

NEW CHINA / NEW ART

CONTEMPORARY VIDEO
FROM SHANGHAI
AND HANGZHOU

新中国 / 新艺术
沪杭两地当代影像展



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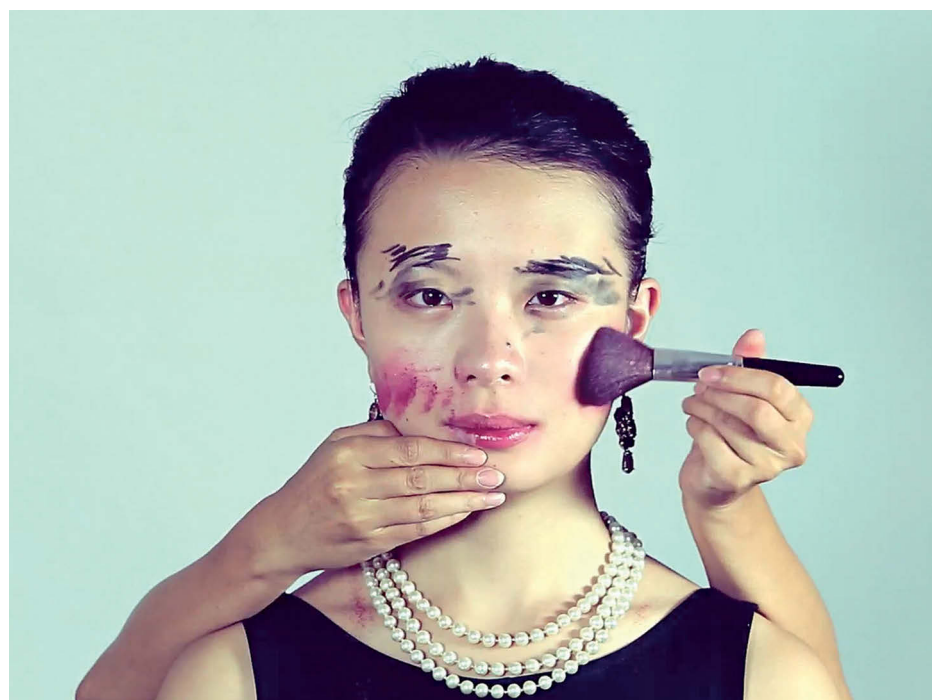
Since the making of China's first video artwork, *30x30* by Zhang Peili, in 1988 — an allegory critical of governmental ideologies of continuity and progress — the neighbouring east-coast metropolises of Shanghai and Hangzhou have become major centres for the development of video art in China. Both cities have historically cosmopolitan cultures within which thriving contemporary art communities make innovative use of electronic media. Shanghai was a major focus for the development of western(ized) modernity in China during the early-twentieth century and has, since the 1990s, become a leading site for the production, display and selling of contemporary art. Hangzhou is strongly associated with traditional Chinese literati culture and is home to the China Academy of Fine Art (formerly the Zhejiang Academy of Fine Art) — a focus for progressive art education in China since 1928. Some of China's most notable video artists were trained and have established careers in and between Shanghai and Hangzhou, including the founder of the School of Intermedia Art at the China Academy of Art, Zhang Peili, and the internationally renowned film and video maker, Yang Fudong.

This exhibition showcases a diverse range of video works by the latest generation of artists with a working relationship to Shanghai and Hangzhou. All of the works involve encounters between internationally established approaches to art-making and local forms of cultural thinking and practice. Some evoke atmospheres of anxiety and unease; others, beauty and meditative stillness — contrasting aesthetics brought about by the sometimes violent collision between modernity and a renewed sense of cultural tradition within an increasingly self-confident 21st-century China. Many also display a wry sense of humour, playfulness, and desire to provoke, characteristic of the generation of artists born in China after the death of Mao Zedong in 1976.

New China/New Art comprises works that no longer fixate on clichéd aspects of China's revolutionary past. Instead, there is a close, often personalized attention to contemporary urban life combined with critically resistant assertions of identity, set against the shifting backdrop of an increasingly globalized world. The exhibition offers rare insights into a 'cool' urban cultural scene still largely unknown outside China.

Lynne Howarth-Gladston and Paul Gladston, 2015

Poetry Toys 2012 by Tang Chao



Jieyu's Debutante 2013 Peng Yun



GALLERY 1

Poetry Toys 2012 by Tang Chao
(b. Hunan 1990)
single-channel video, 2 mins 8 secs

Artist's Statement

This work was produced as part of a poetry workshop. I chose a number of poems that were interpreted and re-interpreted by a small community theatre group. As part of the planning for **Poetry Toys** I set up the rules of a game whereby a group of people of different nationalities read lines from a poem one after another in their mother tongue - reading and then immediately falling down like toy soldiers.

Tang Chao lives and works in Shanghai.

Constructed Shadows 2013 by Chen Hangfeng (b. Shanghai 1974)
single-channel video/animation,
1 min 60 secs (related to multi-media
installation, dimensions variable)

Statement by Julie Chun www.Randian-online

Constructed Shadows is saturated with the interplay of the organic and inorganic... on the ruins of a dilapidated courtyard wall, a landscape painting simultaneously emerges and is submerged to blur the distinction between past and present... Within this constructed simulacrum, Chen Hangfeng lays bare the interstice where the remembrance of things past is rearticulated with the visual idiom of the present moment.

Chen Hangfeng lives and works in Shanghai.

Jieyu's Debutante 2013 by Peng Yun (b. Sichuan Province, 1982)
single-channel video, 5 mins

Artist's Statement

I use my work to engage with different aspects of my life; as a way of exploring female identity... **Jieyu's Debutante** attempts to express the suffering of a kind of forced disguise. An intervening hand helps the young woman Jieyu draw on a disorderly make-up - she has a smile on her face; throughout, application of the make-up is accompanied by industrial 'noise'. In the end, Jieyu wears a piece of antic (grotesque) makeup, completing her 'debutante' look.

**Dancing Queen
(aka Dancing King)** 2009
by Double Fly
single-channel video, 3 mins 16 secs

Artists' Statement

This 'performance' is based on exercises carried out by employees of hair salons in China. Salon managers direct their employees to do exercises every afternoon outside the salon to show off to passers-by; the street becomes a stage with music. This inspired Double Fly, and they began to work on a plan to occupy the stage.

Current members are Cui Shaohan, Li Ming, Li Fuchun, Lin Ke, X-Man, Sun Huiyuan, Huang Liya, Wang Liang, Yang Junling, Zhang Lehua. They live and work in Hangzhou, Shanghai and Beijing.



GALLERY 2

La Marche 2012 by Liu Zhenchen
(b. Shanghai 1976)
single-channel video, 10 mins

Artist's Statement

Liu Zhenchen's work focuses on video installations and the moving image representing the postmodern urban experience. He has presented his works on both film and visual arts platforms, including the Palais de Tokyo, Centre Pompidou in Paris and the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Art. He has been in residence at the 104 Art Centre in Paris since 2013.

Liu Zhenchen lives and works between Paris and Shanghai.

Roaming, Existence, Love 2013
by Mujin (b. Inner Mongolia, 1982)
single-channel video, 6 mins 59 secs

Artist's Statement

'Instability' and 'drift' are the main themes of my research as an artist. My video works draw mainly on social reality in China, opening up a poetic journey of images in between documentary and experimental film. Through the prisms of reality and imagination, I try to reflect a coexistence of hope and emptiness as part of modern floating Chinese society.

Mujin lives and works in Shanghai.

22 2013 by Tan Lijie
(b. Shenzhen, 1991)
single-channel video, 3 mins 46 secs

East Fishing Island (aka East Sea) 2014

by Tan Lijie (b. Shenzhen, 1991)
three-channel video, 10 mins 49 secs

Artist's Statement

22 is an attempt to describe my state of mind at the age of 22, as well as worries about something remote and absurd...A young and an old woman appear in the film: the young woman tirelessly seeks a suffocating state, until she hallucinates...This was an age when I confronted a seemingly insurmountable hurdle and experienced a strange and unavoidable pain. This short film was conceived and completed when these feelings grew ever more intense.

Tan Lijie lives and works in Hangzhou

Light of Eternity 2013
by Birdhead (Ji Weiye b. Shanghai 1980; Song Tao b. Shanghai 1979)
single-channel video, 6 mins 37 secs

Ji Weiye and Song Tao live and work in Shanghai.

East Fishing Island (aka East Sea) 2014 by Tan Lijie



Light of Eternity 2013 by Birdhead



22 2013 by Tan Lijie

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5 September – 1 November 2015

Curated for the Djanogly Gallery
by Lynne Howarth-Gladston and
Paul Gladston, with Neil Walker

Djanogly Gallery
Nottingham Lakeside Arts
University Park
Nottingham NG7 2RD

www.lakesidearts.org.uk



ShanghART
香格里拉画廊



Image below: *Upwards* 2011 by Gao Mingyan

NOTTINGHAM
**LAKE
SIDE
ARTS**



The University of
Nottingham

UNITED KINGDOM • CHINA • MALAYSIA





“集成” 录象 5分36秒 2005



我觉得一个艺术家的责任很重
I think the responsibility on artists'shoulders are heavy





GALLERY 3

Integration 2005 by Zhang Qing
(b. Changzhou, 1977)
single-channel video/animation,
5 mins 36 secs

Artist's Statement

In **Integration** one form is created to destroy another, with an order being established during the process. I decided on a fixed location and kept taking photographs of windows that were lit every day in differing sequences. Later the photos were digitally combined into a video.. with the increase of white dots, densely populated buildings are given an integrated form.

Zhang Qing lives and works in Shanghai

What Else Can I Do? 2012
Gao Mingyan (b. Shanghai, 1983)
single-channel video, 3 mins 43 secs

Forward 2011 by Gao Mingyan
single-channel video, 11 mins 44 secs

Upwards 2011 by Gao Mingyan
single-channel video, 5 mins 41 secs

Artist's Statement (Forward & Upwards)

Artists tend to be lonely. Everyone in life has their own role to play, and so to do things. This project is about me and twenty-one items around me, and our experiences of living and creating together. It appears that I test these items, but actually I communicate and exchange with them. From individual life experiences I discover the distance between me and my surroundings - my position within life

Picnic 2014 by Chen Tianzhou
(b. Beijing, 1985)
three-channel video, 7 mins 50 secs

Artist's Statement

In **Picnic** a strange possessed spirit comes alive through a psychedelic hallucination, contorting against an altar of neon lights. There is also a Canton-style rap battle between two tattooed dwarfs who represent the good and bad angels of one's inner conscience. By conflating the iconography of today's underground culture with Japanese postwar Butoh dancing and tribal religion, Chen's work celebrates the eternal human desire for a mythology of transcendence while questioning faith's continual reliance upon the image.

[The swastika symbols used in **Picnic** are those associated historically with Buddhism.]

Save the World 2012
by Double Fly (formed 2008)
single-channel video, 7 mins

Artists' Statement

Save the World was made in 2012. Double Fly chose to be semi-naked and masked, or wear animal coats. After Double Fly changed their identities into those of great men, they seriously thought they could save the world. Humanity's origin is in love, but then becomes lost in chaos and despair. As a heroic art team, Double Fly can't be more excited than when making a performance of love. It's the mission, vocation, and obligation of Double Fly.