

LINSEED Outlook

Tant Zhong: *A Kitchen Blessing*

Ongoing from: November 11th, 2022

Gallery Terrace, No. 4 - 165 Wuyuan Road, Shanghai

LINSEED will launch the outdoor project "Outlook" at the terrace of the gallery to explore the vast potential of various creative media within the perhaps limited framework of art, inviting the audience to immerse themselves in creative scenes with unconstrained concepts and approaches.

The first edition of "Outlook" will present the ongoing project "A Kitchen Blessing" by artist Tant Zhong, which will be open from November 11, 2022. Initiated before the citywide lockdown of Shanghai in 2022, the project first involved garlic, this lively creature that is so close to daily sustenance and grows in groups, in an almost "communal" manner, which carried Zhong's and our hope that it would bless us in the first year of the gallery's permanent space, after three years of the pandemic. However, unexpectedly, the garlic that the artist had initially cultivated for the exhibition became an important food source during the lockdown. After almost an entire year, the garlic has been planted, grown, digested, and now returned to the terrace, eventually incarnated into a "kitchen" where one can make a wish to the "Kitchen God". Here, the scattered food ingredients on the table will be processed, absorbed, consecrated, and become part of an artwork again, continuing the artist's contemplation on the production of meanings.

"The first time we discussed the terrace proposal, I was falling into the trap of searching for meaning, the periodic self-denial that is probably familiar to everyone: feeling alienated from the 'things' that have been produced in the past, and impotent for what have not been produced for the future. So I decided to leave the content of my work to something that I didn't have to control, something that was alive, evolving, and changing on its own (although the sense of control had been reduced by the use of ready-made materials, it still didn't feel invisible enough).

There was a time when I was going out, and I looked into my kitchen and saw the sprouting garlic. It had been passively invited into my kitchen and continued growing actively, becoming a silent loop in the important chain for life to sustain. I then decided to cultivate some garlic, which represented other organic matter in my kitchen, as some 'sculptures' that could change over time with minimal intervention from me. The project underwent the lockdown when I had just started it, and all the garlic I had hoarded since March was just finished recently. Going back to this terrace in September, I feel grateful for the garlic, the nature. I want to invite it back to the terrace—not only the garlic, but also my vegetables, my fridge, my cooking pots, and my Kitchen God. Hail these foods that feed and nourish me, that keep my life running! They save me from the swirling trap of meanings, and I want to express my gratitude.

Let us make offerings to the Kitchen God on the terrace! Look at the corner niche, the place that can accommodate a person. We welcome all to climb in, sit down, and become that consecrated entity—who knows what the Kitchen God looks like? If we think in our minds, there will be words to chant. When the Kitchen God comes, invite it to stay. It usually lives on the east or north side, and the niche on our terrace is just right for it. Pushing open the door, perhaps the kitchen door, we can collect our ingredients from the table on the left, fresh from the soil. We can also face forward, hold some (maybe) chopsticks in our hands and make a wish. They are as united as the garlic, bound and idle, instrumentalized and spiced. Turning right to the countertop, we cut and chop, hide and seek—the stove pictured over the tiles, ah, is not alone." (Tant Zhong, October 2022)



坐顶观天 Outlook

钟云舒：定福灶君

Tant Zhong: A Kitchen Blessing

开放日期：2022年11月11日起

上海市五原路165弄4号楼顶露台

LINSEED即将在画廊顶层露台推出户外项目“坐顶观天 (Outlook)”，旨在无垠天地的有限框架内探索多元创作媒材的广阔潜能，以自由的观念与方式、开放的态度邀请观众浸入展厅之外的创作现场。首期“坐顶观天”将呈现艺术家钟云舒的可持续项目《定福灶君》，将于2022年11月11日起开放。本项目始于2022年上海大规模封锁之前，艺术家与我们在初春寄望大蒜作为一种如此贴近日常温饱又抱团生长的生物，带来疫情蔓延第三年，画廊空间第一年的好运。而出人意料，艺术家原本为展览栽培的大蒜竟成为了特殊时期中的重要食粮。几乎一整年过去，这些大蒜历经被种植、培育、消化的数次循环，现在再回到露台，最终演变成了一个可以向“灶神”许愿的“灶台”。在这里，散落在桌面上的食物原料将再次被处理、吸收、供奉、成为作品的一部分，延续艺术家对于“意义生产”的思考。

“第一次我们讨论露台的方案时我正在陷入一种‘寻找意义’的陷阱，就是那种可能每个人都很熟悉的周期性的‘自我否定’：对过去已经生产出来的‘东西’感到陌生，对未来还没有生产出来的‘东西’感到虚弱。所以当时我决定把作品的内容留给一些我不去控制的东西，一些自身具有生命和变化的东西（虽然使用现成品作为材料进行‘雕塑’已经减少了很多的控制，但还是觉得不够隐形）。

我在出门的时候看了一眼厨房，看见了发芽的大蒜，它们很被动的进入了我的厨房，又很主动的继续生长，在生命被维系的重要一环中，又默默的成为了一个套环，一环套一环，所以我当时决定培育一些大蒜，它们代表了厨房里的其他有机物，一些我可以最少干预也能产生变化的‘雕塑’。计划的刚刚开始就遇上了封控，3月份囤积的大蒜头直到最近才吃完，转眼到了9月又回到了这个露台，我觉得还是得感谢大蒜，感谢自然而然，我想重新请它来到露台，其实又何止是它，我想请出我的蔬菜，我的冰箱，我的炖锅，我的灶王爷，喂饱我滋养我维持我生命的食物啊，它们在意义的陷阱漩涡里可以解救我，我可以向他表达我的感谢，感谢变化。

让我们在露台上供奉灶神吧，你看转角的龛，能容身一人的地方，欢迎所有人爬进去，坐下来，成为那个被供奉的实体，谁知道灶神长什么样子呢？我们心中念念，就一定有词。灶神来了，请他住下吧，他通常会住在东面或者北面，咱们露台上的龛位正好为他准备。推开门，也许是厨房的门，我们可以从左手边的桌子上领取我们的原料，还带着泥土的新鲜。也可以面对前方，手握一些（也许是）筷子，许下愿望，他们和大蒜一样团结在一起，被捆绑，被闲置，被工具，被佐料。向右一个回头，委身在案台前，切切剁剁躲躲，画在瓷砖上的灶台呀，不孤单。”（钟云舒，2022年10月）

