

INFANTIZATION

PRESS
RELEASE

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24.10.2010



Yan Wei
Blow up, 2009
Ink on paper
64 x 55 cm
Collection of the artist

Opening

Thursday, September 30th, 6.30 pm

Opening hours

Wednesday to Sunday, from 12 am to 7 pm

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Shanghai 2010
Région Rhône-Alpes



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FOREWORD

INFANTIZATION

"THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE RHÔNE-ALPES REGION AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF SHANGHAI IS GROWING AND DEVELOPING, YEAR AFTER YEAR. AND EXPO 2010 MARKS A HIGH POINT IN OUR EXCHANGES. BUT CONTEMPORARY ARTISTIC CREATIVITY HAS ALSO PLAYED AN EXTREMELY PROMINENT ROLE. [...]"

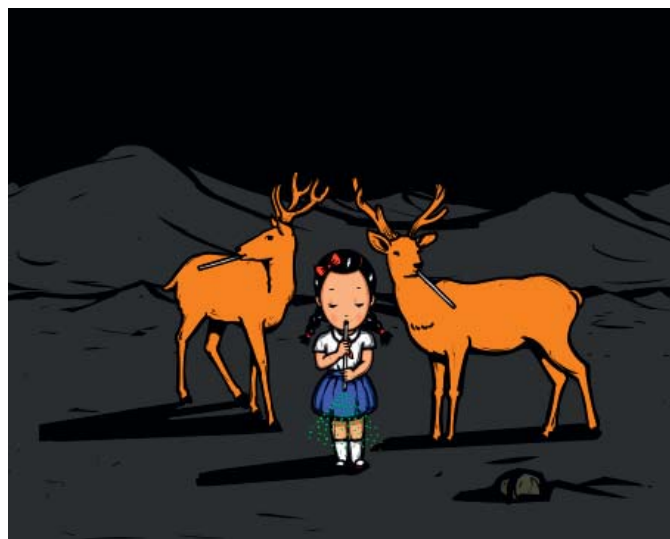
THE PRESENTATION OF THE SHANGHAI ART MUSEUM'S INFANTIZATION EXHIBITION AT THE MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN, LYON, DEMONSTRATES THE VALUE OF THESE PARTNERSHIPS AND THE CREATIVE VITALITY OF THE YOUNG CHINESE ART SCENE, WHICH I AM PARTICULARLY HAPPY TO WELCOME TO THE RHÔNE-ALPES REGION.

THE REGION IS ALSO FORGING CLOSE AND LONG-LASTING LINKS WITH YOUNG ARTISTS, HERE AND ELSEWHERE. AND THE CURATORS OF RENDEZ-VOUS, THE YOUNG ART SCENE, NAMELY THE MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN, LYON, THE CITY'S ECOLE D'ART AND THE INSTITUT D'ART CONTEMPORAIN, VILLEURBANNE, HAVE PLACED THE EVENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. IN THIS RESPECT, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE UPCOMING SHANGHAI BIENNIAL OF CONTEMPORARY ART, WHICH WILL BE EXHIBITING WORK BY FOUR OF THE YOUNG ARTISTS INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT AT THE SHANGHAI ART MUSEUM.

FOR MANY YEARS, FRANÇOIS CHENG HAS BEEN INSISTING ON "THE IMMENSE POSSIBILITIES FOR ENCOUNTERS, EXCHANGES AND TRANSFERS" BETWEEN CHINESE AND WESTERN CULTURE.

ALL THOSE WHO ARE WORKING TO PROMOTE AN ARTISTIC DIALOGUE IN SHANGHAI AND IN RHÔNE-ALPES HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO "THE VIBRATION OF THIS INSPIRATION", AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THEM SINCERELY."

Jean-Jack QUEYRANNE
President of the Rhône-Alpes region
Preface to the *Infantization* catalogue



Bu Hua
Anxiety, 2009
Computer animation
3'25"
Collection of the artist



Tang Yan
Meteor, 2005-2006
Installation, animation and sculpture
5'00"
Collection of the artist

Since about ten years, the Museum of Contemporary Art of Lyon have been supporting young creation by conceiving exhibitions on young French artists but also by encouraging young international art scene's vitality.

From 2002, the macLYON initiated with the Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts, Lyon, then with the Institut d'Art Contemporain, Villeurbanne / Rhône-Alpes, the Rendez-vous concept. It developed as a platform for exchanges federating numerous international institutions and personalities who are active in the current art scene. A number of curators of biennials and directors of institutions from different continents were asked to give this event an international dimension, and bring it to a wider public.

Starting in 2008, links began to be developed with the Shanghai Art Museum, and the Rendez-vous that took place in the 2007 Lyon biennial was subsequently presented in this prestigious museum. On the occasion of Expo 2010, and with support of the Rhône-Alpes region, the cooperation with the Shanghai Museum and the Shanghai Biennial is increasing. The Museum of Contemporary Art of Lyon hosts Infantization's exhibition, curated by Zhang Ging, the deputy head of the Shanghai Art Museum and former curator of Shanghai Biennial. As cross-project, the Rendez-vous platform sets up in Shanghai Biennial from october 2010, showing four French artists (Delphine Balley, Chourouk Hriech, Marlène Mocquet et Vincent Olinet) at Shanghai Art Museum.

By bringing young Chinese artists out in the Infantization's exhibition on one side, and young French artists participating in Shanghai Biennial on the other side, this project aims to highlight a dynamic international young art scene and to observe the diversity of current artistic proposals.

THE EXHIBITION

Infantization presents a selection of the most representative works of more than twenty young Chinese artists belonging to the *Gelatine Generation*: photos, animations, videos, paintings, graffiti and digital projections.

The *Infantization* exhibition at mac^{LYON} specifically samples from the art and aesthetics of this new generation. Artists born in the 1980s are emerging on the world stage. Chinese curator Zhang Qing describes this wealthy, worry-free generation as “a gelatinous generation of transparency and lightness, vibrant and free, sometimes blindly brave.”

Unlike their parents, this generation grew up within a fast-evolving consumer society characterized by a stable political system and economic growth, high expectations, material well-being and prosperity. Bubbling forms and subjects borrowed from today's consumer culture characterize their style. Aside from colourful elements derived from popular sub-cultures, also autobiographical references harking back to their carefree childhood are omnipresent. The *Gelatine Generation* roam the world of glamour, kitsch, design, and showbiz and get inspired by new scientific ideas and futuristic fantasies.

The exhibition *Infantization* raises the question how young Chinese artists are coping the ever-increasing commercialisation of their world and social environment. Should we look upon these creations purely as autobiographical fairytales wherein carefree youth is extolled? Or do these works also open the door to a new artistic consciousness that is attempting to formulate an answer to the complexity of contemporary life? By means of this hybrid collection of artistic forms, the exhibition examines how the *Gelatine Generation* contributes to the development of a new visual arts culture that is expressive of the nature of China in the 21st century.

exhibited artists

Bu Hua
Chen Yun
Dai Mouyu
Hui Xin
Hu Liu
Hu Zi
Liao Man
Li Meng
Liu Danielle
Liu Diqui
Liu Qing
Li Yang
Meng Jin
Perk
Sheng Scott
Tang Yan
Temporary Panda Study Group
Wen Ling
Xie Peng
Yan Wei
Yu Hua
Zeng Suchai
Zhang Ye



Temporary Panda Study Group (Lin Zero, Song Phatter, Huang Hot, Giong Lim)
Repanda Reb-earth, 2009
Installation-animation
8'02"
Collection of the artists

THE ARTISTS

Bu Hua

Born in 1973 in Beijing. Lives and works in Beijing

"In this animation film, the ruined site in the background contrasts with colourful scenery that the little girl and her deer create. The story suggests that our mind is able to create a personal and peaceful realm if it is not troubled by fear. [...] My work examines the negative consequences of this frightened way of life, such as the disappearance of purity and beauty in our environment."

Chen Yun

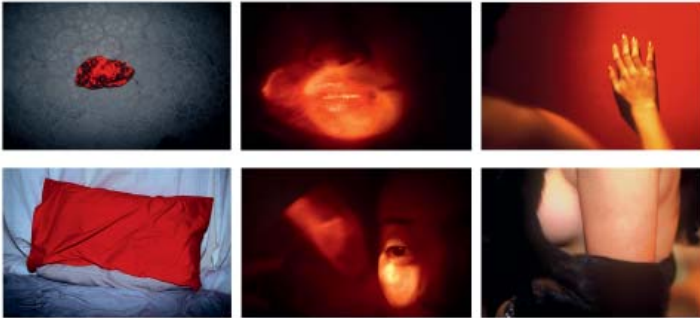
Born 1983 in Shanghai. Lives and works in Shanghai

"Everybody is in search of his or her place in the world. In truth, everybody has a story and an identity, which shift as time and reality change. Who are you here and now?"

Dai Mouyu

Born in 1975 in Guangdong. Lives and works in Shanghai

"Every city reflects a certain meaning through a set of symbols that make up its image. The influence of these symbols is what is examined in this work. [...] While traveling through numerous cities, I find myself in a never-ending state of indefinite meanings. [...] It's like a composition that fully captures this tension."



Dai Mouyu
Dots, 2006
Photography
75.2 x 144 cm
Courtesy Shanghai Art Museum

Hui Xin

Born in 1977 in Xinjiang. Lives and works in Chongqing

"I use a technique akin to that of popular advertisements. The entire working method, from the computer design to the airbrush onto a canvas, is actually a fairly boring process. I like this cold working method as well as the mechanization introduced into the image by these tools. I often decorate my subjects extensively in order to bring a sense of magnificence to the canvas."



Hui Xin
Legend, 2007
Acrylic on canvas
260x 220 cm
Courtesy Shanghai Art Museum

Hu Liu

Born in 1982 in Xianjiang. Lives and works in Beijing

"The temporal and spatial changes caused by biological growth fascinate me. [...] I strive for a practically guided understanding of these changes as opposed to a rigid analysis of the matter. My paintings grow studying the issues."



Hu Liu
Narcissus, 2005
Pen on paper
Series of 36 drawings
12.8 x 17.9 cm
Courtesy Shanghai Art Museum

Hu Zi

Born in 1981 in Nantong. Lives and Works in Shanghai

"This series of drawings examines issues related to the body. The portayed characters constantly change identity and gender. Their weird features mask a sense of sadness and loneliness. I am concerned about the human condition of people who are marginalized by society or live in the world of popular culture."

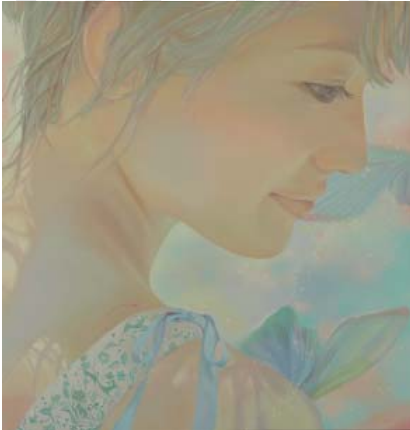


Hu Zi
Number4, 2009
Gouache on paper, series of 21 drawings
35 x 45 cm
Collection of the artist

THE ARTISTS

Liao Man

Born in 1983 in Chongqing. Lives and works in Chongqing
 "My canvases are filled with frail and illusory things, such as graceful girls, cartoon, flowers, butterflies and pastel-colored forms. They are images from daily life. I use to create unreal, artificial dream worlds."



Liao Man
Floral World-Butterfly Fairy, 2007
 Acrylic on canvas
 132 x 127 cm
 Courtesy Shanghai Art Museum

Li meng

Born in 1986 in Zhaoxian. Lives and works in Beijing

"Our generation lives in the virtual world of the internet. We hardly ever write letters or go to see a friend to have a talk. We do not call people or send messages. When we feel bored, we start chatting on our computers [...] My work *Pass from One to Another* is based on internet chatting. I speed up the transcripts of a one-hour conversation to four and a half minutes."



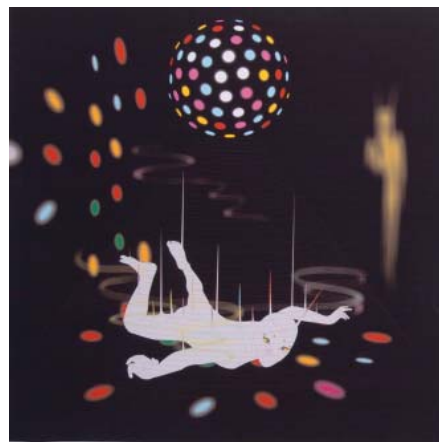
Li Meng
Pass from One to Another, 2007
 Video
 4'14"
 Courtesy Shanghai Art Museum

Liu Danielle

Born in 1985 in Guangzhou. Lives and works in Beijing
 "I compare myself to a detective and an archaeologist, searching in old books and movies for anything that can be called art.[...] I detest facing reality, so I turn to a fantasy world in search for happiness. It defines who I am now, as a painter."

Liu Diqiu

Born 1984 in Chongqing. Lives and works in Shanghai
 "These paintings are diary-like records of my internal sentiments and trivial daily encounters. They may appear extreme, worried, nervous, or silly; I think this is the real nature of this "infantilized" group. Beneath the sweet surface of the fruit jelly, they are experiencing a number of social realities: employment pressures, relationship problems, material desires... "



Liu Diqiu
Collapsed in Fairyland, 2007
 Digital painting
 100 x 101 cm
 Courtesy Shanghai Art Museum

Liu Qing

Born in 1981 in Qingdao. Lives and works in Shanghai

"Modern urbanites pretend to enjoy the everyday pace as they put on a smiling face, but in reality they struggle with the rush and pressure of contemporary life. Their work soaks up their life; they play high-achievers by day but are sick and needy by night."

Li Yang

Born in 1976. Lives and works in Beijing and Taiyuan

"*The Lives and Deaths Of Mermaids* is comprised of 68 images, strung together into one continuous narrative loop. The form of the series resembles a users' manual for a high-tech biological product. This work illustrates my concern about recent developments that seriously affect our daily lives, such as the dubious influence of scientific technologies on human life and the impact of prostitution and pornography on our well-being. "



Li Yang
The Lives and Deaths of Mermaids, 2003-2007
 Digital painting and text printed on paper
 2083 x 55 cm
 Courtesy Shanghai Art Museum

THE ARTISTS

Meng Jin

Born in 1973 in Chongqing. Lives and works in Beijing
 "The series *Anonymous Architecture* refers to the uncertain state of the city at this moment of rapid change. The paintings present incomplete architectural forms on an empty canvas, thus referring to the fragmentariness of memory.

The work *Corner Rooms* explores the personal memory spaces. Houses once lived in are full of memories, but do these memories give a shape?"



Meng Jin
Corner Rooms, 2005
 Installation
 180 x 50 x 43 cm
 Courtesy Shanghai Art Museum

PERK :

Jin Ningning Born in 1980 in Shanghai. Lives and works in Shanghai, **Si Wei** Born in 1980 in Hervei province. Lives and works in Shanghai

"The story takes place at a beachside park. People are performing all kinds of actions in a busy and centrated way. As time goes by, their movements become faster and loose distinct meaning. The scene expresses our main concern: why can't we all just for moment, look at what is happening around us, and enjoy a few slow and happy moments?"



Perk (Jin Ningning, Si Wei)
Oh, 2007
 Video Installation
 3 videos, 4:23' each
 Courtesy Shanghai Art Museum

Sheng Scott

Born in 1982 in Shanghai. Lives and works in Shanghai
 "This series reflects the microcosm of contemporary youth caught in the life of an economic bubble. Like many others, Assball wants to be different and to express himself, but all he can do is fart."

Sheng Scott
Assball Animation Series, 2007
 Animation
 39,5 x 30 cm
 Courtesy Shanghai Art Museum



Tang Yan

Born in 1978 in Shijiazhuang. Lives and works in Nanjing
 "Fear is an emotion that occurs when we are unable to flee danger. It is an experience that undermines our mind and body, drains our energy and cripples our intellect. In the animation work *Meteor*, I try to recreate this atmosphere of anxiety by incorporating elements that have a strong symbolic meaning. The flight of light - the main theme of this piece - refers to the exploration of our memory. Starlight is considered a symbol for famous people, while the meteor stands for the disappearance of life during man's history."

TEMPORARY PANDA STUDY GROUP :

Giong Lim, Born in 1983 in Zhejiang Province. Lives and works in Shanghai, **Song Phatter** Born in 1981 in Shanghai. Lives and works in Shanghai, **Huang Hot**

Born in Gansu. Lives and works in Shanghai, **Lin Zero**

Born in 1964 in Zhonghua, Taiwan

"In ancient times, a story was told about a giant white turtle living underneath the great land of Sichuan. When snakes travelled too deep into the earth, they woke up the turtle and as the turtle turned over, the earth started to quake. On May 12, 2008, the turtle actually did turn over in Sichuan, and the earth did not just quake, it cracked up, and turned upside-down; buildings collapsed and people died. [...] The panda volunteers keep trying their best to fix things. They are the teachers, doctors, social workers, parachutists you see on the evenings news."

Wen Ling

Born in 1976 in Beijing. Lives and works in Beijing

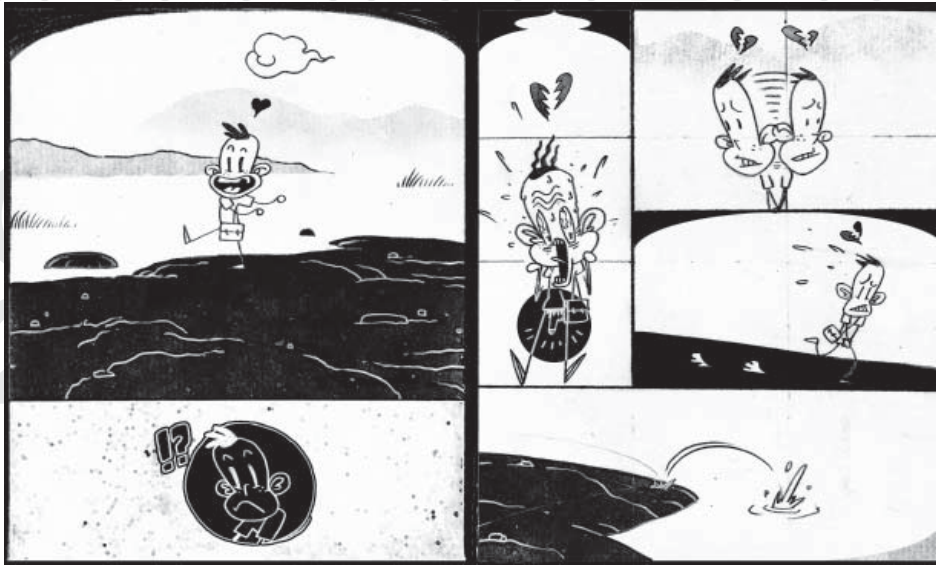
"I start going because I was curious about how people lived in other countries. When I discovered the first photoblogs on the internet, I could actually picture an average day in the life of my peers abroad. For the first time, I could see their homes, restaurants, friends, what they looked like when they went to work or school, etc. [...]"

This triggered my idea to do a photoblog on everyday life in my city. I bought a one-megapixel digital camera and always carry it with me. And every evening, I post the photos I made during that day onto Ziboy.com, sharing them with internet friends around the world."



Wen Ling
Ziboy.com, projet en cours
 Photography, series of 55 photographs
 15 x 20 cm
 Courtesy Shanghai Art Museum

THE ARTISTS



Xie Peng
Terror, 2006
 Animation, page 1 of a series of 21 pages
 21 x 29,7 cm
 Courtesy Shanghai Art Museum

Xie Peng

Born in 1976 in Beijing. Lives and works in Beijing
 "I believe that the major function of art is communication. It requires both the passion of the speaker, but equally depends on the material form that passion is made to assume in order to interact with the reader. [...] The highest value of art lies in transmission, not in transaction. People should feel responsible for one another, individualism can only bring about nihilist destruction. In the realm of popular art, away from the elite art world, animation is becoming an independent art form that express the new spirit of the times."

Yan Wei

Born in 1981 in Daqing. Lives and works in Beijing
 "Blow up depicts the tension between my inner life and the outside world. This confrontation creates an explosive visual effect. The black-and-white palette has a special appeal to me because it evokes nostalgic, subtle faded and distant things"

Yu Hua

Born in 1984 in Yunnan. Lives and works in Kunming
 "In my paintings, reality is turned into an amusement park. Every game has its own rules. Some enjoy the fun of playing, others just want to win. In the park, this behaviour is harmless and without consequences, but in the real world it can hurt a lot of people. By addressing this issue in my work, I try to contribute to a more tender and loving way of thinking and acting."



Yu Hua
Sound, 2009
 Oil on canvas
 140 x 150 cm
 Collection of the artist

Zeng Suchai

Born in 1985 in Shenzhen. Lives and works in Beijing
 "Demolished Houses and Relocated People tells the story of a building being demolished. I often hear about these violent and forced incidents on the news, so the painting reflects things that happen around me."



Zeng Suchai
Untitled 2, 2007
 Mixed media on canvas
 40 x 40 cm
 Courtesy Shanghai Art Museum

Zhang Ye

Born in 1982 in Chengde. Lives and works in Shanghai.
 "The girl in my drawings, Roro, has always been an immature girl. She has never achieved her dream to become a superwoman or Miss Hong Kong.[...] Before, I was just like her, but now Roro is merely a part of me. [...] Describing my own world and my adolescence has already become a kind of homework. I am not interested in many things, just in placing myself in dreamy scenes, as if I am competing in some super imitation show."



Zhang Ye
Grumble, 2006
 Mixed media on canvas
 30 x 20,5 cm
 Courtesy Shanghai Art Museum

VISITOR INFORMATION

The exhibition

General curator:
Thierry Raspail
Curator of the exhibition:
Zhang Qing, Vice-director of Shanghai Art Museum
Project manager:
Isabelle Bertolotti
Production manager:
Thierry Prat
Artistic assistant:
Marilou Laneuville
Exhibition registrar:
Xavier Jullien

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- Bus 4, stop Musée d'art contemporain connecting Métro Foch line A or Métro Saxe Gambetta line B or D
- Bus C1, departure Part-Dieu station, stop Musée d'art contemporain
- Bus 58, departure Bellecour by Terreaux, stop Musée d'art contemporain
- Vélo'v stations

Tarifs de l'exposition

Full rate: 6 euros
Concessions: 4 euros
(Subject to modification)

Free for visitors under 18



View of the front of the museum
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Simultaneously:

TRISHA BROWN

A STEP BACKWARDS /
BOB'S KITCHEN / CAPRICE...

BRUCE NAUMAN