

LEO XU PROJECTS

CHENG RAN 程然

Literature, European Art House Cinema and Western Pop Culture are **Cheng Ran's** (b. 1981 Inner Mongolia, China) main sources of inspiration. These influences refer to the many bootlegs and illegal versions of films, books and other manifestations of western pop culture in China, where they are often 'enriched' with new covers, added text and sometimes even entire chapters. This post-modern way of dealing with meaning, copyright and authenticity is the starting point for Cheng Ran's practice, which consists mainly of video and film, as well as photography and installation. He dives into the gaps within existing plots, adding speculative stories, connections and perspectives to soundtracks of classical music.

Cheng Ran has exhibited at numerous museums and biennales, including Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions, Yebisu Garden Place, Tokyo, Japan, 2016; "Unlimited", Art Basel, Messe Basel, Messeplatz, Basel, Switzerland, 2016; "Utopia and Beyond", Castello di Rivara - Centro d'arte contemporane, Turin, Italy, 2016; "SALTWATER: a Theory of Thought Forms", the 14th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, 2015; Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 2015; "Inside China", Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France, 2014; "Decorum-Carpets & Tapestries by Artists", Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China, 2014; "We Have Never Participated", the 8th Shenzhen Sculpture Biennale, Shenzhen.

Recent solo exhibitions include: "Diary of a Madman", New Museum, New York, USA, 2016; "In Course of the Miraculous", K11 Art Foundation, Hong Kong, China, 2016; "Orange Blue", Qiao Space, Shanghai, China, 2016; "The Music is On, The Band is Gone", K11 chi art museum, Shanghai, China, 2015; "Cheng Ran: A Telephone Booth Romance", Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai, China, 2014; "Immersion and Distance", Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China, 2009, among others.

Cheng was nominated for the "Absolut Art Award" in 2013 and the first edition of OCAT – Pierre Huber Art Prize, and won the "Best Video Artist 2011" award from art magazine Randian. He was recently commissioned by Audemars Piguet for a collaborative project titled "To Break the Rules, You Must First Master Them" at Yuz Museum, Shanghai in 2016, which will tour to all Art Basel fairs in 2017.

BIOGRAPHY

1981 Born in Inner Mongolia, China

2004 Graduated from China Academy of Art, Hangzhou, China

Lives and works in Hangzhou, China.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2017 *Neoclassical*, Galerie Urs Meile, Beijing, China

2016 *Diary of a Madman*, New Museum, New York, USA
In Course of the Miraculous, K11 Art Foundation, Hong Kong, China
Orange Blue, Qiao Space, Shanghai, China

2015 *A Film in Progress*, Galerie Urs Meile, Lucerne, Switzerland
In Course of the Miraculous, Galerie Urs Meile, Beijing, China
The Music is On, The Band is Gone, K11 chi art museum, Shanghai, China
Orange Blue, Art Nest, Hangzhou, China

2014 *Always I Trust*, Armada, Milano, Italy
Cheng Ran: A Telephone Booth Romance, Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai, China
A Telephone Booth Romance, Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai, China

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- 2013 *Existence Without Air, Food, or Water*, Galerie Urs Meile, Lucerne, Switzerland
The Last Generation, Galerie Urs Meile, Beijing, China
CHENG RAN, Video Bureau, Guangzhou, China
- 2012 *Cheng Ran: What Why How*, Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai, China
Silent Cinema, Arario Gallery, Seoul, Korea
The Last Generation, Wall/Ladder/Machine in conjunction with 9BC performance, New York, USA
- 2011 *Hot Blood, Warm Blood, Cold Blood*, Galerie Urs Merle, Beijing, China
Everything Has Its Time, Galerie Urs Meile, Beijing, China
Circadian Rhythm, Qingying Gallery, Hangzhou, China
- 2009 *Immersion and Distance*, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 *Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions*, Yebisu Garden Place, Tokyo, Japan
A Beautiful Disorder, The Cass Sculpture Foundation, Chichester, UK
Turning Point - Contemporary Art in China Since 2000, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China
Illusion, Night Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
MIC / MAC, A2Z Art Gallery, Paris, France
Time Test: International Video Art Research Exhibition, CAFA Art Museum, Beijing, China (screening)
Unlimited, Art Basel, Messe Basel, Messeplatz, Basel, Switzerland
Utopia and Beyond, Castello di Rivara - Centro d'arte contemporane, Turin, Italy
MARTIN GOYA & Bach, K11 chi art museum, Shanghai, China (performance)
Film, Art Basel Hong Kong, agnès b. cinema, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong, China (screening)
Ocean Wave, Qiao Space, Shanghai, China (performance)
We - A Community of Chinese Contemporary Artists, K11 chi art museum, Shanghai, China
The Pack - Impressions from Our Family, EYE, Amsterdam, Netherlands (screening)
Adrift, OCAT Shenzhen, Shenzhen, China
- 2015 *Editing the Spectacle - The Individual and Working Methods Post - Mediatization*, Hive Center For Contemporary Art, Beijing, China
I Love Shanghai, Shanghai Loves Me, ART021, Shanghai, China (performance)
Anti-Persistence, K11 chi art museum, Shanghai, China (performance)
Inside China - l'intérieur Du géant, K11 chi art museum, Shanghai, China
SALTWATER: a Theory of Thought Forms, 14th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey
Essential Matters - Moving Images from China, Borusan Contemporary Perili Kosk, Istanbul, Turkey
Utopia and Thereafter, Paratissima, Turin, Italy
Cinéphémère, FIAC, Paris, France
SALTWATER: a Theory of Thought Forms, 14th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey
When I Give, I Give Myself, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Film, Art Basel Hong Kong, agnès b. cinema, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong, China
The XXX, Chi K11 art museum, Shanghai, China; Duddell's, Hong Kong, China (performance)
CINEMATHEQUE, K11 chi art museum, Shanghai, China
Reads Like A Book, Cricoteka, Krakow, Poland
Utopian Days - Fairy Tales, Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei, Taiwan
SCREEN ON | NO SCREEN, STRP BIENNIAL, Eindhoven, Netherlands
Fairy Tales, Taipei Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei, Taiwan
The Tell-Tale Heart, Chi Art Space, Hong Kong, China
Inside China: L'Intérieur du Géant, K11 Art Foundation Pop-up Space, Hong Kong; K11 chi art museum, Shanghai, China
- 2014 *Cosmos - Limited and Limitless, Existence and Co-Existence*, Shanghai 21st Century Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China
Inside China, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
Silence: The 1990s, Balice Hertling, Paris, France
Standing in the Shadow, Ota Fine Arts, Singapore

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- Forest of Illusions*, Galerie Perrotin, Hong Kong, China
We Have Never Participated, the 8th Shenzhen Sculpture Biennale, OCT Contemporary Art Terminal, Shenzhen, China
Now You See, New Chinese Video Art from the Collection from Dr. Michael I. Jacobs, Whitebox Art Center, New York, USA
Video Art Auction Pixeling, Garage Turenne, Paris, France
The 8 of Paths, Uferhallen, Berlin, Germany
Film Sector, Art Basel, Switzerland
Decorum-Carpets & tapestries by artists, Power station of art, Shanghai, China
The Exchange Program, AVIFF Art Film Festival Cannes, France
Degeneration, The Australia China Art Foundation, T1 Creative Space, Sydney, Australia
The Book Lovers 4.0, Pop-up Bookstore, De Appel Arts Centre, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Urban Tour; N-box, Times Museum Screening Season, Guangdong, China
- 2013
Rewriting the Landscape: India and China, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea
Degeneration, OCT Contemporary Art Terminal (OCAT), Shanghai, China
Reading, Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai, China
Rijksakademie OPEN 2013, Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam, Netherlands
West Bund 2013 A Biennial of Architecture and Contemporary Art, Shanghai, China
Building Bridges – Zeitgenössische Kunst aus China, Wolfsberg, Ermatingen, Switzerland
Standing in the Shadow, Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo, Japan
Video Screening, The Lizard Lounge, Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten, Amsterdam, Netherlands
The 26th European Media Art Festival, Osnabrueck, Germany
The 5th Auckland Triennial: If you were to live here, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand
Shanghai Surprise: A Group Show on Contemporary Art in Shanghai, K11 art museum, Shanghai, China
ON|OFF: China's Young Artists in Concept and Practice, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China
Perspectives 180 – Unfinished Country: New Video From China, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston & Asia Society Texas Center, Texas, USA
- 2012
Sub-phenomena – the first “CAFA Future” exhibition, CAFA Art Museum, Beijing, China
DAY FOR NIGHT: Between Reality and Illusion: In Collaboration with Art21: Season 6 BMCC (CUNY), New York, USA
Memento Mori, Arario Gallery Beijing, China
Symptoms – Becoming Peninsula I, Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China
Model Home, Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai, China
Boy: A Contemporary Portrait, Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai, China
FCAC Video Project, Hannover, Germany
- 2011
The Other Wave: Contemporary Chinese Photography, BEN BROWN FINE ARTS, London, UK
Video Art in China - MADATAC, Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain
“ONE WORLD” Exposition, Hong Kong, China
Video Art Terminal _ Un Viatico per i Viaggiatori, Venice, Italy
Reunion Island Biennale of Today's Art 2011, Reunion Island, France
Moving Image in China: 1988 - 2011, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China
Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This), Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai, China
Daybreak, Arario Gallery Beijing, China and Arario Cheonan Spaces, Korea
Catch the Moon in the Water: Emerging Chinese Artists, James Cohan Gallery, New York, USA
Hypnosis, Other Gallery, Beijing, China
Present Continuous Past(s), Taikang Space, Beijing, China
In A Perfect World..., Meulensteen Gallery, New York, USA
INTERMISSION, James Cohan Gallery, Shanghai
- 2010
Alex: A Tribute to Alexander McQueen, James Cohan Gallery, Shanghai, China
Cultivating the future: 798 Art Festival, Beijing, China
Reflection of Minds: MOCA Envisage Biennale, Museum of Contemporary Art Shanghai, Shanghai, China
Mongolia 360°: 1st Land Art Biennale Mongolia, National Modern Art Gallery, Ulaanbaatar, China
Get Moving, Li-Space, Beijing, China
3 program: compilation of Chinese video art, V2_ Institute for the Unstable Media, Rotterdam, Holland

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- The Tell-tale Heart Part 2*, James Cohan Gallery, New York, USA
HOME-stay, Osage Gallery, Shanghai, China
Reshaping history, Arario, Beijing, China
Jungle: A Close-Up Focus on Chinese Contemporary Art Trends, Platform China, Beijing, China
The Tell-tale Heart, James Cohan Gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2009 *CREAM-International festival for Arts and Media*, Yokohama, Japan
YiPai-Century Thinking, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China
Blackboard, ShanghART H-Space, Shanghai, China
What has been happening here? Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China
New Work from China, Fortune Cookie Projects Singapore, HT Contemporary Space, Singapore
- 2008 *Farewell to Post-colonialism: The Third Guangzhou Triennial*, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
- The 3rd China Media Art Festival*, Hangzhou, China
There Is No I in Team: Contemporary Chinese Artists' Work, Newcastle Upon Tyne, U.K. *Infantization*, Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei, Taipei, China
- 2007 *Refresh: Emerging Chinese Artists*, Arario Beijing, Beijing, China
Amateur World, Platform China, Beijing, China
The First Today Documents 2007: Energy: Spirit, Body, Material, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China
Refresh: Emerging Chinese Artists, Zendai MoMa, Shanghai, China
Marking Time, Waiting for the Answer, DoArt-Beijing, Gallery Hyundai, Beijing IDAP, Australia
Infantization, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China
On view: Selections From China, Paul Morris Gallery, New York, USA
- 2006 *Elektrische Schatten China Video Festival*, Salzburg Museum of Modern Art, Salzburg, Austria
Image Flux: China: New work in Video Art, Guangzhou, China
- 2005 *GIFTS: Contemporary Art Exhibition*, H.N.U. Art Museum, Hangzhou, China
In the Deep of Reality: A Case of Chinese Contemporary Art, Beyond City, Hangzhou, China
- 2004 *Circle Place: Video installation Exhibition*, Bai Ta Ling Space, Hangzhou, China
- 2003 *White Tower Mountain—Contemporary Art Exhibition*, Baitaling, Hangzhou, China

AWARDS AND RESIDENCY

Residency at New Museum, New York, 2016

Residency at the Rijksakademie/ De Ateliers from 2012 to 2014

OCAT 2014 Pierre Huber Prize, Shanghai, 2014

Shortlist Absolut Art Award, 2013