

Uncovered China



Gao Brothers, *Confrontation and Embrace*, 2001, c-print, edition 5, 100x239cm

“Uncovered China” unveils a selection of contemporary artists supported by ifa Gallery since its establishment in Shanghai eight years earlier until its installation in Brussels this winter. The Gao Brothers, Dai Guangyu, Liu Bolin, Fan Jiupeng, Zane Mellupe, Wu Junyong, Christophe Demaitre are a few of the Chinese or international artists whom work in China, discovered by the gallery. “Uncovered China” is also an exhibition centered upon the notion of nudity in contemporary Chinese art: officially admitted only from 1985, this nudity of men and women is incorporated to better reveal the rapport of power at the heart of society yet furthermore, the rapport towards intimacy particular to China.

ifa gallery • rue des renards 28 1000 brussels • from 22 february to 30 march 2014

Dai Guangyu

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. Through his performances, photographs, paintings or calligraphy, he enacts his body and the symbolism of Chinese society to the ends of their resistance or their disappearance. Born in Chengdu in 1955, Dai Guangyu lives and works in Beijing (China).



Dai Guangyu, *Father 2*, 2001, c-print, edition 2/10, 70x70cm

Gao Brothers

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 nudity to place in question the taboo of physical public demonstrations and at the same time to magnify tenderness.

Wu Junyong

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, *Lover*, 2013, ink on paper, 24,7x32,5cm

Liu Bolin

Born in 1973, Liu Bolin is one of the most globally renowned Chinese artists, in particular, owing to his photographic camouflage series, "Hiding in the City". The work exhibited at ifa Gallery, "Shadow No. 1- Pack Way", belongs to a more rare series. Rather than makeup his body in order that he may merge with the background, Liu Bolin stretches out upon the ground during a period of rainfall. He then photographs the dry impression of his body, a temporary shadow which prefigures the lack of an individual stance upon ones' environment.



Liu Bolin, *Shadow I No.1 - Pack Way*, 2010, c-print, 120x80cm

Fan Jiupeng

A student of Liu Xiaodong, father of Chinese expressionism, Fan Jiupeng has since created his own proper language with his offbeat portraits of the young generation belonging to the 90's. His portrait, "Young Man with Keys", depicts, nude torso, with the sole attribute the key ring which Chinese students carry around their neck. In counterpoint with nudity, these keys appear as the true guardians of intimacy.



Fan Jiupeng, *Youth with Keys 1*, 2009, oil on canvas, 260 x 150cm

Zane Mellepe

Zane Mellepe, a Latvian artist living in China, has a broad training in photography. Her work has undergone diverse developments traversing documentary photography, the use of found imagery, self-observation and the integration of photography and video in installations.

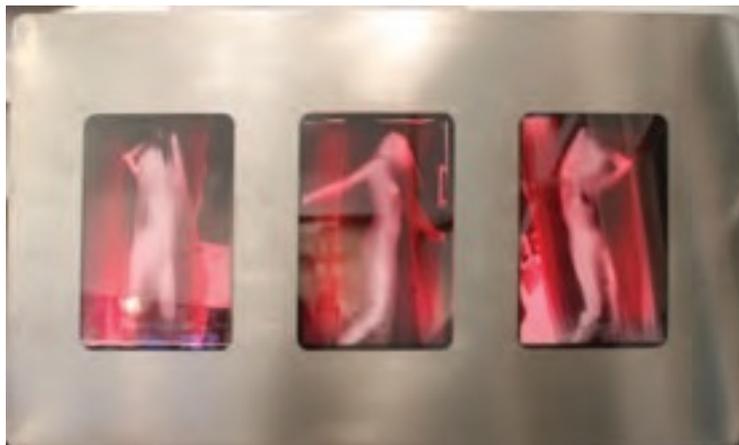
Her youth in Latvia assisted in her better understanding China and values within a socialist environment. Her most recent works concentrate upon a fusion of abstract concepts and the history of the sites wherein evolve the bodies of the characters whom shall enacts in scene.



Zane Mellepe, *Friends*, 2010, c-print and plexiglas / light box, edition 1/1

Christophe Demaître

Of Belgian origin, Christophe Demaître knows China very well. He installed his studio in Shanghai eight years earlier. His work as painter-photographer-multimedia artist has brought him to fuse artistic genres. The works which he presents at the gallery for this exhibition are inscribed in the research of poetry at the frontier of different artistic medium, and furthermore, the frontier of different themes which reveal nudity, aestheticism, intimacy & social codification.



Christophe Demaître, *Red Dance*, 2013, airplane part, photography emulsion, lightbox, 86x147cm

Ifa gallery

Ifagallery 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 will open in spring 2014 in the district of Jing'An in Shanghai, where ifa gallery will continue 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 Mellepe 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.

Gallery news

- **Uncovered China - group show** :Gao Brothers, Dai Guangyu, Fan Jiupeng, Christophe Demaitre, Wu Junyong, Liu Bolin, Zane Mellepe, Mao Tongyan, ifa gallery, Brussels, vernissage Friday 21 February 2014, from 22 February to 30 March 2014
- **Opening new space ifa gallery • shanghai**, Saturday 15 March 2014
- **Art Paris Art Fair 2014, China guest of honour, stand F10**, from Thursday 27 March to Sunday 30 March 2014
- **Dai Guangyu-solo show**, ifa gallery • brussels, vernissage friday 4 April 2014

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