



W A N G S I M

For Immediate Release



Martin Parr, *Spain. Benidorm., Common Sense*, 1997, 50 x 76 cm, C type photograph Ed. of 25

**Martin Parr**

**2020.6.27-2020.7.27**

**By appointment**

**2020.6.13 (Sat) 5pm - 10 pm**

**Soft opening in celebration of THE STUDIO's one-year anniversary**

**2020.6.27 (Sat) 4pm - 8pm**

**Opening reception**

**Art Space by THE STUDIO**

**2F, No. 142, Section 3 Bade Road, Taipei 105046, Taiwan**

*"To collect photographs is to collect the world."*

*Susan Sontag, On Photography*

Art Space by THE STUDIO is pleased to present "Martin Parr", a solo exhibition of the renowned British photographer. In collaboration with Hong Kong-based art consultant initiative WANGSIM, the project pays homage to the artist's oeuvre blending social satires with the kaleidoscope of modern life.



The presentation features two of the most outstanding series of the artist, *Bored Couples* and *Common Sense* created in 1990s. In *Bored Couples*, Parr examined a random sample of relationships in his project. Often depicting sense of disconnection, vacant eyes, and silence after dinner between the woman and the man, Parr pinpoints boredom and monogamy, the two ideas ingrained like memories in our collective consciousness. At the main time, the viewers also are given the opportunity to explore the veracity of the caption – is the boredom staged for the sake of art? Or is the stagnant relationship fully exposed and processed by the pictures? Often intending to “create friction out of photographs”, the artist sheds light on human interactions of many kinds and the audience of the exhibition bounds to view the series with a fresh perspective when momentarily, lives both inside and outside of the frame shriek to a full stop this year. *Common Sense* is a 350-colored-photograph portfolio documenting global consumerism in tight close up and lurid colors. With visuals ranging from tacky clothes to souvenir-esque finds, the project witnessed the peak of the western’s consumer culture, and has become much more relatable for the Asian audience as the economy grows in a dramatically rapid speed on the continent and the culture turns largely global. Those historical pictures not only marked the starting point of Parr’s successful career, they also initiated Parr’s long term philosophies of making pictures: “The first priority of making pictures is to make a photo that is entertaining and good to look at, and also to relate to people’s lives. ... There is a serious strand running through the work, but I don’t want to thrust it down people’s throat.”

For two centuries mankind witnesses how images shape our world and affect the societies we are part of. The book *On Photography* by Susan Sontag was first published in 1977, a fantastic selection of essays on photographic studies, where Sontag argued that since photography had become one of the principle devices for experiencing things and for giving an appearance of participation, it made us feel that the world is more available than it really is. More than 40 years later, in the unusual year of 2020, when traveling is limited to close to none and emotions are embraced in full solidarity, the theory of Sontag was once again put to test and proved gold – through Parr’s lurid colored photos, we feel the tropical sands that once between our toes and the gentle sways of the boat against the blue ocean tides, and we are more than certain that the lightness of life and the gregariousness inside the humanity carry on.

### **About Martin Parr**

Martin Parr is a British documentary photographer and photojournalist. He’s known for his photographic projects that take an intimate, satirical and anthropological look at aspects of modern life, in particular documenting the social classes of England, and more broadly the wealth of the Western world. His photographic works have been involved in numerous museum and private collections for nearly 20 years, including Tate Britain, MoMA New York and M+ Hong Kong. In recent



years, Parr has developed a stronger focus, in his pictures, on cultural activities and leisure pursuits of those from Asian countries and regions. Parr has organized solo exhibitions and photographic projects in China, Japan and even North Korea. Parr is a member of the leading photographic cooperative and community Magnum Photos and the founder of Martin Parr Foundation located in Bristol, Britain, where the artist has been working and living for more than two decades.

### **About THE STUDIO**

The project began as a casual dining experience for friends in the founder's personal studio and has now grown to weekly dinner events at two locations in Taipei that feature exquisite cuisine, educational experiences exhibitions and artistic collaborations. THE STUDIO is meant to be a platform for everyone who appreciates good food and art and the importance of meaningful conversation.

The Art Space by THE STUDIO is our second dedicated venue to creative practice, in art, food and shared experiences. The Art Space feels very open like a home setting and has a greater focus on art exhibitions, integrated into the dining experience. As an alternative to galleries and museums, we hope people may feel a more comfortable setting for experiencing exciting artistic projects.

### **About WANGSIM**

WANGSIM is an art trading and consultancy firm specializing in modern and contemporary art. Founded in Hong Kong but operating within the frame of the global art world, we carry a mission of presenting both emerging and established art across all media. In partnership with a wide variety of artists, galleries and art institutions, we advise our clients on all the investments in art. With an understanding of different levels of budget, we aim to deliver tailored and strategic art solutions to help develop private, corporate, and institutional collections. We also work closely with our partners to curate museum-quality exhibitions and special art events.

### **Press**

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