

LEO XU PROJECTS

CHENG RAN

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. Combined they present a new narrative to the viewer.

Cheng's work surpasses solely pointing out the exuberance and radical social change in contemporary China. He combines cinema, theatre and poetry in a loose but significant manner, bringing together free association, fragmentation of meaning and the appropriation of stories. Various cultures, social positions and existential questions coexist in a highly stylized scenography.

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, 2014; Whitebox Art Center, New York, U.S., 2014; "ONIOFF: China's Young Artists in Concept and Practice", Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China, 2011; Contemporary Arts Museum Houston & Asia Society Texas Center, Texas, U.S., 2013; Kino der Kunst, Munich, Germany, 2013; 26th European Media Art Festival, Osnabrueck, 2013; "Video Art in China - MADATAC", Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain, 2011; "Moving Image In China:1988-2011", and Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China, 2011.

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; "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 art museum, Shanghai, China, in 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.

BIOGRAPHY

1981 Born in Inner Mongolia, China

2004 Graduated from China Academy of Art, Hangzhou, China

Lives and works in Hangzhou, China.

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SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 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
Chenga Ran: A Telephone Booth Romance, Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai, China
A Telephone Booth Romance, Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai, China
- 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, Chi-

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na (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

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Standing in the Shadow, Ota Fine Arts, Singapore

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

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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 *3rd i program: compilation of Chinese video art, V2_ Institute for the Unstable Media*, Rotterdam, Holland

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

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- 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

FILM FESTIVALS AND SCREENINGS

- 2014 Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
- 2013 *KINO DER KUNST: Current Films from Asia*, München, German
- 2009 *There Is No I in Team, Contemporary Chinese Artists' Work*, PROGRAM, Berlin, Germany
Seoul International Experimental Film Festival, Seoul, Korea
The 6th China Independent Film Festival, Nanjing, China
- 2006 *Chinese Independent Films Screenings 05-06*, RCM Art Museum, Nanjing, China

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2004 *Wink: 2 Seconds Ultra-Short Video Festival*, DDM Warehouse, Shanghai, China
The Second: Chinese new Media art Festival, China Academy of Art, Hangzhou, China *Chinese Independent Films Screenings*, Nanjing Arts Institute, Nanjing, China

AWARDS AND RESIDENCY

Residency at New Museum, New York, 2016

Residency at the Rijksakademie/ De Ateliers from 2012 to 2014

OCAAT 2014 Pierre Huber Prize, Shanghai, 2014

Shortlist Absolut Art Award, 2013