

# RYAN LEE

RYAN LEE GALLERY LLC  
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**Alexander Ugay**

*Earth & Shape*

Curated by Leeza Ahmady

October 29 – November 21, 2015

Opening: Thursday, October 29, 6-8PM

Asia Contemporary Art Week

October 28 - November 8, 2015

RYAN LEE is pleased to present *Alexander Ugay: Earth & Shape*, a video exhibition curated by Leeza Ahmady in collaboration with Asia Contemporary Art Week. *Earth & Shape* is a video-collage that combines disparate architectural landscapes onto a single plane, disregarding notions of east-west and north-south to relate to a more personal, mental geography that resists shape.

Taking various shots of landscapes from different cities, including Astana, Karaganda, Almaty, Tashkent, St Petersburg, Seoul, Istanbul, and Sophia, Ugay moves his camera through different countries to capture spaces, architectural shapes, and other situations that contain layers of memory and desire. Giant, phantomlike figures appear, eerily resembling monuments of the past: ziggurats, towers, pyramids, and antique temples, to warn of history's tendency to repeat. For Ugay, the situation is ambiguous. He considers the complexity of space and memory in relation to society as well as the links, both weak and strong, that are created through the presence and absence of such things.

Previously, *Earth & Shape* has been on view in a number of biennials and film festivals, including the 3rd Xinjiang Biennale (2014), Busan Biennale (2014), 62nd Oberhausen International Short Film Festival (2015), and 6th Moscow Biennale (2015).

Ugay is of a generation of artists who prefers to work with new technology to frame personal living experiences and memories. His primary area of interest is the development of history and its relationship to our current conditions; as well as the idea that provisional life can be cross-referenced internationally. Aside from certain specificities, the artist believes that the fundamentals of a simple provincial life are similar in all parts of the world. In this sense, his works seem to express an ironic globalism, as he strives to represent the 'everywhere-ness' of the world's small towns. Ugay has participated in many biennials and group exhibitions including Sharjah Biennial 10, the Central Asia Pavilion at the 52nd Venice Biennale, the 9th International Istanbul Biennial, and *Younger than Jesus* at the New Museum, New York.

Concurrently on view in the gallery is Kakyong Lee: *Traces*, also part of Asia Contemporary Art Week, and Sandy Skoglund: *True Fiction Two*. Sandy Skoglund: *Hangers* is on view in RLWindow. For press inquiries, please contact Courtney Willis Blair at [courtney@ryanleegallery.com](mailto:courtney@ryanleegallery.com) or 212-397-0742.