

Related Events:
Exhibition Reception:

Sunday, September 27, 3 – 5pm

Artist's Talk:

Sunday, September 27, 3:30 pm

Peggy Wang will discuss the current state of video art in China. The event is sponsored by the Center for the Arts of East Asia at the University of Chicago.

Symposium: *Gender, Identity, and the Crossing of Cultures in Contemporary Chinese Art and Media*

September 25–26, 2009

Columbia College Chicago, Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash, 8th Floor

About the Curators:

Davide Quadrio founded BizArt Art Centre in Shanghai, the first non profit independent creative lab in China for a decade, and Arthub, a platform to support artistic endeavors in Asia.

Dan S. Wang is an artist, activist, curator, printer, and writer. He cofounded the experimental cultural space Mess Hall in Chicago.

Sponsors:

Shanghype! will be held in conjunction with the exhibition *Reversed Images: Representations of Shanghai and Its Contemporary Material Culture* at the Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago. This program is part of a college-wide initiative at Columbia called *Eyes on China*. This exhibition and related programming has been supported in part by The Center for The Arts of East Asia at the University of Chicago, Arthubasia.org, Dr. Samuel Wang, and anonymous donors.

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Hyde Park **ARTCENTER**

5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615 773.324.5520 www.hydeparkart.org

The Hyde Park Art Center is a not-for-profit organization that presents innovative exhibitions, primarily work by Chicago-area artists, and educational programs in the visual arts for children and adults of diverse backgrounds. The Center is funded in part by the Alphawood Foundation; The Chicago Community Trust; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council; The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Leo S. Guthman Fund; The Irving Harris Foundation; The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Joyce Foundation; JPMorgan Chase Foundation; The Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; The MacArthur Foundation; The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The Orbit Fund; Polk Bros. Foundation; The Clinton Family Fund; The Sara Lee Foundation; South East Chicago Commission; The Wallace Foundation; and the generosity of its members and friends.

Hyde Park **ARTCENTER**
Black Box Gallery

September 20 - December 13, 2009

Shanghype!

Curated by Davide Quadrio and Dan S. Wang



Zhang Ding, *Great Era*, 2001, DVD, 14 minutes.

**Qiu Anxiong, Song Tao, Cao Fei, Zhang Ding,
Yang Fudong, David Cotterrell, Yang Zhenzhong,
Pierre Giner, Olivo Barbieri, Xu Zhen, D-fuse,
Speedism, Mathieu Borysevicz, Zhou Xiaohu, and
Bu Hua.**

Shanghype!, curated by Davide Quadrio and Dan S. Wang, explores the cultural terrain that has brought contemporary China into the international spotlight. Featuring the video work of fifteen international artists, the exhibition examines the local and global forces behind Shanghai's rapidly evolving cultural identity.



D-fuse, *Brilliant City*, 2009, DVD, 14 minutes 16 seconds.

Using the notion of China at its height as a beginning metaphor, the exhibition explores Shanghai's aspirations and desire to regain its once legendary reputation and the reflected need of China to be recognized as international and modern. The view of the city by foreign artists who have been visiting, living, and working in Shanghai for extended periods counter-balances the domestic view of the Chinese artists. These foreign artists bring images of unusual details (D-fuse, Pierre Giner), overwhelming architectural monstrosities (Olivo Barbieri), and social behaviors in the largest sense possible (David Cotterell).

In its first incarnation, *Shanghype!* was a selection of short movies and video art organized on the occasion of the Artissima art fair in 2007. After traveling to Prague, *Shanghype!* finally returned to Shanghai and was shown in the Creative Center of Bund18. For this latest edition of *Shanghype!*, new works by local and international artists who have spent significant time in China doing research have been added to the mix. With an attitude devoid of exoticism, the resulting exhibition presents an image of contemporary "China" in all of its complexity.

My special thanks to all the artists who have been supporting the project along the years, Defne Ayas, Summer (Sun Jin), Natasha Egan, and Dan S. Wang for their immense help in making all this happen.

Davide Quadrio
2009

Focusing on a city that is constantly in flux—having been built from scratch, rebuilt, and overbuilt—*Shanghype!* reveals a generation's dramatic achievements while questioning the sustainability of existing urbanism. The works in *Shanghype!* span from 1998 to 2009, an eternity in the liquid boom times, disconnecting the Shanghais of past and present while conjuring nuanced visions of the Far Orient.

For such a globally connected metropolis, long renowned as the most cosmopolitan of China's cities, Shanghai can come across as the home of a surprisingly closed society. Seeing the crowds of migrant laborers at the railway station, arriving from faraway rural areas by the thousands every day at the height of Shanghai's decade-long growth spurt, gives one the impression that there are worlds of insiders and outsiders. Ditto with the sightings of corporate expats, many of whom seem dizzy with that mixture of excitement and frustration that comes from seeing big opportunities tantalizingly close, but which they know in their hearts are still remote. And not least, a dread sense of exclusion is one of the basic effects of hearing Shanghainese spoken all around you, and not understanding a word of it.

So it was that the first time I met Davide Quadrio at the independent art space BizArt back in early 2001, I had the feeling that I had stumbled into a breach of sorts. This was before BizArt moved to and sparked the growth of the now famous Moganshan cluster of galleries and studios. The original office was a busy and chaotic place, but like a hive with some unseen order. There this upbeat Italian presided, a man obviously feeding off the immediate energy of the young artists around him. The artists themselves were hungry for audiences and connections to other worlds. A closed society it was not.

Davide encouraged me to take a good look at the work of these two guys who happened to be there at the time, Yang Zhenzhong and Xu Zhen. We found an empty room and sat down to view their works together. My Mandarin was broken and rusty, but that didn't stop the two artists from eagerly showing me examples of their work and doing their best to converse, explain, discuss.

I was intrigued by the first work, Yang's *922 Rice Corns*, and by the third, Xu's *Shouting*, had decided to someday bring their art to Chicago. So here we have them, a sampler of video work from fifteen artists, all from the last decade of China's unhinged growth, inviting us into China's most modern and contradictory city, Shanghai.

Dan S. Wang
2009



Olivo Barbieri, *A Silent Story*, 2004, DVD, 12 minutes 43 seconds.