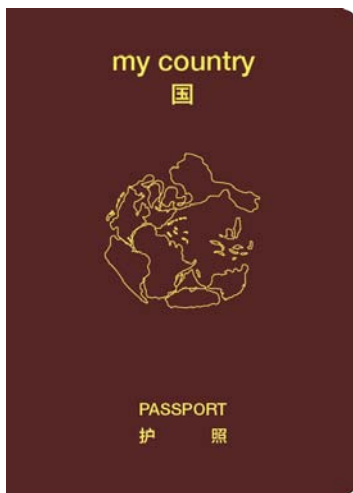


for immediate release

## my country



exhibition:

17 November 2012 –17 February 2013

vernissage:

on Saturday 17 November 2012, from 5 to 9 pm

Gao Brothers, Dai Guangyu, Christophe Demaitre, Zane Mellepe, Li Rui, Roland Darjes, Shao Shao, Alexandre Ouairy, Wang Xiaofeng, Nam Hyo Jun, Alexander Shchednov.

## country

Since the mid-70's, the "West" has struggled to reach the peak prosperity of the post war boom of the 50s-60s. With emptier coffers and large unemployment rates in these welfare states, globalization and an easing of immigration restrictions have helped to create the extreme economic pressures we are experiencing today.

Despite economic development and the establishment of intergovernmental organizations after the WWII (the UN, WTO ex-GATT for the trade, NATO for defense, the EU as the first supranational union and other regional agreements), many sense regret over losing more intrinsic control of their own borders, the loss of their national currencies in the EU,

the sacrifice of independent decision-making in economic reforms, etc., waxing nostalgic for a return to sovereignty, protectionism and nationalism.

Economically, the "East" started to boom as the "West" began to stagnate. The big model of "democracy" has become less a prerequisite for a prosperity as the emerging world economies, including the powerful BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South-Africa) have helped to transform the economic and political order of the world.

China, now the 2nd largest economy, with a strong army, a permanent seat at the UN Security Council, its gigantic workforce, an insatiable quest for natural resources, and expanding industries including a domination of the production of rare earth elements (necessary for high-tech development), has emerged as an extremely influential and powerful country in the world. While maintaining a strong national regime, this country has shaken the humiliation of the past colonialist western presence and a violent invasion by Japan, and has returned to the world stage guarding its strong national interests while protecting itself from any unwanted influence from abroad.

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*note: the links above go to wikipedia articles*

## my country?

ifa gallery has asked 10 international artists with diverse profiles (generational, national and social), all based in China, to create one artwork (or series) depicting "their country" in the most wide and imaginative sense- not necessarily the one represented in their passport, open to any form of language and medium.

The builders of these emerging new nations at the gallery on 17 November 2012 will be:

Dai Guangyu from China (1955), **Christophe Demaitre** from Belgium (1968), **Zane Mellupe** from Latvia (1981), **Li Rui** from China (1985), Roland Darjes from Germany (1978), **Shao Shao** from China (1982), **Alexandre Ouairy** from France (1979), **Wang Xiaofeng** from China (1973), **Alexander Shchednov** from Russia (1987), **Nam Hyo Jun** from the 3rd generation of Koreans in Japan (1987)

Additionally, "*outer space project no.7*" (2008) by **Gao Brothers** (from China, 1956-1962), representing a map of China made of a bee's nest, and censored during Sh Contemporary 2012, will also be exhibited.

more info:

[www.ifa-gallery.com/exhibitions/mycountry](http://www.ifa-gallery.com/exhibitions/mycountry)

## ifa gallery

ifa gallery offers an innovative and artistic angle to the central part of the city and acts as an artistic meeting point for contemporary art in Shanghai.

It was founded in May 2006 with the purpose of exhibiting contemporary art from Asia with a focus on Chinese art. The gallery is also oriented towards South East Asian art, and the work of artists, regardless of origin, that have a specific influence or association with Asia.

ifa's international team 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.

[www.ifa-gallery.com](http://www.ifa-gallery.com)

### contacts:

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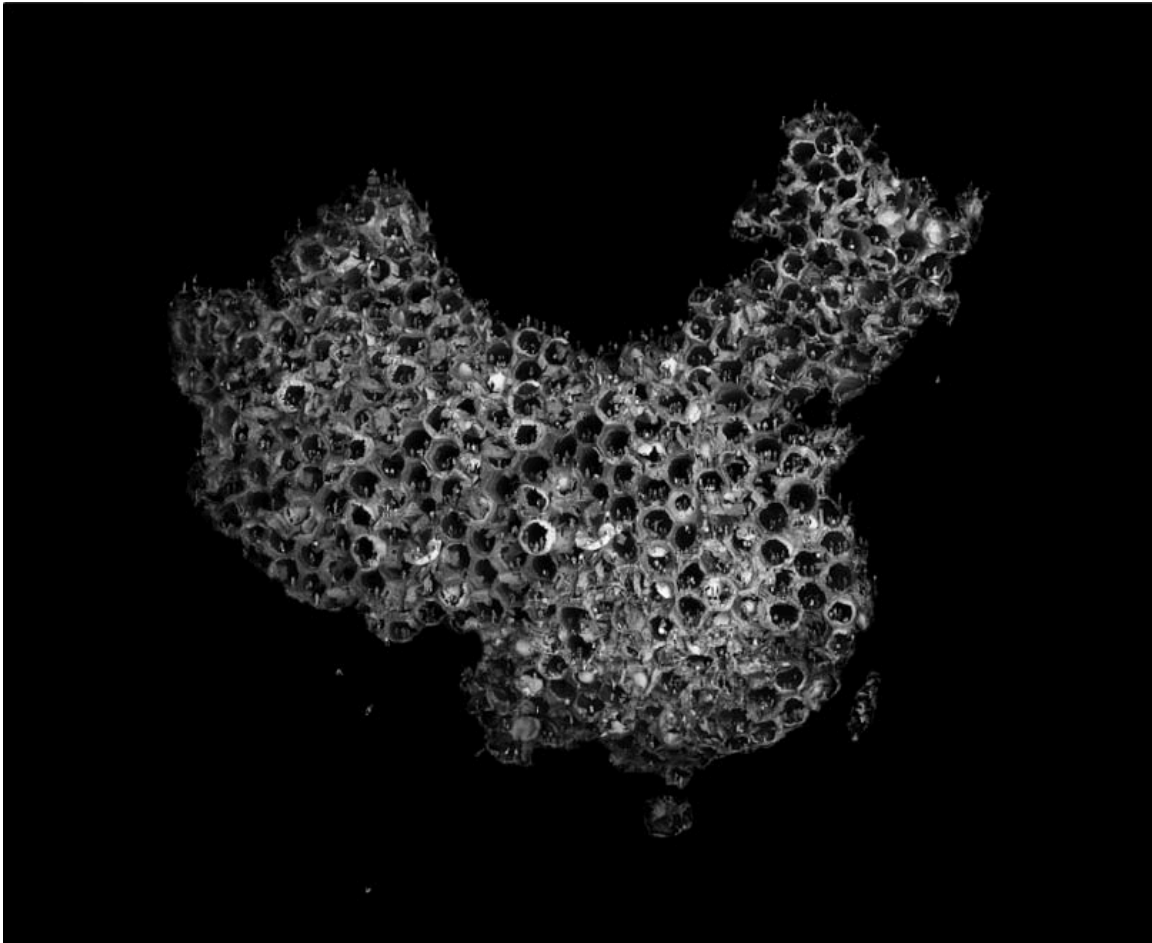
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artwork selection below:

Gao Brothers



*Outer Space Project no. 7 (2008)*

240x293cm • c-print