

## EFFLORESCENCE

Fan Jiupeng, Liu Lei, Zhang Xuerui  
Group Exhibition

curated by Marie Terrieux

17<sup>th</sup> January, 2009 – 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2009

Opening 17<sup>th</sup> January, 3-8PM

For the first show of 2009, ifa gallery presents the works of three young painters in "Efflorescence". Fan Jiupeng, Liu Lei and Zhang Xuerui: each a recent graduate of the Central Academy of Fine Arts; each a painter developing a distinct language and vision of their own. Efflorescence is a translation of the Chinese *huaxin*, an expression for the eight of the twenty-four solar terms in the year and the three corresponding flowers that bloom in each period. Alluding to the lustre of youth and the fragility of time, the works of "Efflorescence" are at once sober, intimate and rhythmic.

Fan Jiupeng's double-sided portraits and street scenes painted on canvas or tracing paper are viewed from both sides with his subjects painted from the front and the back. They playfully depict the Chinese middle class and the ordinary people on the street simultaneously representing the ambivalence of the individual and the double personalities that we live by.

Liu Lei's meditative still lifes consecrate the ordinary in a way that is both moving and intimate. Her hyperrealist paintings use only lights and light switches from her student years as subjects.

Colour, shading and repetition are essential to Zhang Xuerui's paintings, each one a series of one hundred shaded squares arranged in a grid-like fashion, with one colour per canvas in shading tones. The consistency of squares contrasts the colours that evolve along the length of the grid: a game between emotion and reason, precision and blurriness, instantaneousness and time.

Each of these three artists represents their world in a very personal way, where society inspires and leads to reflection translated with humour, anxiety and repetition. This exhibition proposes three alternate languages of Chinese youth that sways between hope and disillusion.

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

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ifagallery • contemporary art

藝法畫廊 • 當代藝術

621 changde road (near wuding road) • shanghai 200040

上海市常德路 621 号 (近武定路) • 邮编 : 200040

Tel/电话 : +86-21 6256 0835 • fax/傳真 : +86-21 6256 0837

contact@ifa-gallery.com

ifa gallery is located in Shanghai and is divided over two spaces. Both embody the primary principle of gallery, which is freedom; the kind of freedom that gives breathing space to different expressions and media within contemporary art.

The first space was established in 2006 in Moganshan Road, popularly known as M50. M50 is a former textile factory in the north of Shanghai, which became the first and most dynamic art district in the city. Major galleries and art spaces started appearing there as of early 2000.

The second ifa gallery space opened in the summer of 2008, on Changde Road, in the centre of town on the northwestern edge of the former British concession. It is housed in a former concession residence, creating a challenging stylistic and historical contrast for the art that resides in it.

ifa gallery has been promoting both emerging and established artists from China and the Asian region since its creation.

**Contact:**

Alexis Kouzmine Karavaieff  
Director  
+86-21 6256 0835  
[alexis@ifa-gallery.com](mailto:alexis@ifa-gallery.com)

Lauren Gollasch  
Gallery Manager  
+86-21 6256 0835  
[lauren@ifa-gallery.com](mailto:lauren@ifa-gallery.com)

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

**word doc:**

[www.press.ifa-gallery.com/efflorescence/pressrelease.doc](http://www.press.ifa-gallery.com/efflorescence/pressrelease.doc)

**image1**

Fan Jiupeng, "Girl of 24 (front)" • Oil on canvas • 2007 • 100x100cm  
[www.press.ifa-gallery.com/efflorescence/fanjiupeng/girlof24\\_front.jpg](http://www.press.ifa-gallery.com/efflorescence/fanjiupeng/girlof24_front.jpg)

**image2**

Fan Jiupeng, "Girl of 24 (back)" • Oil on canvas • 2007 • 100x100cm  
[www.press.ifa-gallery.com/efflorescence/fanjiupeng/girlof24\\_back.jpg](http://www.press.ifa-gallery.com/efflorescence/fanjiupeng/girlof24_back.jpg)

**image3** (300dpi • 14.81x19.5cm • 2.83MB)

Liu Lei, "Light 6" • Oil on canvas • 2007 • 40x53cm  
[www.press.ifa-gallery.com/efflorescence/liulei/light6.jpg](http://www.press.ifa-gallery.com/efflorescence/liulei/light6.jpg)

**image4** (300dpi • 26x18.4cm • 0.88MB)

Zhang Xuerui "598 squares, blue-grey" • Propylene on canvas • 2008 • 92x130cm  
[www.press.ifa-gallery.com/efflorescence/zhangxuerui/598squaresblue-grey.jpg](http://www.press.ifa-gallery.com/efflorescence/zhangxuerui/598squaresblue-grey.jpg)

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