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Automata – Group exhibition

Participating Artists: Manuel Bandelli, Bing Bing 兵冰, Cai Duobao 蔡多宝, Thomas Charveriat, Chen Xiongwei 陈雄伟, Manuels Favre, He Long 何龙, Nick Hersey, Tom Lee Pettersen, Lei Lei 雷雷, Li Lingxi 李翎溪, Liu Dao 六岛, Liu Yannan 刘亚囡, Felix Luque, Zane Mellepe, Alberto Raviglione, 盛洁 Sheng Jie, Rose Tang 罗丝唐, Wang Dongma 王东马, Wu Yandan 吴艳丹, Xiao Longhua 小龙花, Xu Yiping 徐义平, Yan Wenjiang 阎文江, Yang Longhai 杨龙海, Zhang Deli 张德丽, Zou Susu 邹苏苏

Curators: Zane Mellepe with the collaboration of Marie Terrieux and Leo de Boisgisson

Art Director: Thomas Charveriat

Organiser: island6 with the participation of ifa gallery

Coordinator: Cai Zhenxing 蔡振兴

Writer: Rajath Suri

Exhibition: 2 December, 2008 to 2 January, 2009

Venue: ifa-island6, 50 Moganshan Road, building #6, 2F, Shanghai 200060, PRC

Information: www.island6.org | www.ifa-gallery.com

"By believing passionately in something that still does not exist, we create it. The nonexistent is whatever we have not sufficiently desired."

Nikos Kazantzakis

Automata, literally, functional or mechanical device or entity, is the title of the current exhibition in concert between **island6** and **ifa Gallery**.

Central to the curatorial stance, the examination of a society which has evolved in parallel to the futuristic horizons once envisioned by political and scientific thinkers active at the advent of technological growth and industrialization. The man and machine, the cyborg, the unreal of virtual media and hyper-extension of the senses are intuited and given impetus in the creations of 26 artists.

Felix Luque's sound installation *"A Machine Dreams of White Noise"* tests the limits between man and machine, human and artificial; Rose Tang's photographic installation challenges the degree by which militarized society divests the humane from the individual; Cai Duobao and Dai Enfu's *"Revenge at the Hairdressers"* exclaims death and questions time and survival with their taxidermic dog and cat, animated with lightbox and sound, attempt to copulate; Bing Bing, Zane Mellepe and Liu Dao have invented an elaborate photomontage comprising multiple layers of original photographs of factory sites, abandoned lots and former industrial "palaces" of China at it's zenith of industrial growth; Sheng Jie questions rampant copyism within the artistic milieu and the sheepish mind of modern mankind in our technologically driven society...

Automata is an attempt to address some of the most inexhaustible questions of our time. Man, machine, machination, sensorial experience, the real and the imagined converge and manifest in diverse interpretations by artists of different origins and stature.