across Beijing's entire commercial and traditional districts, the mission and individual existence of the couriers working at online shopping terminals. A contemporary portrait of accelerated consumption driven by the powerful economy of online shopping within

China, the film questions the sustainability of rampant consumerism and how it is shaping our future social and economic ecosystems.

The two remarkable films are part of an immersive installation, which also contains framed photographs as well as sculptural elements to extend the experience of the sorting center for the audience. The exhibition points to highly current topics such as consumerism, technology and precarious work and asks how we might be affected – now and in the future – in an accelerated, globalized world.

Cao Fei (b. 1978 in Guangzhou) graduated from the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts in 2008. Recent projects include a major retrospective at the UCCA Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing (2021), and a solo exhibition at the MAXXI, the National Museum of 21st Century Arts, Rome (2021). Before that she had a solo exhibition at MoMA PS1, New York (2016), the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Chinese Art Initiative at the Guggenheim Museum in New York (2018), a solo show at the Tai Kwun Contemporary, Hong Kong (2018), a retrospective at K21 Düsseldorf (2018), a solo exhibition at the Centre Pompidou, Paris (2019), and a solo exhibition at the Serpentine Galleries, London (2020). In 2021 she was awarded the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize.

*Asia One* is curated by Henriette Bretton-Meyer and is presented as a part of the group exhibition *Post-Capital: Art and the Economics of the Digital Age* produced by Mudam Luxembourg – Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean in close collaboration with Kunsthal Charlottenborg.

The exhibition is supported by the Augustinus Foundation, the Beckett Foundation, the Obel Family Foundation, Knud Højgaard's Foundation, the Danish Arts Foundation, William Demant Foundation, Aage and Johanne Louis-Hansen's Foundation.

#CaoFei #AsiaOne

### **Practical information**

*Cao Fei: Asia One*

17 September 2022 – 19 February 2023

Opening: Friday 16 September 2022 at 17.00–20.00

Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Kongens Nytorv 1, 1050 Copenhagen K

Admission DKK 90 (free admission to the opening)

[Further info here](#)

**Invitation: Press view Friday 16 September at 11.00–12.00**

Before Kunsthall Charlottenborg officially opens the exhibition to the public, there will be a press preview where curator Henriette Bretton-Meyer will provide an introduction to the exhibition. If you wish to attend, please notify Head of Communications Jeannie Møller Haltrup at [jmh@kunsthallcharlottenborg.dk](mailto:jmh@kunsthallcharlottenborg.dk).

*For more information and materials, please contact:*

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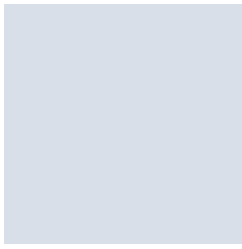
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Kunsthall Charlottenborg er et af de største og smukkeste udstillingssteder for samtidskunst i Nordeuropa. Kunsthallen præsenterer et ambitiøst udstillingsprogram med internationalt udsyn, der omfatter kunst af såvel talenter som etablerede stjerner fra både ind- og udland. Det toneangivende udstillingsprogram suppleres med en lang række aktiviteter som artist talks, performances, koncerter og filmvisninger.

## Contacts



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Kommunikationsansvarlig

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