

CHINA LIVE PRESENTATIONS OF CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCES ACTIONS & FILMS

China Live: Presentations of contemporary performances, actions and films is a major UK tour of performances, film screenings and presentations offering audiences a rare opportunity to experience some of the visceral and challenging performance work being created by the current generation of Chinese artists.

From 13 to 28 October 2005 the *China Live* programme is touring to a diverse range of contexts and venues across the UK from galleries, museums, theatres and art centres to public sites and festivals.

China Live is a national network of venues, promoters and facilitators supporting the development of the Live Art sector: Arnolfini, Bristol; Artsadmin; Bluecoat Arts Centre, Liverpool; Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff; Colchester Arts Centre; Fierce, Birmingham; greenroom, Manchester; Live Art Development Agency; New Work Network.

www.liveartuk.org

Chinese Arts Centre is the national agency for the promotion of contemporary Chinese arts and interpretation of Chinese culture. www.chinese-arts-centre.org

Shu Yang is a writer, critic, festival organiser and artist based in Beijing.

China Live is financially assisted by Arts Council England. The *China Live* publication has additional financial assistance from British Council Artist Links.

Design: Hoop Associates
www.thisishoop.com

The performance programme involves intimate audience interactions, live paintings of UK daily life, critiques of UK/China trade relations, contemplative performance actions, and conversations about modern China conducted under a giant Chinese Communist Party flag.

Shu Yang
Presentation on Chinese Performance Art and Dialogue in Chinese Style
Shu Yang will present an illustrated talk on historical and contemporary Chinese performance and, in *Dialogue in Chinese Style*, will lead audiences through the *China Live* events and stimulate discussions about contemporary China with the aid of a giant Chinese Communist Party flag.

Born in 1969 Shu Yang is a curator, writer, festival organiser and performance artist. His performances often use iconic Chinese objects to draw audiences into explorations of communism, socialism and the current social situation in China. In 2004 he undertook an artist residency programme Breathe at Chinese Arts Centre in Manchester. Shu Yang is the co-curator of *China Live*.

He Chengyao
Kiss
He Chengyao will invite members of the audience to join her at a table one at a time, randomly select a sweet or sour, Eastern or Western flavoured ice lolly, place one end in their mouth, the other in hers and suck until they can suck no more.

Born in 1964 He Chengyao is one of the few female performance artists in China. Her practice draws on her experiences as a woman in Chinese society and often creates intimate and experiential interactions with audiences to explore the intricate ties between us and traditional social doctrines of well-being. Her performance based photographic work has been widely exhibited in China and internationally.

Yang Zhichao
Chinese Red
Using drops of his own blood, red ink, mineral pigments, and the silk used in traditional Chinese paintings, Yang Zhichao will paint his reflections of UK daily life. By combining elements of his own body with the spiritual properties of traditional Chinese materials his paintings will create stories imbued with soul and spirit: China-related, time-related and world-related stories.

Born in 1963 Yang Zhichao attempts to raise social issues through his performances and has achieved notoriety through extreme actions such as branding his ID number on his body, planting grass on his back, and surgically implanting objects in his leg and stomach. His work is concerned with the body, and how, in an age of science and technology, our bodies no longer belong to ourselves but to society and the state.

Zhu Ming
Untitled
Zhu Ming will perform a series of contemplative actions within a huge transparent bubble. For Zhu Ming bubbles have the characteristics of both substance and emptiness and serve as a metaphor for the fragility of life and relationships. For the *China Live* tour audiences will see him cover the inner surface of the bubble or his own body with fluorescent powder, burning luminescent, evocative, and haunting images into our consciousnesses.

Born in 1972 Zhu Ming has performed and exhibited in many international Biennales and group shows, including the Between Past and Future photographic exhibition at the V&A London. His performance work deals with the passage of time, physical extremes, isolation and attempts at communication, or the futility and ephemeral nature of these attempts.

Wang Chuyu
Material Files Of Sino-British Cooperation
With images of Chinese factories making goods for the UK market, images of Chinese artefacts housed in the British Museum, and cheap Chinese products bought in the UK, Wang Chuyu will consider China UK trade relations from the times of colonisation to the times of globalisation: a reflection on two kinds of history in two different countries.

Born in 1974 Wang Chuyu is a performance artist, writer, painter and curator. His work is informed by his life experiences and by changing social and political contexts: often expressing the tensions and conflicts between the reality of Chinese society in an age of globalisation and his own emotional responses. Wang Chuyu is the co-curator of the DaDao Live Art Festival, Beijing.

To accompany the live performances, the *China Live* film programme includes documentation of remarkable and often challenging site specific performance work from the last ten years.

Zhu Ming
Unknown Area
With only a bag of beans, a sleeping bag and a video camera Zhu Ming travelled to the remotest region of China and walked for twelve days, stopping only when he encountered another human being.

Yang Zhichao
Selected Works
Documentation of extreme performance actions in which Yang Zhichao brands his ID number on his body, plants grass on his back, invites an audience member to stab him, and commits himself to a mental hospital.

Dai Guangyu
Selected Works
Documentation of performance works involving often explosive actions using the artists own body and the traditional Chinese materials of ink and vases, from handstands where he delicately balances a vase of ink on his feet to shooting vases filled with ink from plinths with a gun.

CHINA LIVE CONVERSATION

To complement the *China Live* performances during the V&A's China Friday Late and the exhibition *Between Past and Future: New Photography and Video from China* (showing at the V&A from 15 September 2005 – 15 January 2006), *China Live: Conversations on performance and documentation* will explore issues of performance and its documentation in photography and video. Speakers include the artist and co-curator of China Live Shu Yang, China Live artists He Cheng Yao, Wang Chuyu, Sarah Champion of Chinese Arts Centre, Lois Keidan of the Live Art Development Agency and UK based artists Hayley Newman and Dinu Lu.

He Yunchang
Selected Works
Documentation of performances reflecting the 'ridiculous heroism' and extremity of He Yunchang's practice whether it be wrestling one hundred and one men, transporting river water upstream, casting himself inside a concrete block or playing outlandish drinking games with audiences.

Li Menguang
Quote Out Of Context
'In the long river of history, the life of a human being is so short it is like a drop of water in a rushing river'. Li Menguang scoops a bowl of river water and lies down to reflect on her capture of a moment of time and history.

Wang Wei
What Does Not Stand Cannot Fall
A team of itinerant workers are employed to build a brick wall around themselves within a gallery, and then tear it down.

CHINA LIVE PUBLICATION

The *China Live* touring programme is complemented by a new bilingual publication. *China Live: Reflections on contemporary performance art* is a Chinese Arts Centre and Live Art UK bilingual publication including commissioned essays, artists' pages and statements, photo documents, and reflections on the experiences of China and its Performance Art scene by British artists who have recently undertaken residencies there. Contributors include Shu Yang, He Chengyao, He Yunchang, Yang Zhichao, JJ Xi and Yuan Cai of Mad for Real, Colin Chinnery, Aaron Williamson, Howard Matthew, Curious and Hayley Newman.

China Live: Reflections on contemporary performance art
ISBN 0 9545440 3 X
Available from participating venues and Cornerhouse Publishing

CHINA LIVE TOUR DETAILS

Chinese Arts Centre Manchester
Thursday 13 October
An opportunity to meet the artists and learn more about their practice. 2pm–4pm
Tickets £5 (free to concessions)

Chinese Arts Centre
Market Buildings
Thomas Street
Manchester M4 1EU

Bookings 0161 832 7271
Email: info@chinese-arts-centre.org
www.chinese-arts-centre.org

greenroom Manchester
Thursday 13 October
From 6pm
Tickets £8 (£5 concessions)
covers all events.

greenroom
54–56 Whitworth Street West
Manchester M1 5WW

Bookings 0161 615 0500
www.greenroomarts.org

Chapter Cardiff
Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 October
As part of Experimentica 05, a unique and eclectic festival experience, featuring the work of over 50 artists making video, performance, film, sound and installation works (6–30 October).

From 8pm each day
Tickets: £5 per day including day admission to Experimentica

Chapter
Market Road
Canton
Cardiff CF5 1QE

Bookings 029 2030 4400
www.chapter.org

Warwick Arts Centre Coventry in collaboration with Fierce
Tuesday 18 October
Film screenings from 2pm
Performances from 7pm
Tickets £9.50 (£7.50 concessions)
covers all events

Warwick Arts Centre
The University of Warwick
Coventry CV4 7AL

Bookings 024 7652 4524
www.warwickartscentre.co.uk

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art Gateshead
Thursday 20 October
From 6pm
Tickets £5 (£3 concession)
covers all events

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art
South Shore Road
Gateshead NE8 3BA

Information 0191 478 1810
Email: info@balticmill.com
www.balticmill.com

Bluecoat Arts Centre Liverpool
Saturday 22 October
From 2pm
Free

Please note that this programme of work will take place at various sites across Liverpool. For details of locations and times of performances and screenings, contact Cathy Butterworth at Bluecoat Telephone 0151 709 5297 ext 19
Email: cathy@bluecoatartscentre.com

Colchester Arts Centre Colchester
Sunday 23 October
Doors 730pm show 8pm
Tickets £6 (£3.50 concessions)
covers all events.

Colchester Arts Centre
Church Street
Colchester CO1 1NF

Bookings 01206 500900
Web tickets available:
www.colchesterartscentre.co.uk
Full disabled access, hearing loop
Directions and parking on our website

Arnolfini Bristol
Wednesday 26 & Thursday 27 October
As part of a mini-festival contemplating communications across borders with work by UK artists, Kira O'Reilly, Richard Dedomenici, Alex Bradley and Paul Hurley.
Please see www.arnolfini.org.uk for full details of the programme, times and ticket prices.

Arnolfini
16 Narrow Quay
Bristol BS1 4QA

Bookings 0117 9172300
Email: boxoffice@arnolfini.org.uk
www.arnolfini

Victoria & Albert Museum London
Friday 28 October
China Live: Conversations on performance and documentation
2pm–5pm
Tickets: £8.50 (£6.50/£5 concessions)

China Live: Presentations of contemporary performances, actions and films
As part of *China Friday Late*, a night of contemporary Chinese culture, featuring live performance, photography, film and music.

6.30pm–10pm
Admission is free although some events may be ticketed.

Victoria & Albert Museum
Cromwell Road
London SW7 2RL

Events booking 020 7942 2211
Email: bookings.office@vam.ac.uk
www.vam.ac.uk

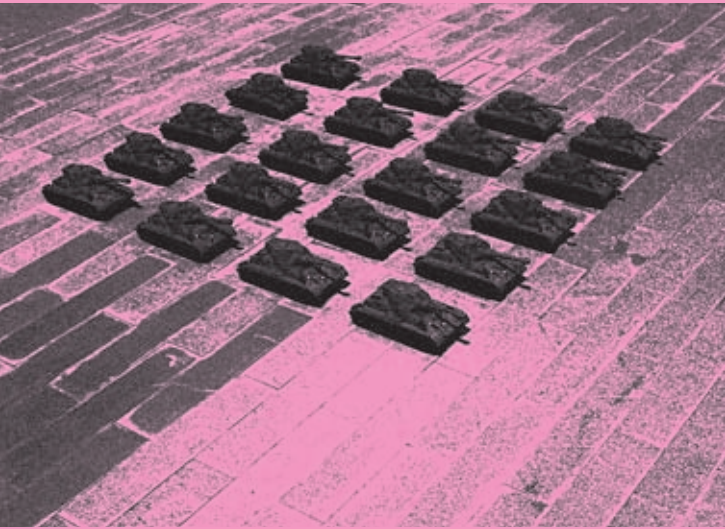


Photo credits: Yang Zhenao, Wang Chuyi, Shu Yang, Zhu Ming, He Chengqiao, Dai Guangyu, Li Mengqiang. All photos courtesy of the artists.

**CHINA LIVE
OCTOBER 2005**

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REFLECTIONS
ON CONTEMPORARY
PERFORMANCE ART**

**CHINA LIVE
CONVERSATIONS
ON PERFORMANCE
& DOCUMENTATION**



**CHINA LIVE
IS A TOURING PROGRAMME
OF LIVE PERFORMANCES
AND FILM SCREENINGS
BY CHINESE ARTISTS,
A BILINGUAL PUBLICATION
ABOUT CONTEMPORARY
CHINESE PERFORMANCE,
AND A CONVERSATION
ABOUT CHINESE PERFORMANCE
AND ITS DOCUMENTATION.**



**CHINA LIVE
IS A COLLABORATION BETWEEN
LIVE ART UK, CHINESE ARTS CENTRE,
THE LIVE ART DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
AND SHU YANG OF THE DADAO LIVE
ART FESTIVAL, BEIJING.**

**CHINA LIVE
BUILDS ON EXCHANGES THAT LIVE ART
UK AND CHINESE ARTS CENTRE HAVE
UNDERTAKEN WITH CHINA OVER SEVERAL
YEARS, AND CONTINUES COLLABORATIONS
WITH THE DADAO LIVE ART FESTIVAL,
BEIJING TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE
THE WORK OF CHINESE ARTISTS
IN THE UK AND UK ARTISTS IN CHINA.**

Live Art
Development
Agency



LiveArtUK



Chinese Arts Centre
华人艺术中心

演绎中国生活