

“INK GAMES”
Dai Guangyu Solo Exhibition

curated by Bérénice Angremy

1st November 2008 – 12th January 2009

Vernissage: 1st November, 3-8PM

Performance by the artist at 5PM

ifa gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of works by Dai Guangyu. “Ink Games” explores the metamorphosis of ink, its symbolic power and its cultural, social and political connotations, in a selection of installation, painting and performance work dating from 1997 to 2008.

“Ink Games” is arranged according to theme throughout the succession of interior spaces on the 4 floors of the new ifa gallery: Landscape, Performance, China and Art. The common thread of these works is ink – not the only medium that the artist is skilled and imaginative in manipulating, but one that he is most fluent in working with and which is gradually becoming his ‘trademark’.

Works include the performance photography *Picturesque Landscape*, *Landscape*, *Ink Ice* and *Geomancy*, *Ink*, *Ice*, where Chinese characters drawn in ink on the frozen surface of lakes show that landscapes are ever changing yet that Chinese culture is at risk of disappearing; the floating *Clothing* that relate the art of love with ink paintings of small erotic scenes, hidden behind traditional painted Chinese landscapes; installation *Hospice Care* with babies nourished by dripping ink; *New Calligraphy – Art Slogan* which playfully criticises the soaring prices of art sales.

Dai Guangyu’s “Ink Games” reveals the world of a socially engaged artist whose work is reminder that culture is the history of memory and change.

Born in Chengdu, Dai Guangyu was a part of the '85 New Wave Movement and a leading figure in the avant-garde art scene in Sichuan. His work was exhibited in the “China/Avant Garde” exhibition at the National Art Museum of China in Beijing in 1989. He recently took part in exhibitions including “Made in China” at the Louisiana Museum in Denmark, “Starting from the Southwest – Exhibition of Contemporary Art in Southwest China” at Guangdong Museum of Art and “China Under Construction” at Deborah Colton Museum in USA. [end]

www.ifa-gallery.com/exhibitions/daiguangyu

ifagallery • contemporary art

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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, closer to the centre of town on the northwestern edge of the former British concession. It is housed in an elegant former concession mansion, creating a challenging stylistic and historical contrast for the art that resides in it.

ifa gallery has been promoting young and independent artists since its creation and has always been willing to showcase young talents. At the same time it believes in combining this mission with due attention given to the more established artists who are the very makers of contemporary art history.

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word doc:

www.press.ifa-gallery.com/daiguangyu/pressrelease.doc

image1

"Shooting at Myself" • Performance & Installation • 1997 • Chengdu • 125x85cm • edition of 5 (C-print)

www.press.ifa-gallery.com/daiguangyu/shootingatmyself1997.jpg

image2

"Landscape, Ink, Ice 1A" • Installation • 2004 • Germany • 125x85cm • edition of 8 (C-print)

www.press.ifa-gallery.com/daiguangyu/landscapeinkice1A.jpg

image3

"Landscape, Ink, Ice 1B" • Installation • 2004 • Germany • 125x85cm • edition of 8 (C-print)

www.press.ifa-gallery.com/daiguangyu/landscapeinkice1B.jpg

image4

"Clothing 3" • 2007 • painted object

www.press.ifa-gallery.com/daiguangyu/clothing3.jpg

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