

## **ANTHOLOGY FILM ARCHIVES**

32 East Second Street

New York, NY 10013

**May 19-21, 2006**

### **NEW CHINESE AVANT-GARDE VIDEO**

A 4-part series organized by Katy Martin

Curated by Katy Martin with

Denis Zhu, Film Curator, Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art, and

Shulin Zhao, Director of the Media Center, Today Art Museum, Beijing

China now is a vortex of change, where everything is being redefined. It's an exciting time for Chinese artists, who are starting to make waves in the international arts community. Just twenty years ago, no one had telephones, and just six years ago, artists started getting access to cameras. Experimental film in China is quite young, but already artists are doing sophisticated work. This work grows out of a Chinese experience, and draws on a rich aesthetic tradition that is energized by new media and forms.

In many of the works included in this survey, it is striking how provocatively Chinese artists use video in relation to performance. In China, as in the US, there is a huge interest in the body - the body in relation to urban space, to perception, politics, and cultural signs and signifiers. Chinese artists' performances are risky and strong, and also very relevant to what's going on here.

In 2005, New York artist Katy Martin traveled to Shanghai to show her films. As organizer of Anthology's four-part series, Katy worked with two curators in China: **Denis Zhu**, Film Curator, Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art (<http://www.duolunart.com>); and **Shulin Zhao**, Director of the Media Center at the Today Art Museum in Beijing (<http://www.yishu.cc>).

#### **Program #1: FOCUS ON BEIJING**

Curated by Shulin Zhao

Total running time 60 minutes

SHULIN ZHAO AND HAN YUANG

#### **RAPID BEIJING**

2005, 60 minutes

RAPID BEIJING grows out of a series of outdoor performances that used all manner of vehicles and involved artists, poets, actors, rock stars and even

classical musicians (e.g. cellists seated on a flatbed truck playing accompaniment to environmental sound). Audience interaction was high, as for example in a shopping piece, where 300 workers "dismantled" their last purchase. Often the audience, like the performers, was in motion. Picture them at sunset, following the action on bicycles as they go home from work. In this socialist country, flamboyant "happenings" combine with artists' deep-seated drive to take art to the people.

Han Yuang is one of China's leading artists, famous for painting traditional Chinese landscapes on the body.

**-Friday, May 19 at 8:00**

**Program #2: FOCUS ON SHANGHAI, Part 1 (group show)**

Total running time: 72 minutes

Curated by Denis Zhu

LIU WEIJIAN

**BREATHE OUT**

2003, 4 minutes, black & white video

Puff and parry in a martial arts dance.

LIU WEIJIAN

**THE DESIGN OF DEPARTING THE EARTH**

2004, 4 minutes, black & white video

SUN XUN

**UTOPIA IN THE DAY**

2004, 5 minutes

Five moments of dream talk, a foible for color, and a bouncing memory of self and Utopia

SUN XUN

**MAGICIAN'S LIE**

2005, 5 minutes

Religion is history and also a story. The magician is the only legal liar. Are the lies of the depiction of history, as told by the magician, closer to the real story?

NI HUI

**GENDER GAME**

2006, 15 minutes

Based on a lesbian couple's role-playing, this feministic work is about Chinese women's desire and their struggle against the fatherhood.

DENIS ZHU

**THE DISTANCE OF 13 MINUTES AND 5 SECONDS**

2003, 13 minutes

Shades of Warhol, as the filmmaker trains the camera on a subject and waits to see what happens. The peasant he observes has never seen a camera.

QIU ANXIONG

**BASIC SCENERY**

2005, 26 minutes

A village is described by systematically noting what film captures and what it doesn't.

**-Saturday, May 20 at 8:00**

**Program #3: FOCUS ON SHANGHAI, Part 2 (group show)**

Total running time: 78 minutes

Curated by Denis Zhu

YANG FUDONG

**BACKYARD. HEY, SUN IS RISING!**

2000, 13 minutes, music by Zhou Qing

Four men practice an elaborate dance that weaves martial arts, murderous dreams, and urban space. This is one of the first avant-garde films made in China, and today Yang Fudong is one of China's best-known artists. Lu Chunsheng performs.

LU CHUNSHENG

**THE CURVE WHICH CAN COUGH**

2001, 8 minutes

A lizard's walk is enlightening.

LU CHUNSHENG

**MURDERED TROTSKY IN SUMMER, GENTLEMEN IN FINANCIAL CIRCLES  
GOT MORE DEPRESSED**

2003, 22 minutes

Based on a moment important to the artist in ways he chooses to leave elusive

LIANG YUE  
**STOP DAZING**  
2005, 35 minutes

The artist draws viewers into her dreamlike daily life

**-Sunday, May 21 at 5:00**

**Program #4: ZHOU HONGXIANG (solo show)**  
Total running time: ca. 75 minutes  
Curated by Denis Zhu

Zhou Hongxiang is one of China's most inventive and radical filmmakers. He lives and works in Shanghai, where he teaches Chinese painting.

**THE RED FLAG FLIES**  
2002, 25 minutes, English subtitles  
*Award for best image, Transmediale Berlin, 2004*

A flag-waving frenzy that runs through the film is intercut with provocative imagery. Meanwhile a relentless volley of slogans (all-answers-all-the-time) gives way to an endless series of questions.

**NEEd (DESIRE 1 - 8)**  
2004-05, a new video in 8 parts, ca. 50 minutes, English subtitles

*NEEd* is a movie without any story, an image about a concept with human desire as its symbol. A continuous imbroglio runs throughout, a conflict between spirit and material.

**-Sunday, May 21 at 8:00**