

Lin Ke

Fly

8 March – 2 June 2019



Lin Ke, *Fly* (2016). Courtesy the artist

Ikon presents *Fly* (2016), a recent performance video by Lin Ke. Screened in Ikon's Tower Room, it features this young Chinese artist facing a laptop camera, his meditative position foiled by the irritating movement of his mouse cursor as if it were a flying insect. Working within the boundaries of his computer desktop, in a room of his own, the artist is at the same time networked into a globalised virtual world that is clearly not conducive to relaxation.

Lin Ke was born in the eastern coastal province of Zhejiang, China (1984). After studying at the new media department, China Academy of Art, Hangzhou, he graduated in 2008. Now living and working in Beijing, Lin Ke uses his laptop as studio and experimental testing ground, constantly testing its possibilities and limitations. He uses software not as a technical means to achieve a complex effect or aesthetic, rather as a catalyst for art making. The results are

refreshingly low-tech and beguiling, blurring the boundaries between the virtual and the real with an artistic language that is dryly humorous.

In these days of the proliferation of 'the selfie' Lin Ke's webcam videos encourage reflection on the nature of the representation of our online selves. For many of us, social media, the internet and our digital devices are indispensable means through which we engage with external realities and this understanding informs his work overall. We easily identify with him when he explains that his computer "is like my personal assistant helping me discover different kinds of possibilities, while also being a sort of guide, since its limits become my own."

Please note the Tower Room is only accessible via a number of steps.

For more information, high-res images and to request interviews please contact Sam Newman or Emily Luxford on 0121 248 0708 or email s.newman@ikon-gallery.org or e.luxford@ikon-gallery.org

Social Media Handles:

Instagram, Twitter and Facebook:
[@ikongallery](#) [#IkonGallery](#) [#LinKe](#)

Links

Ikon - ikon-gallery.org

Lin Ke - vimeo.com/user4187761

Note to Editors:

1. Ikon exhibition opening: Friday 8 March, 6-8pm
2. Lin Ke won the OCAT – Pierre Huber Art Prize in 2014 and the Chinese Youth Artist Award of the 9th AAC Art 2015. He was nominated for the Nam June Paik Art Center Prize in 2018.
3. Recent solo exhibitions include FRONT International, Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, Ohio (2018); Lumen Quarterly, World Organisation of Video Culture Development, Beijing (2018); Play & Loop, Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong (2018).
4. Ikon is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art venue situated in central Birmingham. Established in 1964 by a group of artists, Ikon is an educational charity and works to encourage public engagement with contemporary art through exhibiting new work in a context of debate and participation. The gallery programme features artists from around the world and a variety of media is represented, including sound, film, mixed media, photography, painting, sculpture and installation. Ikon's off-site programme develops dynamic relationships between art, artists and audiences outside the gallery. Projects vary enormously in scale, duration and location, challenging expectations of where art can be seen and by whom. Education is at the heart of Ikon's activities, stimulating public interest

in and understanding of contemporary visual art. Through a variety of talks, tours, workshops and seminars, Ikon's Learning Team aims to build dynamic relationships with audiences, enabling visitors to engage with, discuss and reflect on contemporary art. ikon-gallery.org

5. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 5pm. Admission is free. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. For the latest news and events follow @ikongallery on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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