

LEO XU PROJECTS

Fantastic Man, *BOOTLEG* with the Shanghai Gallerist Mr. Leo Xu, Text/ Gert Jonkers,
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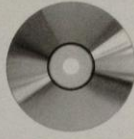
FANTASTIC MAN



LEO XU PROJECTS

BOOTLEG

WITH THE SHANGHAI GALLERIST MR. LEO XU



The groundbreaking gallerist LEO XU, of LEO XU PROJECTS in Shanghai, China, sends apologies with his tip, for it pertains to an illegal activity. He suggests a trip to the nameless bootleg DVD store in his hometown of Shanghai, located on the ground floor of a narrow, multi-storey house in Xiangyang Road. The enterprise's collection of obscure, artistic, underground and art-house DVDs is unrivalled, much better than any museum archive he's ever come across, says LEO. He regularly purchases the most obscure films from the fields of art, biology, music and queer culture to view or give away. "They'll have a VISCONTI film available in five different versions and editions. They have everything that WARHOL, WOODY ALLEN or FASSBINDER ever made. But they also have the latest releases, subtitled and all. Their archive of contemporary culture on DVD is amazing."

The knock-off DVD shop is especially good because its owner, Mr. XIA (whose surname means summer in Chinese), is so knowledgeable and has a knack for finding rare, out-of-print productions. "He's a genius," says LEO. "We all lovingly call him UNCLE FATTY, although he's lost a lot of weight recently."

Some people may have issues with the criminal aspect of the operation. Indeed, LEO did get a prickly phone call from his friend, the celebrated Thai filmmaker APICHATPONG WEERASETHAKUL, when LEO announced a bootleg-viewing evening featuring one of WEERASETHAKUL's works. But when the director was in Shanghai recently, he couldn't wait to get to the DVD store and bulk up his own collection.

Does UNCLE FATTY's do rentals too? No need for it, says LEO; the illegally copied DVDs only cost about \$2 a piece.

For this cinematographic tip, LEO XU was talking to GERT JONKERS over lunch at the swanky EYE film museum in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

LONG HAIR

WITH MEN'S HAIR MARVEL MR. MATT MULHALL

After a decade of crew cuts, buzz cuts and all manner of other appealingly short hairstyles for men, there comes a moment when some men will once again wish to feel the joy of a full head of long, lus-