



April 30, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Against Nature

May 15 – June 21, 2014

**Sabine Mirlesse, Kechun Zhang and
Yichen Zhou**

Opening Reception: Thursday, May 15, 2014 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location: Gallery HO, 547 West 27th Street #208 New York, NY 10001

Curated by Grace Noh

Gallery HO is pleased to present ***Against Nature***, an exhibition of recent photographic works by Sabine Mirlesse, Kechun Zhang, and Yichen Zhou, on display **May 15 – June 21, 2014**. From deserts in Inner Mongolia to glacier lakes in Iceland, the photographs in *Against Nature* showcase the vastness of nature. While nature itself is magnificent, the real focus of this exhibition is the presence of man in nature.

Throughout history, men have admired the beauty of nature and channeled their experiences into literature, art, music and philosophy. What does it mean to have the presence and recognition of one's existence in nature? Men are insignificant and fragile, yet the presence of human figures against the backdrop of nature sometimes captures more attention and fascinates viewers more than does nature itself. There is something about humans in nature with which viewers sympathize.

Whether posing or not, the artists assert their existence against that of a massive desert, a grassland, or a lake. **Zhou's** *Untitled* series captures young women proudly sitting on a bicycle in the middle of a desert. Too focused on themselves, they fail to realize what they are doing is meaningless. In an untitled work from the *As if it should have been a quarry* series, **Mirlesse** presents a woman in water as if nature is liberating her. In his new series, *Between Mountains and Waters*, **Zhang** captures a group of men staring at Beijing skyscrapers in enveloped in smog. The Yellow River lies between them and the city. The human figures occupy the least space in the photograph, but their presence creates a melancholic atmosphere as they gaze at man's own creation. This gloominess makes the men's presence captivating.

Sabine Mirlesse grew up between Los Angeles, California and New Haven, Connecticut in the United States. She holds an MFA in photography from Parsons the New School for Design. Mirlesse's photographs have been the subject of features in *The British Journal of Photography*, *Time Magazine's Lightbox*, *Interview Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, and *Le Monde's M magazine*. Her work is often inspired by survival stories, the individual's intimate connection to landscape, love and one's life cycle, and the transcendent powers of collective memory. Her first monograph, a



collection of images taken in Iceland between 2011 and 2013 entitled *As if it should have been a quarry* was released, in November 2013 with *Damiani* publishers and distributed by D.A.P. and includes an introductory essay by Eduardo Cadava. She now lives and works in Paris. Her next body of work is based in Armenia.

Kechun Zhang is a Chengdu-based photographer who has spent much of the last two years on the banks of China's Yellow River. He initially studied design in school, but after taking a photography class, he became interested in pursuing photography. Zhang's project, *The Yellow River*, was published and exhibited worldwide, and such museums as Williams College Museum of Arts and China Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) Art Museum showcase Zhang's work.

Yichen Zhou is a visual artist and photographer who was born in Inner Mongolia and raised in Beijing, China. She moved to New York City in 2010 and earned her MFA in photography from Parsons the New School for Design. Her performance-based work explores her identity as part of a new generation of young Chinese artists and points to the challenges of living in a world where she finds multiple cultures and values in conflict. Yichen has exhibited work at galleries and festivals in the United States, China and Russia.

Gallery HO hours are 11:00 am – 6:00 pm, Tuesday through Friday and 11:00 am – 5:00 pm, Saturday. For further information about the exhibition, please contact Grace Noh at grace@galleryho.net or at 212-502-1894.

Image: Yichen Zhou, from *Untitled* series, 2012, digital c-print, 30 x 30 inches.