

ART15

LONDON'S
GLOBAL
ART FAIR
21-23 MAY
OLYMPIA

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Wednesday 20 May 2015 First Night 6pm – 9pm
Thursday 21 May 2015 11am – 9pm
Friday 22 May 2015 11am – 7pm
Saturday 23 May 2015 11am – 7pm
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Stand E20

ifa gallery is happy to participate to Art15 London, the art fair specialized in contemporary art.



Gao Brothers, Confrontation and Embrace, (2001), c-print, 100x239cm, ed. of 5, ifa gallery

Chinese contemporary art and heritage.

This exhibition illustrates the various social, cultural, historical and political influences on contemporary art in China, featuring four artists: Dai Guangyu, Gao Brothers, Zhang Dali and Wu Junyong.

ifa gallery has chosen emblematic works that show their interpretation of Chinese contemporary society between heritage and modernity. Photography, graffiti, video, sculpture and painting are the means of current expressions of these artists who will be exhibited.

Zhang Dali is a pluridisciplinary artist from China. Zhang explores social issues and human conditions, experimenting different technics and exploring the different layers of reality. After studying painting at the Beijing Central Academy of Art & Design (China), Zhang Dali went to Italy, where he discovered graffiti art. He was the only graffiti artist in Beijing throughout the early 1990s. Zhang Dali's demolition series are witness of historical changes of those three past decades.

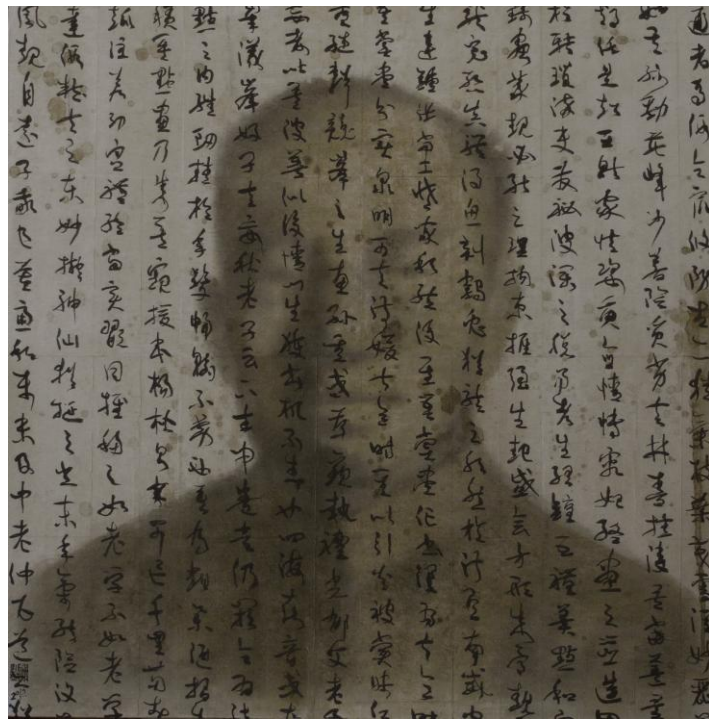
Revealed by the New Wave movement during the 80's in China, Dai Guangyu is now recognized as an important and original figure of the Chinese artistic scene. His interdisciplinary practice is written within a socially engaged trajectory. Dai Guangyu's portraits questions the heritage China has from the previous generations using traditional ink and rice paper.

Wu Junyong is a young Chinese artist born in 1978, having graduated from the New Media Department of the famous Central Academy of Fine Art in Hangzhou where he now serves as a Professor. He has consecrated, since the outset, to video art, animation and also painting, drawing and installation. His works reveal with humour and symbolism the impersonality and falsehood of public interactions in China. Wu Junyong with its paintings and animation videos reminds us the persistence of historical symbols and and critics during the Cultural Revolution.

Gao Qiang (born in 1962) and Gao Zhen (born in 1956) are the same two brothers whom work under the title "the Gao Brothers" since 1985. Globally recognized artists and often controversial, they explore public conscience incorporating references which many artists in China would not dare evoke. In the photograph, "Confrontation and Embrace", they employ compartmentalisation to place in question the taboo of physical public demonstrations and at the same time to magnify tenderness.



Zhang Dali, Demolition and Dialogue (1998)c-print, 60x90cm



Dai Guangyu, The Swan is in Hiding, the Phoenix Lies Low (2012)
ink on rice paper, 90x90cm



Wu Junyong, Portrait of a Totalitarian, (2010)
brass sculpture, ed. of 6, 120x100cm

ifa gallery

ifa gallery is established by Alexis Kouzmine-Karavaïeff in 2006-2007 in a 700sqm converted textile factory space in Moganshan Road – M50 Creative Centre – Shanghai's contemporary art district. With a quality exhibition programme of principally Chinese contemporary art, and a supporting line-up of performances the gallery contributes to the dynamism of the area. Major exhibitions during that time include the solo shows of Park Sung-Tae (Korea) and sought-after young artist Liu Bolin (China).

From summer 2008 to summer 2013, ifa occupies a charming residence built in 1923 for an official of the British Customs House, located in Shanghai at 621 Changde Road (Jing'An district). The gallery offers an innovative and artistic angle to the central part of the city and acted as an artistic meeting point for contemporary art in Shanghai.

Fall 2013, ifa gallery moves its premises to the heart and capital of Europe, Brussels. Located in the old central district of Marolles, the gallery offers a dynamic programme with its main artists from China and new artists from the region. At the meantime, a new exhibition space opens in March 2014 in the district of Jing'An in Shanghai, where ifa gallery continues to showcase some local artists.

ifa gallery exhibits contemporary art from China and Beyond, regardless of artists origin. We represent both established artists such as Dai Guangyu, a leading figure of China's avant-garde, the Gao Brothers and Wu Junyong; as well as emerging artists, including recent graduates of the fine arts schools in Beijing and Hangzhou such as Fan Jiupeng and Li Rui, or foreigners based in China, such as Zane Mellupe from Latvia or Christophe Demaître from Belgium. ifa features work in a wide range of media formats, from painting to photography, video, installation and performance.

The gallery presents and supports artists that have an original language and means of expression, that shy away from clichés and conventions and that have strong concepts and artistic vision.

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Open on appointment