



Artist Bio

Shen Chao-Liang, born in 1968 in Tainan, Taiwan, graduated from the Graduate Institute of Applied Media Arts at National Taiwan University of Arts. He has held various positions in his career, including a photojournalist for the Liberty Times, Deputy Convener, Resident Artist at Central University, adjunct associate professor at both National Taiwan University of Arts and Taipei National University of the Arts, Convener of the Photo ONE Taipei International Image Art Festival, and a member of the Board of Culture and Arts Director of the 9th and 10th National Foundation.

Currently, in addition to his involvement in image education, creation, review, research, and promotion of international exchanges, he is also invited to host workshops and curate exhibitions. He serves as a professor in the Photography and VR Design Department at Huafan University.

In 2001, he released the "Reflections of Nan-Fang-Ao" series for the first time, followed by the publication of several major photography works, including "YULAN Magnolia Flower" (2008), "Tsukiji Fish Market" (2010), "STAGE" (2011), "SINGERS & STAGES" (2013), and "Taiwanese Vaudeville Troupes" (2016). He has received numerous awards for his photography, including the Golden Tripod Awards in the Magazine Photography category from the Government Information Bureau and the Ministry of Culture in 2000, 2002, and 2012, the Japan Sagami-hara Photography Asian Awards in 2004, the Best Foreign Photographer Award at the Donggang International Photo Festival in South Korea in 2006, Artists Wanted: The Year in Photography Award in New York in 2011, the First Prize in the Professional Book Documentary Category at the International Photography Awards (IPA) in the United States in 2012, the Wu San-Lien Award in 2015, and the 2024 International Award of Photographic Society of Japan.

About STAGE

Variety troupes are a unique type of mobile performance group in Taiwan, active in various wedding and funeral ceremonies and other celebrations since the 1970s. In the early days, their stages included not only the traditional tent stages still in use today but also modified trucks equipped with basic lighting and sound systems, known as simple electronic parade floats. With the progress of time and the increasing demands from both operators and audiences for high-quality lighting and sound equipment, these have gradually evolved into the modern hydraulic folding stages we see today.

The performances have primarily focused on singing and dancing since the early days, with the costumes of the performing singers resembling the glamorous outfits of indoor shows. In recent years, singers' costumes have more commonly adopted a two-piece style, often worn with bikinis underneath. To meet customer demands and attract attention, variety troupes constantly innovate their performances. In addition to song and dance shows by TV stars and traveling singers, they can also offer pole dancing, juggling, magic shows, folk art performances, male strip shows, and drag performances, depending on the budget and specifications.

The STAGE series showcased in this exhibition mainly includes works captured between 2005 and 2023 using large-format cameras. These works feature mobile stage vehicles, transformed from large trucks, unfolding in realistic settings across Taiwan. Although there is no precise count of the total number of these mobile hydraulic stage vehicles, it is estimated that more than 600 are actively in operation throughout Taiwan. It is hoped that the unique industrial type and rich grassroots information, the imaginative and diverse applications, will inspire viewers to connect and imagine the unique entertainment culture of Taiwan, encompassing time, space, horizontal and vertical dimensions, and both planar and three-dimensional structures.