2015上海当代艺术大展

Shanghai Contemporary Art Exhibition

李晓峰/主编 Li Xiaofeng Editor

2015 CityVision 城市目光

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Curator / Li Xiaofeng

Co Curator / Lin Wei, Su Bing

Artist (72 Persons)

Cao Zaifei, Cai Guangbin, Chai Yiming, Chen Hangfeng Chen Junde, Chen Qiang, Chen Xiaodan, Chen Yanyin, Chen Yiming, Chen Ying, Ding Yi, Gao Shan, Han Feng, Han Zijian, He Saibang, He Yang, Hu Jieming, Huang Azhong, Huang Jun, Huang Yuanqing, Ji Weiyu, Ji Wenyu, Jiao Zhenyu, Jiang Jianzhong, Li Lei, Li Shan, Li Xiangyang, Li Xiaofei, Liang Wei zhou, Lin Sen, Liu Jianhua, Luo Erqi, Luo Yongjin, Ma Liang, Mao Weixin, Ni Weihua, Pan Wei, Pan Xi, Pei Jing, Pu Jie, Qin Yifeng, Qiu Jia, Qu Fengguo, San Shui, Sang Maolin, Shen Fan, Shi Yong, Sima Qing, Song Tao, Sun Liang, Wang Jieying, Wang Kai, Wang Tiande, Wang Xiangming, Wei Tianyu, Wu Jun, Wu Yiming, Xiao Min, Xue Song, Yang Dongbai, Yang Fudong, Yang Jianping, Yang Lin, Yang Qingqing, Yu Youhan, Zhang Enli, Zhang Jianjun, Zhang Xin, Zhao Hang, Zhou Changjiang, Zhou Hongxiang, Zhu Weibing

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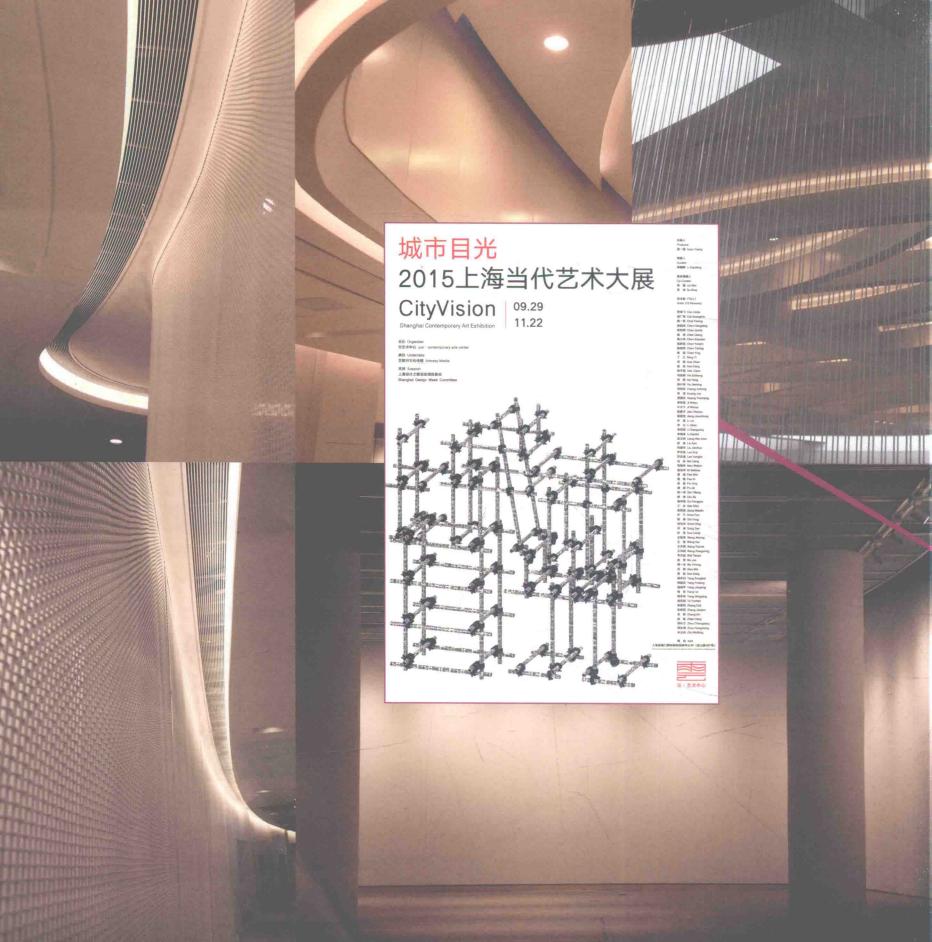
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Contents

☐ Comment: Li Xiaofeng/001

☐ Works

I. Paintings/011

Chen Junde/12、Yu Youhan/14、Chen Yiming/16、Huang Azhong/18、Wang Xiangming/20、Sun Liang/23、Jiang Jianzhong/26、Pu Jie/28、Wang Kai/30Sima Qing/32、Xue Song/35、Zhang Enli/038、Sang Maolin/040、Luo erqi/042

■ II. Abstractionism/045

Wang Jieyin/046 · Zhou Changjiang/048 · Shen Fan/051 · Li Xiangyang/054 · Chen Qiang/056 Ding Yi/058 · Pan Wei/060 · Huang Yuanqing/062 · Li Lei/064 · Qu Fengguo/066

III. lnk and wash /069

He Saibang/070、 Wang Tiande/072、 Han Feng/074、 Pei Jing/076、 Cai Guangbin/078 Chai Yiming/080、 Wu Yiming/082、 Pan Xi/084

■ IV. Sculptures/087

Wei Tianyu/088、 Chen Yanyin/090、 Yang Dongbai/092、 Yang Jianping/094 Han Zijian/096、 Xiao Min/098、 Qiu Jia/100、 Gao Shan/102、 Lin Sen/104

V. Installations /107

Hu Jieming/108、Wu Jun/110、Ji Wenyu/112、Zhu Weibing/112、Liu Jianhua/116、Chen Xiaodan/118 Shi Yong/120、Zhang Xin/122、Cao Zaifei/124、Chen Ying/126

■ VI. Images /129

Ni Weihua/130、Zhou Hongxiang/132、Yang Fudong/134、Li Xiaofei/136、Chen Hangfeng/138 Yu Yangxian artistic group/140

■ VII. Photos/145

Li Shan/146、 Zhang Jianjun/148、 Luo Yongjin/152、 Qin Yifeng/154 Liang Weizhou/156、 He Yang/158、 Yang Qingqing/160、 Huang Jun/162 Ma Liang/164、 San Shui/168、 Birdhead/170

Resume /173

☐ Memoir: Lin Wei/181

□ 评 述:李晓峰/001

□作品

■ 壹:绘画/011

陈钧德 /012 余友涵 /014 陈逸鸣 /016 黄阿忠 /018 王向明 /020 孙 良 /023 姜建忠 /026 浦 捷 /028 王 凯 /030 司马青 /032 薛 松 /035 张恩利 /038 桑茂林 /040 罗尔奇 /042

■ 贰:抽 象/045

王劼音 /046 周长江 /048 申 凡 /051 李向阳 /054 陈 墙 /056 丁 乙 /058 潘 微 /060 黄渊青 /062 李 磊 /064 曲丰国 /066

■ 叁: 水 場 /069

何赛邦/070 王天德/072 韩 峰/074 裴 晶/076 蔡广斌/078 柴一茗/080 邬一名/082 潘 曦/084

■ 肆: 雕 塑 /087

韦天瑜 /088 陈妍音 /090 杨冬白 /092 杨剑平 /094 韩子健 /096 肖 敏 /098 邱 加 /100 高 珊 /102 林 森 /104

■ 伍:装置/107

胡介鸣/108 吴 军/110 计文于/112 朱卫兵/112 刘建华/116 陈小丹/118 施 勇/120 张 新/122 曹再飞/124 陈 颖/126

■ 陆: 影 像/129

倪卫华/130 周弘湘/132 杨福东/134 李消非/136 陈航峰/138 鱼羊鲜小组/140

■ 柒: 图 片/145

李 山/146 张健君/148 罗永进/152 秦一峰/154 梁卫洲/156 何 旸/158 杨青青/160 黄 珺/162 马 良/164 三 水/168 鸟 头/170

□ 简 历/173

□实录:林薇/181

评述 Comment 文/李晓峰

(-)

上海从来都不愿反面,也很难正面。结果,成为了一个侧面。

上海,曾经是外国人登陆中国的最重要的口岸,成为外国看到中国的起点,也同样成为了中国看外国的起点。一度有种流行的说法,"上海是这样一个地方,对西方人很中国,对中国人又很西方"。

上海曾经是资产阶级灯红酒绿的十里洋场,也成为无产阶级摩拳擦掌的革命摇篮。进步与落后、激进与保守、新潮与旧例、富贵与贫穷、光鲜与污秽、光明与黑暗、秩序与动荡……共生杂处。从半殖民、半封建,到革命与反动;从左派到右派,从叛逆到堕落……上海常常风口浪尖、先行先试、敢作敢为,又会香风扑面、纸醉金迷、藏污纳垢,有时是"躲进小楼成一统"的逃避、逃离,或后知后觉的"不在场",成为主旋律中的另类、主流外的支叉、相对主要的次要或边缘、它者。上海始终像个二律背反的矛盾体,好像具有双重身份两条命,是冲突的交汇点,异议的兼容地,又时常为此陷入尴尬,显得暧昧,却变得身影绰约,曲线性感,生成意外的城市天际线。上海总是异动、例外,在正反的冲突中,显现了它的侧面。

上海的文化,近代以来,以辉煌的"海派"著称,有过任伯年,有过 吴昌硕;有过徐悲鸿,有过刘海粟;有过徐志摩,有过郁达夫;有过鲁 迅,有过张爱玲;有过陈逸飞,有过陈丹青……租界文化、沙龙文化、码 头文化、弄堂文化、电影文化、商业文化……五方杂处、兼容并蓄,形成 中国绝无仅有的综合体,具有强大的综合能力。也一度式微,成了自私、 小气、"精明不高明"的讥讽对象而声名不堪。的确,今天要以"海派" 自翊,总显得外强中干、虚张声势,给人以狭隘、封闭、厚颜、内虚之 感,"海派"已成为一个无趣无聊的空洞标榜,沦为不齿的笑柄。

(\Box)

1979年初,在上海黄埔区少年宫举办了一个《十二人画展》,引发巨大反响,简直就是轰动,每日的参观人数与整个为时不长的展期的人数都是破纪录的。上海戏剧学院青年教师陈钧德的一幅参展小油画《有过普希金铜像的街》一时成为标志。对印象派绘画的大胆借鉴,无主题的风景画图式,斑斓、抒情的"洋味儿",无声间,消解了苏派写实主义一统天下的坚冰,颠覆了一元化主题创作的视觉专制,成为解冻后的春天气息。

相比1979年岁末《星星美展》的强烈反叛与颠覆精神,《十二人画展》显著的温和、典雅、讲究,是比较鲜明的"纯艺术"取向。发生在北京中国美术馆外的《星星美展》,更近狂飙突进的表现主义,洋溢着浓烈的社会批判意识,均为主题鲜明的作品,如王克平的《沉默》、《偶像》、《万岁》,马德升的《息》,黄锐的《葬礼》、《遗嘱》、《新生》,包泡的《昼》等等。

如北京的《星星美展》,上海《十二人画展》是一个特别值得关注的史实。一方面,它是"文革"后,甚至新中国以来,第一个民间自发举办的、与主流主导的意识形态不一致的展览,尤其在那个年代,被视为歪门邪道的异端;第二方面,所产生巨大的影响,如"星星美展"一样,是一种心灵的震撼,精神禁忌的突破,思想的"出轨",自由意志的大胆流露,让身心冻

结的人们感到强烈的共鸣、热烈的反响,如枷锁解除般的激动,人流涌动、人头攒动,成为数九严寒的率先开放的第一束报春花。记得我小时候学国画,学到画报春花时,有一种难以名状的暖流,现在回想起来,就是一股春意,因为,国画颜料藤黄点染出来的报春花,就是冬日里的阳光颜色。

中国当代艺术史常视北京"星星美展"作为始端,而忽视了上海"十二人画展"开启中国当代艺术进程的独特意义。虽然两个展都是民间自发的一次历史的突破,但"星星美展"的特征是紧张的、斗争的,还是被压抑后的造反、叛逆,是有主题的呐喊、反抗,其中的强大政治语境仍十分显著。相比之下,"十二人画展"的无主题、去主题,去政治化的意识形态语境,有意的轻松、唯美,以更纯粹的审美语言方式,开启了中国艺术的现当代转型。

实际上,上海当代的艺术转型,突出表现为艺术的语言革命,虽然刻意 回避强势的政治语境,回避鲜明的政治主题,更强调的是纯视觉,但毕竟 因此将视线转移到艺术本身,也转移到了人本身。

的确,上海追求艺术的缘由更多与个人性相连。1980年春,在上海卢湾区文化馆举办《八十年代画展》(有"八十年代新一代"的新时代风尚诉求)的"草草社"(原想命名"独立画家集团")明确提出了艺术的"三独主义",就是"独立精神、独创风格、独特技法",虽遭到左派美协领导的批评,仍为艺术的个性存在争取了发展空间,比如,一直坚持了《裂变》风格的仇德树,成为"新海派"水墨代表人物陈家冷等。这方面上海的艺术视角与主导"85美术新潮"的北京艺术家以及后来产生巨大影响的西南艺术家的区别是显著的。

参加过"十二人画展"的黄阿忠,创作历经数十年,古今东西兼容并蓄,却始终如一地坚守了为自己画画、不是为"造反"画画的基本方向。是避实就虚、避重就轻?个中原因,与人相关,因为有人就撇不清政治、意识形态的缠绕,所以回避人,多以风景、静物为主,黄阿忠与陈均德乃至许多上海艺术家都具有这样的特征。回避人也是回避身份,因为一度成为"文革"重灾区的上海,对人的身份已绝望,甚至如惊弓之鸟充满惧怕恐慌。即便表现了人,也是唯美的少女,正如文学的核心主题是爱情,虽然,在深层上讲,仍是人性的,所谓"文学即人学"。但去主题的风景画、静物画,既是为了去政治化、去意识形态化,直接表达对自然的热爱,对生活的热爱,再进一步追溯,还是个人化的趣味表达,甚至关涉私人隐私的隐喻。

"为艺术而艺术"还是"为人生而艺术",是中国近现代史中一直纠缠争辩的命题,虽然,这两类貌似针锋相对的艺术,都可能走向自己的反面,比如走向背叛自己的功利主义、机会主义、利己主义、霸权主义,但他们毕竟不同的初衷,还是很值得我们今天来反思、反省的。

(\equiv)

上海艺术家的另一个重要特色,是具有超强的综合能力与兼容精神。 通常所说的古今东西,在他们身上都可寻到显著痕迹,比如黄阿忠,比如 王劼音。这种综合主义能力,有时近乎折中主义。而多数作品,又兼具学 院与市场、专业与商业多重元素,并透出更为灵活的现代气息,时而酣畅 淋漓, 时而极致讲究, 一种喜新不忘旧的当代性。

最为突出的表现当属抽象艺术。在上海艺术家的排行榜上,抽象艺术 板块无论人数上还是声势上总是雄居榜首的。比如丁乙,他坚持不懈的勤 奋工作和数十年如一日的可持续性发展,不仅赢的海内外日隆的声誉,且 总能在各类艺术活动中,荣膺为上海区域的标志人物。

上海的吴大羽先生,被誉为中国"抽象艺术之父",一生多数时间却是偷偷画抽象。1981年,他的作品《滂沱》刊载到中国最核心的官方美术刊物《美术》(12期)上,似乎预示了中国现代艺术运动端始的上海"决澜社"的再生。可见,抽象艺术对中国现代艺术进程的突破意义。

改革开放以来,上海抽象艺术的重要先行者是陈创洛,他是与吴大羽同在上海油雕院亦师亦友的同事,他的《CHINA,China》最早登上《文汇报》被官媒介绍,抽象作品参加了1987年在上海举办的首届中国油画展。

上戏毕业、曾为上海油雕院副院长的周长江,则是首个以抽象作品获得国家级展览奖项的艺术家,1989年他的《互补系列No.120》获第七届全国美展银奖。无独有偶,在1984年,上海青年雕塑家杨冬白的《饮水熊》获得第六届全国美展雕塑金奖,这在全国美展雕塑金奖常常空缺的历史上是罕见的。原因就是抽象,中性的主题,巧妙的构思,把饮水熊与它的倒影连为抽象形式,唯美、装饰、新颖、现代。上海好像具有搞抽象的豁免权,恰恰因为主题的淡化,平和不尖锐,无针对性和攻击性,不犯上而显得"无毒无害"。

其时,上海工艺美校的余友涵与早在"文革"前留校任教上戏的李山则显得更为叛逆、更为激进。作为余友涵的学生,丁乙则异军突起,也许他的名字本身就含有抽象意味,易于识别,成为招牌。与丁乙同为上大美院同学的秦一峰、韩峰也都在创作早期搞过抽象,秦一峰还与丁乙在80年代做过街头行为艺术。

申凡的抽象创作持续时常名列前茅,形式或密集或疏朗,多余材料制作有关,后来走向抽象的多媒体装置,2006年的上海双年展,申凡的霓虹灯声音装置《向黄宾虹致敬》引发广泛关注。近期的《标点》系列,更是把抽象艺术与观念艺术巧妙的结合起来,"擦去"与"存留",是思想与文辞废黜后情绪还原的休止符。

上海的抽象艺术发展出各具特色的路子,黄渊青最早关注并注入了东方韵律的书写性并与色彩交融;曲丰国、陈墙的抽象道路,是让冷、热抽象在都市化的中国当代进程中与文化身份水乳交融,陈墙作品中渐入的东方心绪,曲丰国抽象的缤纷时速;往返于中日的潘微密集的抽象华丽斑斓又暗含禅意;李磊从《禅花系列》的诗意抒情步入抽象至今已臻于自由。持续近30年的上海抽象艺术,具有一支强大而稳定的群体。

1999年,我策划了《都市抽象》,邀请了当时最为活跃的24为艺术家, 寓意全天候,也最早呈现了上海抽象与都市的互文关系。

一上海的抽象,既有疑似精神洁癖的纯粹性,也具有理性的高冷与灵性的空幻,表征出独特的文化态度与艺术倾向,不光批判,更关心建构与完善。如此情形,也难免被好事者提及关于上海艺术形态的陈词老调:精致、优雅、唯美、折中,2001年,在上海刘海粟美术馆举办了一个规模更大的上海抽象艺术群体展《抽象新世说》,关于上海艺术状态的诸多问题也再次被凸现出来。开幕当日的研讨会上出现了十分激烈的争论,如何看待和理解"上海抽象艺术现象",有人尖锐提出,过分迷恋形式、追求样

式的上海抽象艺术是一种"无力的聪明"、"脆弱的自娱"。这其实涉及 到如何评价上海艺术价值的深层问题。在中国现代艺术风云乍起之时,中 国艺术的革命形态基本上表现在架上,"抽象艺术"可说是那时最大的离 经叛道,上海抽象艺术正是于此时起步的,所不同的是,在上海的抽象艺术活动很快便难以用"离经叛道"可以诠释了。

上海曾经的海纳百川、汇融东西,曾使其有种挥之不去的自信与优越感,经历了"大一统"的体制,又使其在谨慎生存中小心自持,进而显得怯懦,审慎谨细而缺乏魄力,精微敏感却影响了远识。或许是资本主义式的文明方式的过早、过深的影响,自律与自私缠绕纠葛得近乎顽虐。无疑,西方近现代文明的洗礼(也应包括殖民经历)使上海人对现代文明有着某种根深蒂固近乎偏执的热爱,如今的"白领"意识、"小资"情结正是一种后续写照,但这仅仅是片面的写照。

另一方面看,上海人整体文明素质、文化程度在全国也非徒有虚名,都市化进程在上海如此神速的发展就是证明。以此情形反观上海艺术,特别是上海抽象艺术的存在和发展,会获得更多的理解和认识的理由。

上海人有句口头禅,叫"到位",这种品质表现在上海画家身上亦是明显的:他们精明而又务实,甚至到了不怕别人误解的程度,只要能达到目的,甚至甘受"跨下之辱"。"螺丝壳里做道场",不仅说明了上海人的生存能力,也昭示出上海人精明程度、生存本领。他们热爱"经典",积极上进,追求"贵族"趣味,既不蔑视时尚,又不降格以求。这一特殊的文化生态,构成了一个值得人们反省的特例,貌似滞后的抽象艺术样式恰恰反映出上海艺术演进的切实性和连续性,不以"它律"是从,更以"自律"为上。他们不愿盲动,更乐于到艺术史上寻求被人匆匆带过的空间,那是个更能扎根的地盘,或许正是经过利弊得失的权衡,对这一令人生疑的艺术形态的选择,恰恰使上海艺术获取了一个未必完结的艺术空间。

其实,上海的第一批当代艺术家,普遍具有抽象因素,如李山、余友涵、张健君、孙良的艺术创作历程都有抽象时期;包括黄阿忠、姜建忠,甚至陈均德等油画家也都或多或少地具有抽象化的痕迹;还有"新海派"的著名国画家陈家泠、张桂铭等;仇德树的《裂变》系列本来就常常被列入抽象序列。纵观今日上海抽象艺术之面貌,不仅可以看出均甚显著的文化性、都市性,也可看出逐渐具有的更加执着的目标锁定:语言的精当锤炼、意蕴的文化浸淫,观念的水到渠成。

从风景、静物到抽象,似乎是上海艺术进程很合逻辑的发展。早期人物主题创作的前上海美术馆馆长李向阳,退休前后转向抽象的一批创作,连抽象也不愿承认,他说他画的是"非相",其中不难看出,这位一度因上海双年展成为风云人物的向阳同志一辈子风驰电掣的人生轨迹。集结了版画、设计、工艺美术与油画混搭跨界背景的王劼音,1989年以木刻《山上的小木屋》获全国版画展金奖。作为上海威望极高的老艺术家,也常常被纳入抽象艺术群体,他的作品其实是更近抽象的意象,他的《大花卉》系列同构着都市与山水的意象,也沉淀着文化与历史痕迹。近年从布面走向水墨,《点阵系列》又像是对抽象的回归。

还有雕塑家余积勇钢铁焊接的抽象雕塑,参加了早在1989年举行的、成为"85美术新潮"节点的"中国现代艺术大展"。那次李山参展的则是他罕见的行为艺术"洗脚",几乎开了中国足浴的先河,这当然的玩笑话,

却有引人联想的预示。

(四)

其后,李山创作了震惊中外的《胭脂系列》,使中国POP艺术更为波澜 壮阔,一种戏剧化的舞台感,并推动POP艺术向观念艺术迈进,所以,李山 的大幅创作、既像他所就职的上海戏剧学院,又不像。

1983年,李山、张健君、戴恒扬、周加华、俞晓夫、王邦雄、冷宏、查 国均等来自上海戏剧学院的艺术前辈举办了《83年阶段,绘画实验展》, 到科学与人文荟萃的复旦大学展出。预示了强调实验精神的上海现代艺术 的自觉开启,虽遭到《解放日报》的点名批判。

1985年, 《现代绘画——六人联展》又来到复旦大学的学生俱乐部, "联展"也有"联合"而来之意,参展艺术家正是上海工艺美校的师生群体,有余友涵、丁乙、秦一峰等。

余友涵不仅早期的抽象影响深远,而且率先的艳俗与POP作品也直接影响了POP与艳俗艺术在中国的发生。或许就职的上海工艺美校不断的国外订单使他对西方谙熟,他著名的毛主席像叠加花卉图案,不仅祛除了神圣,消解了迷信,而且接通了消费时代,融入了现代、当代。1995年5月18日他在纽约给国内的小友通信中,说过这样一句名言:"到西方来仅仅是为了告别西方。"还说"……希望每个中国人都能出国,出来看看,仅仅是为了丢掉迷信,会回去好好地干自己的事。"

他的学生计文于,将目光聚焦中国城市现代化进程显现的错位与误读,特别是荒谬的粉饰与谎言,既有善意的挖苦,也有辛辣的讥讽,诙谐的亲和力中具有犀利的批判,特别是对市井、世俗的深刻洞察,对恶俗、艳俗、低俗、保持着一贯的清醒、冷静,是大众娱乐时代的另类。

薛松是上海另一位具有POP倾向的艺术家代表。他POP的因缘是家中三次失火,他所有的书和作品被烧光了,通过失火,他发明了一种绘画,与焦边、灰烬有关,我曾称之为劫后余生的"舍利子",画中却是浮世人生。

施勇是个极具综合的艺术家,从绘画艳俗到装置多媒体。他早期有过一件以他自己为肖像,配上各种发式的图片作品,后来衍生为雕塑装置,穿一身很绅士的礼服站在那里,《你好,上海!》,取材源自库尔贝的《先生,早安!》,比较早地关注了时代的身份。最近的一个新个展,起了一个很长的名字《让所有的可能都在内部以美好的形式解决》,读来绕口,意味深长。

裴晶在摩登的都市中关注乡土与时尚结合的外来妹。韩峰则从早期抽象回到中国画本行,艺术意象却指涉了日益商业化的当代文明,特别是《美好时光》的问世,成为他最热衷的也最鲜明的系列创作。还有顾振华荧光色系的《礼物》系列。1999年我曾策划了《都市靓丽》展,并在研讨会上明确提出了"都市与艺术的现代性"论题……

上海有两位与POP艳俗沾边,却无法归类的艺术家,一位是孙良,另一为是刘大鸿。

孙良有种魔幻,超写实,又极尽华丽甚至奢靡,非常漂浮,画面无中心,平面化,也很神话,上海轻专毕业的他,也有很深上海文化根基,轻专是上海的老牌艺术院校。孙良画面的诡异、暧昧、华丽、飘浮、轻盈、晶莹剔透具有很贴切的上海气质。就如孙良的艺术疆域的广泛涉足,从油画到水墨,从玻璃到丝绸,从指甲油到文身,从假面舞会到时尚派对……孙良不仅热衷而且关注着广泛的流行时尚与多元文化。

刘大鸿1985年从浙美毕业分到上海师范大学。刘大鸿密密麻麻的诡异形象,让人想起17世纪荷兰的勃鲁盖尔、波西。不过比世俗化的"尼德兰画派"更奇幻,当然也更中国,比如《上海潮》对上海文化历史资源的肆意使用,具有新历史主义的诠释,只不过更讽喻。也一度被纳入了风生水起的"政治POP"。

(五)

随"85美术新潮",1986年上海成为现代艺术新潮的一个高潮。《非具象画展》、《黑白黑画展》、《上海(首届)青年美术作品大展》(在新落成的上海美术馆)、《凹凸画展》、《M观念艺术行动》(在虹口区第二工人文化宫),1988年底《最后的晚餐——凹凸画展第二回》因消防原因被封,成为休止符。

在《上海艺术家》1990年第一期,我应约发表了《89上海美术——悄然无声地寻找起点》,转年的《上海艺术家》1(991年第一期),又发表了《90上海美术的生长空间》。那时,经过"85美术新潮"进入盘整期的上海,开始从展览、商业、国际、市场等更宽泛的空间尝试艺术发展的多元可能。那时,华山路已悄然间兴起了数间售卖相关新艺术的展示空间,萌启了当代画廊的雏形。

1991年,《车库艺术展》是上海当代艺术重启的一个重要标志,有宋海 冬、胡介鸣、胡建平等人的装置。

谈上海装置绕不开陈箴,还有往返于中美两地的张建君。胡介鸣、胡建平均为上海最早的观念装置艺术家。1996年,第一届上海双年展,虽然确定的较为中性的油画,却仍出现了自法国送展的沪籍画家陈箴的装置作品,虽然在严格的审查下,进行了某种修正,仍然出展,也成为一种虽有折中却表现出包容的开放讯息。2000年,第三届上海双年展,以国际化的姿态与相当的突破成为,展览主题中文表述为"上海·海上"译做英文叫"上海精神"(Shanghai Spirit)。

1987年,杨剑平从驰名中外的景德镇陶瓷学院调入名不见经传的上大美院,显然上海的魅力使然,果然,剑平到上海后,创作、展览一发而不可收,迎来高峰期,"海平线"、上海青年美术大展、全国体育美展金奖获得者,被戏称为得奖专业户,然而,他的作品却在精湛的古典语言中融入了现代的叛逆性与性别化思考,并很快成为上海当代雕塑领域的领军人物,后来被任命为当时全国最大的公共雕塑项目——上海东方绿洲知识大道雕塑群的艺术总监,思精竭虑,对生命有了非同常人的体会,近年的《大寓言》系列用隐喻的志怪体,直指人性与人类命运的荒诞。

同在上大美院的宋海冬,80年代以现代冲击传统义无反顾,90年代意外皈依佛门,数年后还俗为素装简行的半隐士半居士,并以当代艺术思维重返传统,解构物态雕塑,解读雕塑本体意义的历史文化,让早期醉心的观念雕塑与装置在更深的回溯中走得更远。同为浙美雕塑系毕业回到上海的陈妍音也从早期的前卫先锋中走出,重拾社会现实主义手法与神髓,祭奠难以割舍的历史情怀。后来到上大美院的刘建华已是当代艺术的著名人士,也是从近于艳俗与政治POP一路过来,并精明地使用了中国陶瓷的丰沛资源,大大突破了雕塑阈限,并走向观念化的空间装置。

(六)

进入2000年,成为当代艺术最当红媒介的还是影像艺术,大有对当代艺术最红的装置取而代之之势。虽然影像的升级极快,仍使许多艺术家,特别

是更年轻的艺术家乐不思蜀,其中的重要代表人物尤其受到西方瞩目的当属上海落户的杨福东。上海的中国电影的发源地,也是上海文化的一个最辉煌的历史记忆。给无数人留下挥之不去的电影情结,杨福东的电影梦是以当代艺术的方式实现的,并对电影与当代艺术语言的交叉发挥到了驾轻就熟的程度,最早敏感与时尚,广告,短片,最早拍了黑白电影的杨福东一直热爱电影,《竹林七贤》《天亮了》已成为中国当代影像的经典之作。

当代摄影也风生水起。最被人关注的上海当代摄影是马良,马良并不 是搞摄影出身,却是从小在上海电影制片厂泡大的。喜欢摆拍的马良有熟 谙的上海记忆,比如上海弄堂里一个想象中的少女,在播撒金鱼,是件很 魔幻的事情,斑斓而诡异的幻觉化。

在上海喜欢摄影的艺术家很多,特别是梁卫洲把本来专业的油画变成副业,摄影成为他的主业,对镜头与焦点的把握别具一格。还有何旸的数码图片让古典图像得到淋漓尽致的发挥。在上海落户的河南人罗永进,是当代摄影艺术家,经历了中国当代摄影的变迁,摄影的关注视角也极为广泛,从村镇政府大楼到烟痕香灰,从角落的裂缝到意外的光影,观念成分隐现其中。

秦一峰持续很长一段的《线场》,后来异乎寻常地一头钻进早期机械 摄影,几乎每日都不间断地拍照,甚至等待满意的日光,并拍出一批以明 清家具线条为单一对象的高冷图片、灰调性登峰造板。

上海的当代水墨比较长的时间里是一条隐线。其中既包括了新海派的 前期准备,也初具了跨界当代的实验观念。随着近年当代水墨成为艺术市 场的显著题材,当代水墨才浮出水面。

上海最早的水墨观念与材料实验是华师大的陈心懋,探索的指向是承载文化历史文本,将水墨推向当代层面的是浙江美院国画系毕业返沪的王天德,他的观念水墨,从突破传统到兼容传统,也与抽象一度交叉,著名的是他的《水墨大餐》,从"文化春卷"(栗宪庭语)到"水墨大餐",水墨终于闯入当代,稳居一席。最早指涉都市题材的当代水墨是邬一名。还有浙美毕业回东北又来上海的蔡广斌,从"视窗"系列到"自拍"系列,将影像引入水墨。其实,更早的水墨实验多是对纸本书写的眷恋,比如何赛邦、柴一茗。从王天德以时代焦虑对传统山水笔墨的回望、并置叠加出的观念形式,到蔡广斌的影像水墨人物与科技时代的交汇互融;从何赛邦的笔端灵性异象,到邬一名超越了残山剩水的、无意义角落的废墨光影,从柴一茗超现实的笔墨幻影,到韩峰闪烁的彩钻镶嵌中隐匿的宋人笔墨的蛛丝马迹。还有从油画该画国画的裴晶,笔墨中勾兑了上海的月份牌与新年画时代,成为PK艳俗POP的时代春宫图。

如独行侠的张恩利几乎独来独往,从表现浮华背后的野蛮、饕餮般的野性的早期的绘画,到表现生活中琐碎细节对日常回归的近作,是经历狂飙突进后的幸存者立场。对张恩利的《自画像》,意大利的莫妮卡曾评论道:"人性的,太人性的",这是借用了尼采的话,张恩利目光祥和中带着犀利。

(t)

"85美术新潮"时期,大量西方艺术思潮、哲学、文学、学术名著,激发了中国的现代艺术勃发。步入21世纪后的当代中国,再次生成进一步突破的艺术诉求。上海当代艺术的自身特点也面临着进一步梳理的迫切需要。

2015年9月22日,《城市目光——2015上海当代艺术大展》将在新近落成的"上海云艺术中心"隆重开幕,参展艺术家72人,综合了上海当代艺

术三十余年的内容,组成一个代表上海当代的艺术片段,虽着眼历史,却不是作为过程的历史叙述,而是作为切片的历史品质,从而,划分为较显著的七大类别:绘画、抽象、水墨、雕塑、装置、影像、图片。通过上海当代不同的艺术代表人物,不同的类型、观念,不同的目光,展现了上海城市的当代气质、品格,上海城市的独特视角、视域与视觉。

从艺术叛逆、离经叛道、不彻底的"现代性",到彻底打破艺术限制的革命需要;从干预社会、变革世界为艺术使命的激进"左派",到将艺术融入生活、以艺术为中心、以自我为中心的温和"右派",上海的艺术家给了怎样的回答呢?作为基本面的上海人,是自我中心的,往往显得自私,缺少公心;却很自律,很有公德,守规矩,讲道理。如果说北京的力量是更外向的抗争,那么,上海的力量在于更内敛的兼容,"海派无派",也可以解读为一人一派,自我为派。当然,派也是要有资格的,要有分庭抗礼的资本与实力。不然,即便称"海派",仍有"扯大旗作虎皮"的嫌疑,至多是蒙骗愚钝无知的广告,难登学术的大雅之堂。

"攀比"时代的另一层含义,就是寻找信心、寻求依托,也是重建价值观的症候。常常发生这样一些耐人回味的"攀比"(也是某种意义上的对比):北京与上海,大陆与台湾,中国与日本,东方与西方,中央与地方,强势与弱势,主流与支流,中心与边缘,正面与反面,单面与多面,传统与当代,历史与未来,小资与愤青,逼格与颜值,泪点(煽情)与笑点(反讽),叙事与抒情,古代与现代,近代与当代,历史观与价值观,人生观与世界观,地理与心理,地域性与国际性,国际大都市(上海提出)与世界城市(北京提出)……,主导包容。

比如,去中心还是换中心有着本质的区别。把皇帝老儿拉下马,是推翻帝制,还是皇帝轮流做,今日到我家?区分这一点是甚为紧要的,不然革命就会被白白葬送,革命先烈的血也就白流了。我们究竟需要一个什么样的城市、什么样的家园?是威仪天下万国来朝的中心,还是一个开放、兼容、具备个体自由来去的去中心、无中心的平等城市、自由城市?

即将开幕的《城市目光——2015上海当代艺术大展》,参展艺术家72 人,综合了上海当代艺术三十余年的内容,组成一个代表上海当代的艺术 片段,虽着眼历史,却不是作为过程的历史叙述,而是作为切片的历史品 质,从而,划分为较显著的七大类别:绘画、抽象、水墨、雕塑、装置、影 像、图片。通过上海当代不同的艺术代表人物,不同的类型、观念,不同的 目光,展现了上海城市的当代气质、品格,上海城市的独特视角、视域与视 觉。

从参展艺术家的组成还可以看出,上海当代艺术既有盘根错节的复杂性,又是流水行云般的流动感。常常听人说到上海艺术家时感慨"上海的艺术家怎么就看不出一种整体来。"这是因为,上海艺术家分而不群,每个人都希望与众不同。同时也证明了上海的含金量,在于其流水不腐的"码头"形态,其流动性,变化性,不确定性,确保了它的开放性、兼容性,汇聚与辐射的能量,它新的生成可能,生成都市"新人格"。

如果说,上海是一个侧面,那么,上海的城市光感,也是侧光,这使得它的看被看,都更加具有审美的可能,我们知道,光线的角度,无论正面、反面,都是单一的,唯有侧面才是变化多样的。上海,做为一个侧面,一个中国当代的侧面,必将是不可或缺的。

Shanghai, As a Profile

by Li Xiaofeng

Shanghai, which is always unwilling to be the back side, and can hardly be the front side, either, eventually assumes herself a profile.

The city, once the most important port for foreigners to disembark in China, has become a starting point for other countries to learn China and for China to learn others. There was a saying that became widely popular for a time, "Shanghai is such a place that is very Chinese to westerners and very west to Chinese."

It has been for bourgeoisie the Eden of debauchery, and for proletarians the cradle of revolution. It has been an aren that held both advancement and backwardness, radicals and conservatives, fashion and tradition, rich and poor, shiny and filthy, light and darkness, order and chaos... It always stands where the storm rages most, prior to carry and try, with courage and determination, and meanwhile heralds luxuriant nightclubs and hot dates, a den of evil and vice. It sometimes tends to escape, an evader who hides in a small place for a misery unification, or an absent man, learning after doing of course, a minor rather the theme, a forked branch of the backbone, subplot of the major, the secondary or the verge, the Other. It seems always to be a paradox, an antinomy, a dual identity with two lives, an intersection for conflicts, and a lodge for various objections, that often gets into an embarrassing situation of ambiguity, yet with a graceful urban horizon of sexy curves and inevitable surprises. It changes always, exceptionally, and renders its profile in the joint of the conflicts between the front and the back.

The local culture, since the modern times, has been widely known as Shanghai School with a list of renowned names like Ren Bonian, Wu Changshuo; Xu Beihong, Liu haishu; Xu Zhimo, Yu Dafu; Lu Xun, Zhang Ailing; Chen Yifei, Chen Danqing... The concession culture, saloon culture, piers culture, lane culture, film culture and business culture etc. inhabited in and accommodated by the city, help take shape a unique complex in China that has such a huge power to merge. It got low once, however, infamous for its selfness and meanness, a mockery, shrewd but not wise. Exactly! It would be so hollow and empty to see herself today again as Shanghai School, a synonym of narrowness, lockout, impudence and slickness. The noun has become a mere boring flaunt, a disgraceful joke.

In early 1979, "Art Show of 12 Artists" held in Shanghai Huangpu District Children's Palace sparked a huge response, quite a sensation actually. with a record-breaking daily and overall visitors in a quite short period. A small oil painting by a young teacher from Shanghai Theatre Academy, Chen Junde, became a symbol then. Boldly borrowing from the impressionism, his unthermed landscape schema, and gorgeous and lyrical alienness, dispelled the ice of the then dominant soviet realism, a subversion to the visual authoritarian of creation on a unified theme, a breath of spring after thaw. Comparing with the strong rebellious and subversive spirit of "Stars Art Exhibition" (SRE) held in late 1979, "Art Show of 12 Artists" was prominently gentle, elegant, and particular with its distinctly fine arts. SRE, held outside of the National Art Museum of China in Beijing, put on a myriad of tempestuous and radical expressionism works with a stout consciousness of social critique, including Silence, Idol, and Vivi La by Wang Keping; Rest in Peace by Ma Desheng; Funeral, The Will and Rebirth by Huang Rui; Daytime by Bao Pao, etc.

Just like the SRE in Beijing, Art Show of 12 Artists in Shanghai is also noteworthy historical event. On the one hand, it is the first art exhibition spontaneously held by civil entities since the Cultural Revolution, or even the founding of new China, which, so inconsistent with the mainstream ideology then, was once condemned as evil and heresy. On the other, it, like the SRE, brings a huge impact, a shock in the heart, a breakthrough of a spirit taboo, a derailment of thinking, and a bold show of free will, which has ever since inspired strong resonance and response of frozen bodies and minds, the excitement of those who have their yokes just cast off, millions of them, just like the first primrose bloomed after the bitter cold of winter. I remember when I was young, learning traditional Chinese painting, I would always feel an untold warm current running inside of me when each time I learnt to draw a primrose. It should be the awakening of spring when I recall it nowadays because, I believe, the primrose painted with traditional rattan yellow is the color of the sun in winter.

The SRE in Beijing has often been regarded as the beginning of Chinese contemporary art and the unique significance of "Art Show of 12 Artists" in Shanghai in progress of Chinese contemporary art has thus been overlooked. Each as a historical spontaneous breakthrough though by civil

entities, the SRE is featured with tensions and conflicts, a rebel of inhibition, a roar and revolt with a theme, which holds a pronounced political context. The "Art Show of 12 Artists", on the contrary, with no theme and no political and ideological context at all, has enabled the transition from modern to contemporary art in China. As a matter of fact, transition of Shanghai's contemporary art has been highlighted with a revolutionary artistic language. It, deliberately avoiding a strong political context and theme, focuses on pure visions, which after all diverts the attention back to art itself, back to human.

Indeed, Shanghai, when pursuing the art, tends more to connect with human. In spring of 1980, The Grass Club (an independent artist group), advocating the idea of the new generation in 1980s, held a "1980's Show" in Shanghai Luwan District House of Culture which clearly puts forward the idea of "IOU" in Art, i.e. Independent Spirits, Original Styles and Unique Techniques, which, though pungently criticized by left leaders of the art society, manages to acquire space for the survival and development of artistic personalities like Qiu Shude who holds onto the style of Fission and Chen Jialeng who becomes a representative of New Shanghai School ink and wash. The artistic perspective of Shanghai in this aspect does differ significantly from that of artists in Beijing and artists in southwest who produce a notable influence later.

One of the Art Show of 12 Artists, Huang Azhong, so inclusive of the ancient and the modern, the east and the west in decades of his artwork creation, scrupulously abide by the basic principle of painting for himself rather than to rebel. Beating around the bush? What's behind this is the idea that human can hardly be rendered without political and ideological implications. Therefore, Shanghai artists like Huang Azhong and Chen Junde focus solely on landscape and still life rather than human beings. To avoid human is to avoid identity that once people in Shanghai that took the hardest hit of the Cultural Revolution had always got so despaired and even terrified on. The only human figure that may be represented is the beautiful young girl, just like the main theme of love in literature. It is, though, still about humanity in the deepest sense. Literature is about human anyway. The theme-less landscape and still life paintings both express a direct love to the nature and human life with no politics and ideologies, and represent in a deeper sense a personalized preference or even a metaphor involving personal privacy.

"Art for Art" or "Art for life"? This is a proposition that has been entangled with the modern and contemporary Chinese art history. Though these two seemingly contradictory art forms may both develop in the opposite

way, for example to utilitarianism, opportunism, egoism, or even hegemonism in betrayal of their own, the original purpose of each is worthy of reflection and introspection by us all today.

Another key feature of Shanghai artists is their capabilities to accommodate and synthesize where evident trace of the old and new, the west and the east could be easily found on them, especially like Huang Azhong and Wang Jieyin. This kind of synthetism sometimes is taken as eclecticism. Most of their works, fused with both academic and market, professional and business elements, are represented with a more flexible modern characteristic of both ease and verve, perfection and particularity, a modern style of both creativity and inheritance.

The abstract art, among all, is the most eye-catching group. It is on the top of the Shanghai billboard of artists in terms of both the number and influence. One of them is Ding Yi, for his persistent hardworking and sustainability in the last several decades, has won a rising fame both at home and abroad, making him a symbolic personality of Shanghai in all kinds of art events.

Wu Dayu, widely known as the Father of Abstract Art in China, has spent most of his time painting abstract works in a secret way. In 1981, his works Torrential rain was published on the most renowned official art magazine "Fine Arts" (Issue 12) which marked the rebirth of Shanghai "Storm Society" that had been leading the Chinese modern art movement. Thus it can be seen that abstract art has profound significance in the process of Chinese modern art development.

Another important pioneer in Shanghai abstract art circle after the reform and opening up is Chen Chuangluo, who is the colleague, mentor and best friend of Wu Dayu in Shanghai Oil Painting & Sculpture Institute. His works "CHINA, China" was first published on the local official media Wen Hui Daily and participated the first China Oil Parting Exhibition held in Shanghai in 1987.

Former Associate Dean of Shanghai Oil Painting & Sculpture Institute, a graduate of Shanghai Theatre Academy (STA), Zhou Changjiang is the first artist whose abstract art works won a national level exhibition award. His Complementary series, No.120 won a silver medal in the 7th National Fine Arts Exhibition in 1989. Coincidentally, Yang Dongbai, a young sculptor from Shanghai, won the gold medal in sculpture in the 6th National Fine Arts Exhibition with his A drinking bear, which was quite rare in a time when there was usually no winner in sculpture in such exhibitions. The reason behind

may be its abstract and neutral theme that renders the bear and its reflection with an ingeniously abstract form in an aesthetic and decorative, novel and modern style. Shanghai seems to have an abstract art immunity right for its diluted themes, gentle rather than acute, pointless rather than aggressive, inoffensive rather than rebellious.

At the same time, more rebellious and radical artists include Yu Youhan from Shanghai School of Arts and Crafts and Li Shan who was teaching in STA before the Cultural Revolution. Ding Yi, the student of Yu Youhan, rises as a new force. His name has a strong breath of abstraction itself, very easy to identify and thus soon becoming a widely known icon. Qing Yifeng and Han Feng, both classmates of Ding Yi in the College of Fine Arts of Shanghai University, have been devoted to creation of abstract works during their early years. Qing Yifeng also worked on street performance arts with Ding Yi in 1980s.

Shen Fan Has been working on abstract works creation for quite a long time in both dense and sparse forms, depending on the materials. Later he has been dedicated to abstract installations. His neon light audio installation A Salute to Huang Binghong gained widespread attentions in Shanghai biennial exhibition in 2006. His recent works Punctuations, an ingenious combination of abstract art and conceptual art, symbolizes the concepts of erasure and retainment, the dotted rest of emotional recovery after the deposition of mind and language.

Abstract art of Shanghai has developed a myriad of different styles. Huang Yuanqing is the first to focus on and borrow from the artistic calligraphy feature in painting with an oriental rhythm and blend-in colors. Qu Fengguo and Chen Qiang tread on a road to mingle the cold and hot abstract with the cultural identities in the modern process of urbanization in China. Chen Qiang prefers the fade-in of an oriental mood in his works while Qu Fengguo is obsessed with the colorful speed. The dense abstract style of Pan Wei, always shuttling to and fro between China and Japan, implies strongly a sense of Zen with gorgeous colors. Li Lei, from his poetic and lyric Flowers of Zen series before to abstract art at present, has attained to a perfect free will in creation. Abstract art of Shanghai, for the last 30 year or so, has assembled a stable group of well-known artists.

As a matter of fact, abstract elements can be seen in the first generation of contemporary artists in Shanghai. Li Shan, Yu Youhan, Sun Jianjun, and Sun Liang each has a period of abstract research in their artistic creation process.

Abstract marks, more or less, can also be seen on oil painters like Huang Azhong, Jiang Jianzhong and even Chen Junde, let alone famous traditional Chinese painters like Chen Jialeng and Zhang Guiming of New Shanghai School. The Fission series of Qiu Deshu has often been listed in abstract art category. A notable cultural and metropolitan characteristic can be found in the current abstract art in Shanghai that holds to a more persistent target: polished languages, cultural implications and matured conceptions.

It seems to be a quite logic road for artistic creation in Shanghai to develop from landscape and still life to abstract art. Former curator of Shanghai Art Museum, Li Xiangyang, who was formally dedicated to the creative subject of characters, turns his focus to abstract art creation. Yet he never admits that, saying what he paints is just non-abstract. It is not hard to see the lengthening speed of the life path of this man of great influence in Shanghai biennial exhibitions. Wang Jieyin, famous for his mash-up and cross-border background of print, designing, craft and oil painting, was awarded the gold medal with his woodcut The mountain wood hut in the national Print Exhibition in 1989. He is often regarded as an abstract artist and his works are considered more abstract icons. For example, his Large floral series are all conceived of urban and country, culture and history. In recent years, he turns from canvas to ink and wash, and his Matric of Dots seems to be a return back to abstract art.

There is also welded steel abstract works of sculptor Yu Jiyong participating in the "Chinese Modern Art Exhibition" in 1989 which indicates the starting point of "85' Artistic New Trend". Li Shan joined in the event with his rare performance art Footbath. People now often call him the precedent of the thriving footbath industry in China. This works of him, though remembered by people more as a joke, does provide an evocative prediction.

The most popular media of contemporary art in 2000 was video art which almost took place of the installation that had been very popular before. Many artists, especially younger generations, have included in this art form due to the quick upgrades of video technologies and seldom look at otherwise. The most important personality is Yang Fudong who is also very eye-catching in west countries. Being the cradle of the Chinese movie industry is also the most glorious historical memory cherished by a lot of local people. The dream of Yang Fudong becomes true in a contemporarily artistic way and he has become so adept in cross referencing movie and contemporary art languages. He has a sensitive nerve on fashion, advertisement and short films and his favorite movies include Seven Sages and Day Breaks.