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CRITIC'S GUIDE - 17 MAR 2016

Critic's Guide: Beijing

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Critic and *frieze* contributing editor Carol Yinghua Lu rounds up the best shows currently on view in the city of the New Cultural Movement in the early 1920s.



Li Liao: Art Is Vacuum
White Space Beijing http://www.whitespace-beijing.com/ExhView.asp?language=en&id=107
5 March – 11 April

'Art Is Vacuum' was initially a work Li Liao made as a result of his dispute with his father-in-law, who held a grudge against him. Li's father-in-law viewed him as an artist bum, without a steady income or social standing, and tried to force his daughter to split from him. The quarrel was accidentally recorded and transcribed into texts shown on the wall in this exhibition, while a torn

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sweater and broken remote controls on view served as pieces of evidence to their row. This installation precedes a room where a large-screened video work showing Li Liao's current family life with his wife (she didn't leave him) and their daughter, born not long after the unhappy incident, together with installations of his daughter's play mats and another film showing their domestic life screened on a smaller monitor.