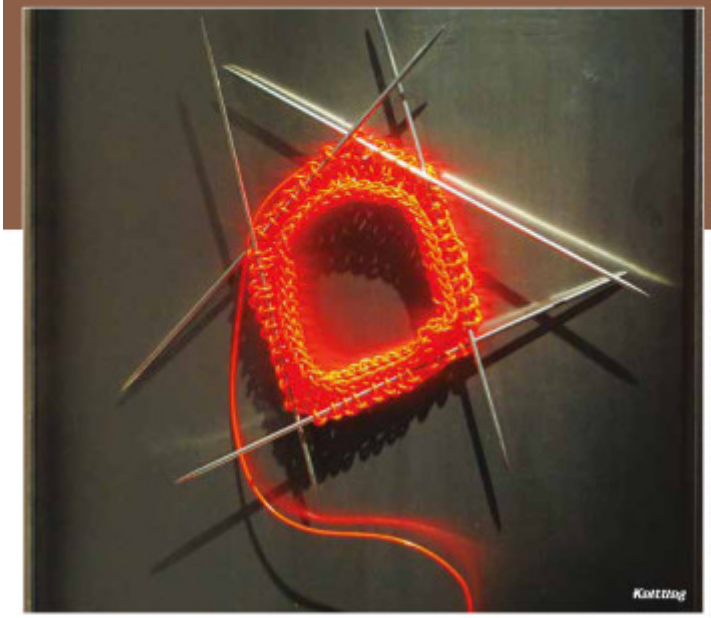
ifagallery
Austria Kreyenhof-Karavasiloff



Big Red

Studio Rouge gets festive with this large, mixed media show

At Studio Rouge's most recent exhibition, "Ruby, Roxy and the Flaming Lamborghini," 20 Chinese and international artists meet under a simple theme: the color red.

"It's no coincidence that we chose the holiday season for this show," enthuses curator George Michell. "Red, of course, is associated with festivity, and festivity brings together people from different backgrounds, so it fits with the tremendous diversity of the showcased artists."

Uncover a mixed bag of artistic expressions, with pieces in a range of medium s including canvas, paper, glass, LED and photography. Zane Mellupe's *Knitting* best represents the show's spirit. A 3-D display of needles knitting a luminescent red LED cord into a collar seems to suggest that we are trapped in—or at least led by—the digital age.

Another mixed media work that stands out is Cheng Linggong's *Heritage No. 63*, a complex papier-mâché grid, of which each compartment houses a piece of red paper with the Chinese character *fu* (福), meaning prosperity and wealth written in gold. Unsettlingly, each of the papers has been crumpled up and stuffed into its square on the grid, leaving the character unreadable. The piece implies how our structured urban life crushes culture and jams it into set times or areas of our lives, leaving its true form or nature unrecognizable.

While the exhibition features plenty of unorthodox work, it also presents several classically beautiful photographs and paintings. Jiang Weitao's *Red*, for instance, displays laudable pigment variation and different overlaying intensities. Like all of the artists' work, the abstract oil painting revolves around multiple iterations and meanings of the character *kou* (口), meaning mouth, window or doorway.

"Ruby, Roxy and the Flaming Lamborghini" is part of Studio Rouge's ongoing effort to bring showcase works from underrepresented local artists. The desire falls in line with the festivity and passion their current show evokes, that, essentially, there's hope yet for indie art. ■ **Nick English**

"Ruby, Roxy and the Flaming Lamborghini" at Studio Rouge, through Feb. 12 www.studiorouge.cn

Opening

FROM SATURDAY, JAN. 21

Li Zhensheng: Winds and Clouds

One of China's most famous photojournalists, Li Zhensheng is best known for capturing a plethora of bold, telling images from the Cultural Revolution. Working for the *Heilongjiang Daily*, he photographed daringly and ingeniously. His obsession with finding the right angle and shooting without fear took him to extremes that put his career at risk. And before panoramic cameras were even available, Li developed a style rife with cinema-inspired panning.

Beauguste Gallery 6466-9012, info@beauguste-gallery.com

Closing

THROUGH THURSDAY, JAN. 19

Wang Xieda: Sages' Sayings

This solo show's title refers to the sculptor's study of ancient Chinese pictograms and fourth century Chinese calligraphy. Begun in 2002, the series shows the Shanghai-based artist's cast bronze sculptures and ink drawings. Also on display: a recent sculptural collection made of rattan and suspended in the air to depict a drawing in space.

James Cohan Gallery 5466-0825, shou@jamescohan.com

THROUGH SATURDAY, JAN. 28

Zhang Qing: CCTV

At this solo show, Zhang Qing takes you behind the scenes of the ubiquitous state surveillance systems. As a participant in the 2011 Glenfiddich Artist-in-Residence program, the new media artist also shows complementary video work from his time in Scotland that comments on Chinese media and its international presence.

ShanghART H-5 piece6276-3275, info@shanghartgallery.com

THROUGH SUNDAY, JAN. 29

Zhang Huan: Q Confucius

This exhibition was two years in the making. All the pieces on display are tailored to Rockbund's space—large sculptures, paintings, ash paintings and installation works. The pieces look at China in the context of rapid economic, environmental and social growth and change.

Rockbund Art Museum 3310-9985, www.rockbundartmuseum.org

Goddamned Shanghai

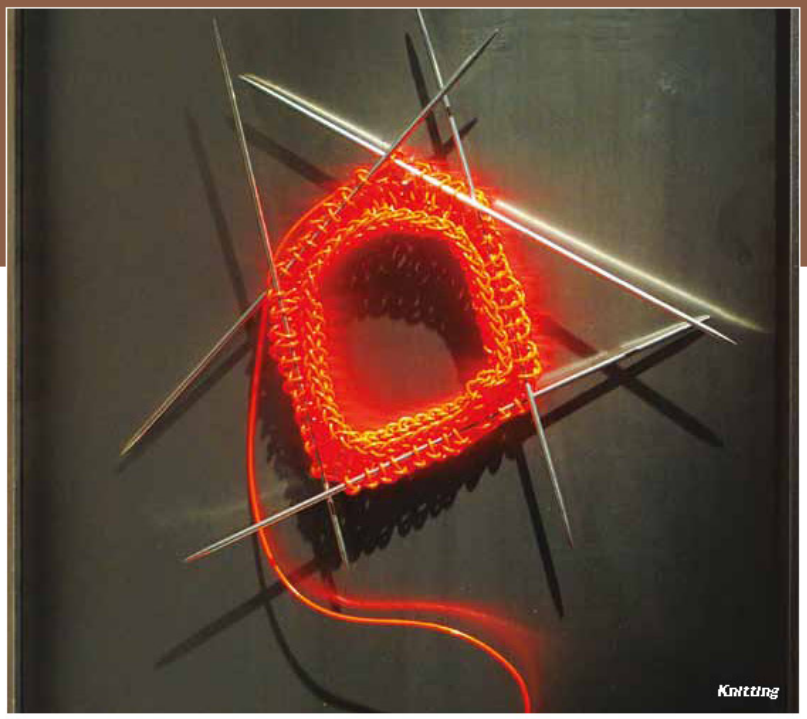
For the 60th exhibition at island6, the gallery has opted for grandiosity, harking back to 1930s Shanghai. A flashy collection of LED, photographic and interactive multimedia artworks will take you to a time of flirtatious flappers, sinful stories and dripping decadence.

island6 Arts Center 152-0717-0513, jack@island6.org

Peng Si: Realm

A 2004 graduate of the prestigious Central Academy of Fine Art in Beijing, Peng Si is one of the most talented

BIG RED – CITY WEEKEND



Big Red

Studio Rouge gets festive with this large, mixed media show

At Studio Rouge's most recent exhibition, "Ruby, Roxy and the Flaming Lamborghini," 20 Chinese and international artists meet under a simple theme: the color red.

"It's no coincidence that we chose the holiday season for this show," enthuses curator George Michell. "Red, of course, is associated with festivity, and festivity brings together people from different backgrounds, so it fits with the tremendous diversity of the showcased artists."

Uncover a mixed bag of artistic expressions, with pieces in a range of mediums including canvas, paper, glass, LED and photography. Zané Mellupe's *Knitting* best represents the show's spirit. A 3-D display of needles knitting a luminescent red LED cord into a collar seems to suggest that we are trapped in—or at least led by—the digital age.

Another mixed media work that stands out is Cheng Linggong's *Heritage No. 63*, a complex papier-mâché grid, of which each compartment houses a piece of red paper with the Chinese character *fu* (福), meaning prosperity and wealth written in gold. Unsettlingly, each of the papers has been crumpled up and stuffed into its square on the grid, leaving the character unreadable. The piece implies how our structured urban life crushes culture and jams it into set times or areas of our lives, leaving its true form or nature unrecognizable.

While the exhibition features plenty of unorthodox work, it also presents several classically beautiful photographs and paintings. Jiang Weitao's *Red*, for instance, displays laudable pigment variation and different overlaying intensities. Like all of the artists' work, the abstract oil painting revolves around multiple iterations and meanings of the character *kou* (口), meaning mouth, window or doorway.

"Ruby, Roxy and the Flaming Lamborghini" is part of Studio Rouge's ongoing effort to bring showcase works from underrepresented local artists. The desire falls in line with the festivity and passion their current show evokes, that, essentially, there's hope yet for indie art. ■ **Nick English**

"Ruby, Roxy and the Flaming Lamborghini" at Studio Rouge, through Feb. 12 www.studiorouge.cn

Opening

FROM SATURDAY, JAN. 21

Li Zhensheng: Winds and Clouds

One of China's most famous photojournalists, Li Zhensheng is best known for capturing a plethora of bold, telling images from the Cultural Revolution. Working for the *Heilongjiang Daily*, he photographed daringly and ingeniously. His obsession with finding the right angle and shooting without fear took him to extremes that put his career at risk. And before panoramic cameras were even available, Li developed a style rife with cinema-inspired panning.

Beaugeste Gallery 6466-9012, info@beaugeste-gallery.com

Closing

THROUGH THURSDAY, JAN. 19

Wang Xieda: Sages' Sayings

This solo show's title refers to the sculptor's study of ancient Chinese pictograms and fourth century Chinese calligraphy. Begun in 2002, the series shows the Shanghai-based artist's cast bronze sculptures and ink drawings. Also on display: a recent sculptural collection made of rattan and suspended in the air to depict a drawing in space.

James Cohan Gallery 5466-0825, jzhou@jamescohan.com

THROUGH SATURDAY, JAN. 28

Zhang Qing: CCTV

At this solo show, Zhang Qing takes you behind the scenes of the ubiquitous state surveillance systems. As a participant in the 2011 Glenfiddich Artist-in-Residence program, the new media artist also shows complementary video work from his time in Scotland that comments on Chinese media and its international presence.

ShanghART H-Space 6276-3275, info@shanghartgallery.com

THROUGH SUNDAY, JAN. 29

Zhang Huan: Q Confucius

This exhibition was two years in the making. All the pieces on display are tailored to Rockbund's space—large sculptures, paintings, ash paintings and installation works. The pieces look at China in the context of rapid economic, environmental and social growth and change.

Rockbund Art Museum 3310-9985, www.rockbundartmuseum.org

Goddamned Shanghai

For the 60th exhibition at island6, the gallery has opted for grandiosity, harking back to 1930s Shanghai. A flashy collection of LED, photographic and interactive multimedia artworks will take you to a time of flirtatious flappers, sinful stories and dripping decadence.

island6 Arts Center 152-0177-0517, jack@island6.org

Peng Si: Realm

A 2004 graduate of the prestigious Central Academy of Fine Art in Beijing, Peng Si is one of the most talented