

ULLENS CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART 尤伦斯当代艺术中心

3 Artists, 2 Generations, 1 Fantastic Show —Song Dong plays the dual role of curator/collaborating artist for Ma Qiusha's *Address* and Wang Shang's *Sleuthing*

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For over three years, the UCCA “Curated by...” series has been pairing established curators with emerging artists in an effort to increase the diversity of UCCA’s exhibitions and make it easier for young artists to bring their work to the public. “Curated by Song Dong”, the latest exhibition in this Bloomberg-sponsored series, is a special occasion indeed: in tandem with his first UCCA solo show *Wisdom of the Poor*, Song Dong will curate an exhibition for Ma Qiusha and Wang Shang, two talented young artists who began studying art with Song Dong at the ages of 7 and 5, respectively.

In his dual role as curator and artistic collaborator, Song Dong has created a stunning Beijing-style courtyard installation (reminiscent of his much-talked-about “Para-pavilion” in the Arsenale at this year’s Venice Biennale) to serve as a framework for the two artists’ works. The installation, constructed of wooden wainscoting made from old wardrobes, ubiquitous corrugated tile planks and a recycled wooden door, divides UCCA’s Blank Box & White Cube space into two very different but interconnected environments. One side recalls the interior atmosphere of a Beijing *dazayuan* (a courtyard house divided into living space for many families) while the other side evokes the exterior atmosphere of a traditional Beijing *hutong*.

UCCA visitors can regard “Curated by Song Dong” and *Wisdom of the Poor* (2005-2011) as 3 separate solo exhibitions, 2 linked exhibitions, or 1 collaborative exhibition by three artists who have gone, in the words of Song Dong: “from being teacher and students, to friends, and now finally, fellow exhibiting artists.” However you slice it, it means three great UCCA exhibitions in one!



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Ma Qiusha: *Address* and Wang Shang: *S*

In the interior space, female multimedia artist Ma Qiusha's contemplative but powerful series of works explores personal identity and the female experience. In her installation piece, she displays her deceased grandfather's collection of beard shavings, which he carefully stored in bottles and labeled with each year. As the title suggests, Qiusha's grandfather's stubble collection is a reflection of who she is.

In the exterior space, Wang Shang recreates a natural process: a laboratory populated by items that explore his relationship with Nature. While Wang Shang's work features energy generators, breeding tanks and strange organisms, the UCCA exhibition features his father's collection of jewelry designs made from his mother's bones and a "new naturalist" wallpaper of his own design.

In his exhibition foreword, curator Song Dong explores the ties that link these three artists: "We live in an environment, Beijing's *hutongs*. But an era of change has given us very different lives. Different family environments, different people, and gave us different futures. We still believe our lives will always be linked. In this exhibition, we explore their work for their work. In real life, I was part of the background.

"The stories of Ma Qiusha and Wang Shang and Song Dong's 'crowded courtyard,' offer us a chance to explore relationships between past and present, between us and fellow artists," concludes UCCA Director Jérôme Sans.

The "Curated by..." series is free to the public and is supported by Bloomberg.

Related Events at UCCA

Migrant School Students' Art Program, *World at Your Side*

Date: Thursday, July 28 / 14:00-16:00 / UCCA

Guests: Ma Qiusha, Wang Shang

Language: Chinese

Artists' Talk:

Date: Saturday, Aug 27 / 14:00-15:30 / UCCA

Guests: Song Dong, Ma Qiusha, Wang Shang

Language: Chinese

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