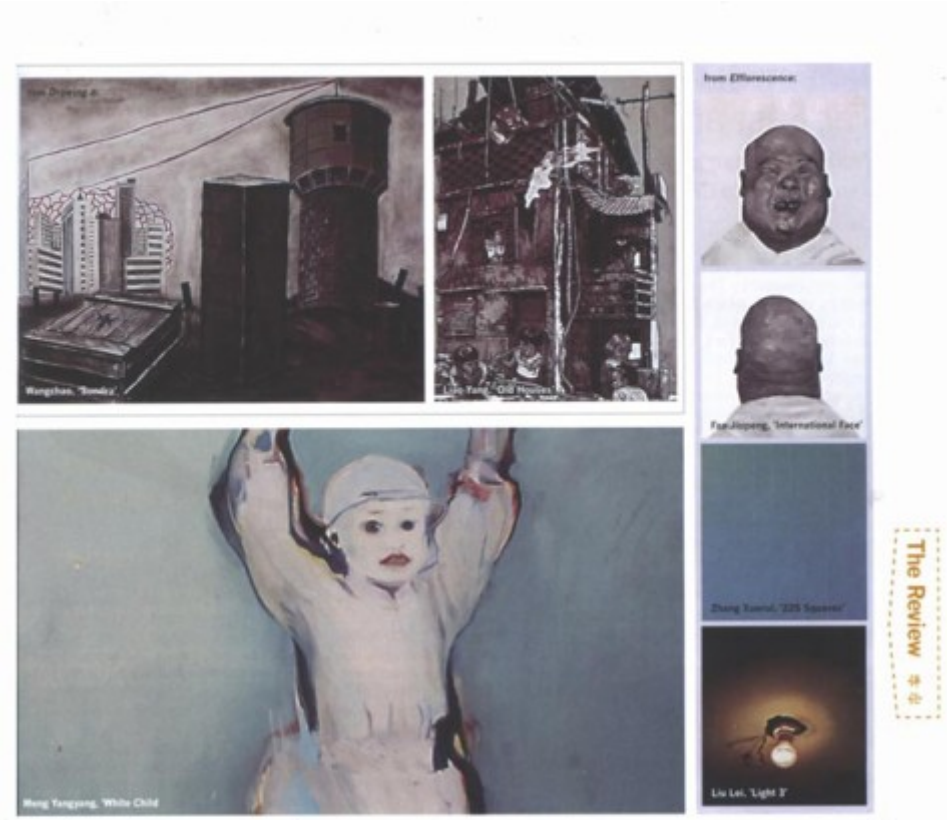


and 23-year-old Wangchao, currently a graduate student at the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou. Younger artists offer "something different," says Freundl. "People like to discover something new – and it provides opportunity for the artists to be exposed to public feedback."

Freundl likewise points out the various techniques represented in the *Drawing* exhibition: "We wanted to illustrate how [drawing] can be done through different mediums, so we have a printmaking artist (works with silkscreen), an illustrator and a video artist," she says, referring to Liao, Australian comic illustrator Nial O' Connor and Wang, respectively.

Over in Jing'an district, IFA Gallery's latest exhibit *Efflorescence* also brings together several young artists – in this case, three recent graduates of Beijing's Central Academy of Art, all under the age of 30: Fan Jiupeng, Liu Lei (lights and light switches) and Zhang Xuerui (abstract squares, colors and shades). "It's interesting the different visions [young artists] have," says IFA Gallery director Alexis Kouzmine. "They don't have the same concerns as older artists, who were frustrated by not being to express themselves."

Efflorescence curator Marie Terrieux delves deeper into the mindset of younger artists. Referring to them as part of "China's post-80s generation," she explains: "This generation has, in general, suffered less and yet, at the same time, is probably less enthusiastic and less bold than their predecessors. It is apparent that artists of this younger generation are more moderate in their expression, and possibly more solemn and sad." She points specifically to Liu's bare light bulbs and switches, which border on "hyperrealism," as well as Zhang's repetitive abstract squares, which focus on shading and colors – while also mentioning the subtle humor in Fan's otherwise bare front and back portraits.

"Younger artists today are more worried about society," adds Kouzmine. "They don't know what's coming next. They're still searching for themselves and their styles." Zhang, for example, was studying to be an architect until only one year ago, when she switched to painting.

"Discovering new artists, promoting and cultivating them seems to have become a common endeavor," says Cheng at Osage Gallery – so it's no surprise that recent graduates (and event students) are receiving more opportunities to show their work. At the opening of *Mixed Motivity*, artist Meng Yangyang praised the excellent community which helped foster her – as well as assisting in getting several pieces shown in London after her graduation. Four of the other artists in the exhibition share her alma mater, the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute in Chongqing (Chuan Mei). "There's a great community of galleries and support at Chuan Mei," she says. "It might even be one of the best art scenes in the country." // See Art Listings, p116 for more details.

YOUNG AND YEARNING—THAT'S SHANGHAÏ









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