

**FOR THE OPENING OF ITS NEW SPACE, IFA GALLERY IS VERY HAPPY TO  
PRESENT THE GAO BROTHERS SOLO SHOW:**

**“SOME SPACE FOR HUMANITY”**

**curated by Bérénice Angremy**

**10<sup>th</sup> September – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

Vernissage: 10<sup>th</sup> September 3-8PM

Gao Zhen and Gao Qiang, who have worked on the Chinese contemporary art scene as the “Gao Brothers” since the middle of the 80s, hardly need an introduction. They are already well known in China and abroad as the representatives of a movement uniquely their own, that of the “outsiders” amongst the outsiders. And yet, the ambition of this latest exhibition, in the new premises of the ifa gallery, is to cast a fresh eye on the Gao Brothers’ photographic work on space.

The photographs for “Some Space for Humanity” have been meticulously selected from a large corps of work, allowing us to indulge in a re-visitation of the Gao Brothers’ artistic journey with photography, dating from 2000 up until their more recent work. The five series of photographs presented in the new “IFA house” all relate to research into the human meaning of physical space.

Each series – 2 to 5 photographs – was taken over a period years, revealing the Gao Brothers’ momentary obsessions: they present space that is convivial, restricted, excessive, unfinished, overwhelming - depending on the period and no doubt the creators’ preoccupations at the time.

It is important in this approach to show the early works from 2001, these portray space, such as a “Sense of Space”, a series of magnificent mystical works that define human space in a cupboard, alongside the more recent works that reveal an unrestrained, exploding humanity such as “The Forever Unfinished Building N. 4”. Man, initially central to the works, is lost as the core element in a multitude of possible spaces to become one of many characters in a fresco on the history of humanity that, we get the impression, is in perpetual transformation.

“Some Space for Humanity” was born from the curator’s play on the relationship between the works and the new ifa gallery; this takes the form of a succession of interior spaces on 4 floors of a house that is enthralling to explore. Here it is possible to exhibit the Gao Brothers’ works in a human-scaled space, a humanised context. In this exhibition, there is a particular focus on the Gao Brothers’ artistic research, resolutely turned towards the meaning of humanity, research reinforced over time by their tenacity.  
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[www.ifa-gallery.com/exhibitions/gaobrothers](http://www.ifa-gallery.com/exhibitions/gaobrothers)

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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 opens in the summer of 2008, on Changde road, closer to center 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 will reside in it.

ifa gallery has been promoting young and independent Chinese 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 have been the very makers of contemporary art history in China.

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**word version:**

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

**image1**

*"Sense of Space – Reading"* • 2000 • 100x78cm • edition of 10 (C-print)

[www.press.ifa-gallery.com/gaobrothers/senseofspace-reading.jpg](http://www.press.ifa-gallery.com/gaobrothers/senseofspace-reading.jpg)

**image2**

*"Out of Space Project 7"* • 2008 • 293x240cm • edition of 8 (C-print)

[www.press.ifa-gallery.com/gaobrothers/outofspaceproject7.jpg](http://www.press.ifa-gallery.com/gaobrothers/outofspaceproject7.jpg)

**image3**

*"The forever unfinished building No.2"* • 2002 • 200x57cm • edition of 10 (C-print)

[www.press.ifa-gallery.com/gaobrothers/theforeverunfinishedbuilding2.jpg](http://www.press.ifa-gallery.com/gaobrothers/theforeverunfinishedbuilding2.jpg)

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