



Maleonn 马良

Maleonn's fable like photographs are infused with a sense of the theatrical and with a romantic nostalgia for the past. He draws his inspiration from an education given by his father who was the Director of the Beijing Opera and his mother an actress. His works often contain props, actors, and a strange mix of hues, colours and stage like sets. His creative language, daring and outrageous in form, the colours he chooses, sometimes vibrant and unrefined, sometimes black and white with the feel of vintage photographic images, convey poetry while being unsettling. The term "steampunk", a genre, which incorporates elements of science fiction, fantasy and horror with a vintage feel, applies to his art. Maleonn's works can be seen as a dramatisation of reality, infused with childlike imagination and a sense of magic as the artist masters the juxtaposition of pure aesthetic and ambiguous visual effects. Maleonn's works have the ability to expand our imaginations and dreams. Emotions, the soul and love are key elements for him. Through his artistry, he brings the viewer a fairytale, an escape, an entrance to experience the unexpected. His works are an invitation to imagine the unimaginable.

Maleonn's recent series *My Mobile Photo Studio* is different from his previous works, in which most of the photographed are unimportant 'props'. The series arises from the idea of transforming the photographer's creativity and passion for art into a present for those who has liked his works or even total strangers. In making his art more "useful", Maleonn explains that *My Mobile Photo Studio* series is a reposition of his arts, which "should not have a commanding position, instead, it's my kindness and my keen love for life." Although there was no set theme in the Photo Studio, romance and kinship were most frequently seen. Not expecting his works to be set with any topic, Maleonn only hopes that the sitters like their pictures, at most the photographer tried his best to create a "Maleonnstyeled" portrait for them. This series is a reminder of the pure things in life that we should treasure- the lovely, the romantic and the pure goodness. This project has led the artist and his team to 54 cities, 26,000 kilometers and faced a variety of unpredictable events. *My Mobile Photo Studio* successfully captures particular moments as well as a record of this long journey the artist experienced.

Born in Shanghai, China in 1972, Maleonn still lives and works in his native city. He graduated from the Fine Art College of Shanghai University majoring in Graphic Design for his Bachelor's Degree. Prior to becoming an independent artist, Maleonn was working as an Art Director in commercial filming. Since the beginning of his full-time artistic career in 2004, he has received worldwide attention and acclaims on his creativity and daringness. Maleonn has held solo exhibitions internationally, notably in Bergen, New York, Madrid, Brussels, Bangkok, Rome, Sydney, Paris, Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai as well as more than fifty group exhibitions. He was awarded numerous awards from worldwide institutions and festivals.

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