

## DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PIECES

### 1. Untitled

**Dimensions: approx 40" x 12.5" (1016 x 318 mm)**

**Plexi-glass, duratran, screenprinting, aluminium frame.**

The Chinese characters for 'magpie,' *xǐ que*, literally mean the 'bird of happiness,' and two magpies are symbolic of the wish for conjugal bliss or 'double happiness' in marriage, *shuāng xǐ*.

This piece renders two magpies: one white, and one black and alludes to the ying and yang and balance two individuals must find to obtain 'double happiness'. The magpie resting on a plum branch conveys the wish 'happiness before one's brow,' *xǐ shàng méi shāo*, as the word for 'plum' and 'brow' are both pronounced *méi*.

### 2. Happiness before one's eyes

**Dimensions: approx 30" x 12.5" (762 x 318 mm)**

**Plexi-glass, duratran, screenprinting, aluminium frame.**

The spider, *xǐ zi*, is considered a good omen for happiness, as it sounds identical to the word for 'happiness,' *xǐ*. It has come to be known as the 'happy insect,' and a picture of a spider dropping from the center of its web is a rebus for 'happiness dropping from the sky,' *xǐ cóng tiān jiàng*. The web resembles ancient money, because it is round on the outside and square on the inside. The square hole in the web is considered an eye and therefore expresses 'happiness before one's eyes,' *xǐ zài yǎn qián*.

### 3. Untitled

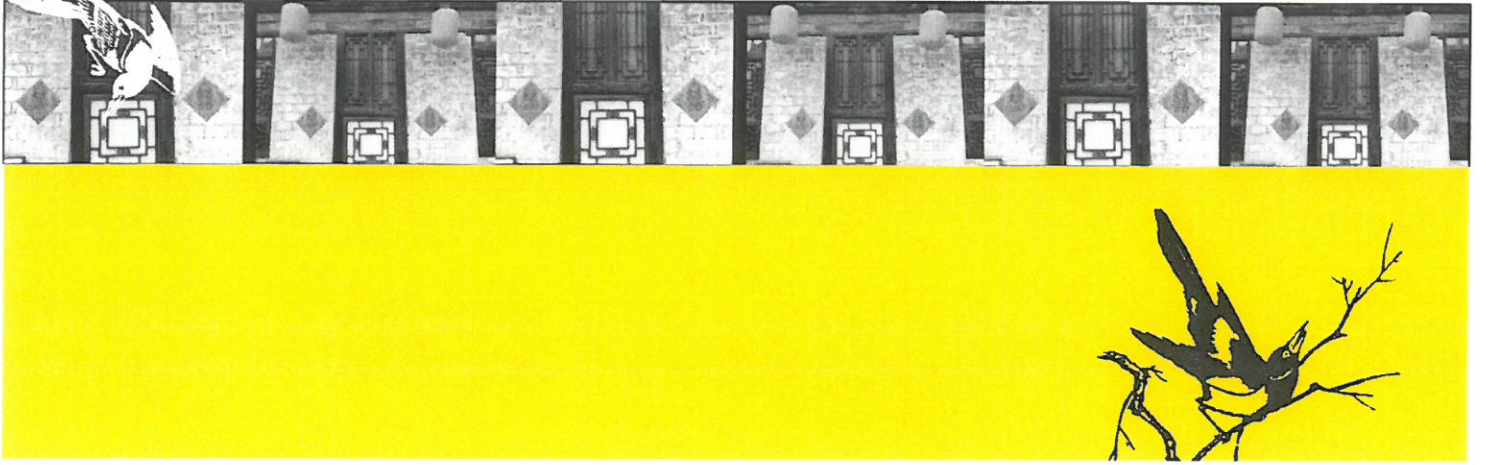
**Dimensions: approx 30" x 20" (762 x 508mm)**

**Plexi-glass, duratran, screenprinting, mirror, aluminium frame.**

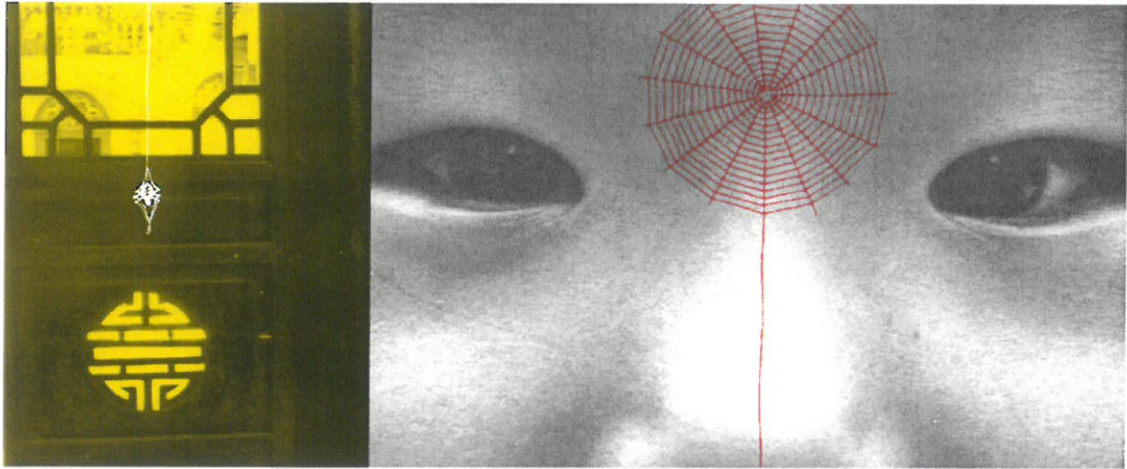
According to legend, magpies served to preserve the integrity of a marriage. When a husband and wife were to be apart for any reason, they would break a mirror and each take half. If the wife was unfaithful, her half of the mirror turned into a magpie that flew back and informed her husband. Consequently, an image of a magpie is often placed on the back of a mirror.

This piece shows two magpies screenprinted on the front of a mirror. Traditionally, two magpies stands for the wish for 'double happiness,' *shuāng xǐ*, or conjugal bliss. The viewer is asked to look through this image to see one's own reflection in the mirror. It raises the question of one's own views on conjugal bliss and integrity. Will happiness come to the viewer if one stares at oneself in the mirror long enough?

1.



2.



3.

