

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

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Curator:

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Exhibition dates:

November 20 – December 30

Exhibition Space:

Long Gallery

Press material also available for
download from the UCCA website

SEE / SAW: Collective Practice in China Now

November 20, 2012. Beijing, China

As a prologue to UCCA's upcoming 2013 exhibition "ON | OFF: China's Young Artists in Concept and Practice," SEE / SAW presents many of the individual artists to be included in ON | OFF within the context of Chinese contemporary art's most recent collaborative efforts. For this iterative project, which examines the production processes and decisions involved in creative collaborations, fourteen invited artist groups will rotate in and out of a shared space. Selectively juxtaposed, the collectives each independently conceive week-long exhibitions, many of which occur outside of their allotted space. In focusing on the concept of the "group," SEE / SAW explores notions of co-dependence and reaction, and viewers are encouraged to observe how the exhibition's weekly reincarnations may or may not play off one another.

Participating collectives include Double Fly Art Center, A Diaodui, Museum of the Unknown, Zuzhi, North Village Independent Workshop, Irrelevant Commission, 8mg, TOF, Art Praxis Space, LVXIAO, Nanshan Painting Group, GUEST, Hexie Baroque, and Cell Art Group.

Exhibition to be accompanied by a publication.

SEE / SAW schedule and collective introductions:

2012.11.20 – 11.25

Double Fly Art Center + A Diaodui

Double Fly Art Center was founded in 2008, and its members are based in Beijing, Shanghai, and Hangzhou. With a wide-ranging creative practice that includes traditional ink painting, drawing, video games, and animation, the collective looks to reach beyond what is immediately available—in this instance asking the fundamental chicken-or-egg question within an absurdist context ranging from the outer reaches of the universe to the atoms composing the ground beneath your feet.

Members freely join and leave **A Diaodui**, which was formed in Beijing in 2007. The collective's rule to not have rules and tendency to shy away from straightforward projects is here manifested in a dialogue space, in which three members discuss the second halves of their lives and secretly carry out individual performance pieces.

2012.11.27 – 12.02

Museum of Unknown + ZUZHI + North Village Independent Workshop

Museum of the Unknown was founded in Shanghai in 2007 and includes Liao Fei, Qiu Anxiong, Zheng Huang, and Wu Ding. In this exhibition, the collective asks "what do we talk about when we talk about art?" in an inquiry of role reversals and money flow within the art world, as they assume the identity of a collector and purchase a work of art from a gallery or artist with funds provided by a museum. By putting the work up for sale, museum visitors become potential collectors, UCCA (a non-profit organization) is temporarily reframed as a gallery, and the roles played in today's art system become difficult to distinguish as the influence of critical artistic value and capital operations are revealed.

ZUZHI was founded in Shanghai in 2009 and is comprised of Li Mu, Tao Yi, Xu Zhe, and Zhao Junyuan. For this exhibition, they will mount a video of a

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performance entitled *Sun* held in an “open workspace” at the Guangdong Times Museum, in which children were asked to re-enact the works of some of the world’s most important artists, thus presenting a survey of art history.

In 2007, Wei Yan established the **North Village Independent Workshop** in Chengdu’s North Village Art District in order to create a space for artists to create individual projects in a collaborative environment. Here, the works of ten individual artists—Chen Qiang, Chen Weicai, Chen Xianhui, Feng Dekui, Li Yongzheng, Luo Li, Wei Yan, Wen Hao, Zhang Yu, and Zhao Mi—are displayed, expressing the group’s reconciliation of collective mentality and independent practice.

2012.12.04 – 12.09

Irrelevant Commission + 8mg

Irrelevant Commission was formed in Beijing in 2011 and consists of Guo Lijun, Ye Nan, Chen Zhiyuan, Gao Fei, Niu Ke, and Wang Guilin. In an effort to be ever-unrelated to whatever is being referred to, this collective has presented an exhibition of small, difficult to classify objects to unsuspecting customers in a supermarket. Photographs and videos of the project are displayed in the exhibition space.

Formed in Chongqing in 2011, **8mg**’s research focuses on the political issues concealed within daily rituals and actions, and the collective’s creative practice explores the overlap between art and physical surroundings. In this performance project, the members of 8mg each a brick during official work hours every day for the course of the exhibition. As the members go about their usual business in Beijing—working, playing, commuting—they will make video documents of their movements and install them daily in the exhibition space.

2012.12.11 – 12.16

TOF + Art Praxis Space

TOF, created by Jin Feng and Ding Li in Shanghai in 2011, here explores the collaborative process by mounting a live stream of an inter-active project the

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collective is simultaneously holding in Shanghai, forming an exhibition that incorporates spaces and people from beyond its walls.

Conceived by Chen Jianjun in Chengdu in 2009, launched along with Cao Minghao, and now including Chen Zhou, **Art Praxis Space** presents a collection of video works, which collectively present a portrait of past and present residents of Kunshan, marking the effects of urbanization on countless members of the Yangtze River Delta's agricultural communities.

2012.12.18 – 12.23

LVXIAO + Nanshan Painting Group

Founded in Beijing in 2002, **LVXIAO** is an open artist collective that organizes art salons, parties, and exhibitions. For this exhibition, the collective presents a self-curated group show of small paintings, drawings, and prints. The collective at present comprises twenty members: Lü Xinni, Wen Ling, Wang Xiaobing, Luo Chenyang, Lü Dali, Lü Yifei, Jiao Jian, Tian Dongming, Liu Xing, Gao Feng, Zhu Hui, Li Jun, Teri Gele, Liu Xiao, Liu Bo, Ceng Ziheng, Li Yan, Yao Jianjiang, and Li Xiang.

Nanshan Painting Group, formed by He Chi, Hu Liu, and Ning Haoxiang in Beijing in 2011, is a collective that is devoted to producing and researching paintings. As a reference to the questions “what to paint” and “how to paint,” this exhibition focuses on the questions “what to look at” and “how to look at it.”

2012.12.25 – 12.30

GUEST + HEXIE BAROQUE + Cell Art Group

Lu Pingyuan, Xu Qu, and Zhao Yao form **GUEST**, a collective founded at the end of 2011 and existing between Beijing and Shanghai. The members believe that “the audience is the institution,” resulting in works that are often metaphysical, experimental, and experiential.

Founded in Beijing in 2011, **Hexie Baroque** uses aspects of Baroque-era culture and early capitalism as starting points for building a metaphor for

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contemporary China and the problems that arise in periods of rapid transition. For this exhibition they display urban landscapes—sensory works representing their recent research.

Cell Art Group, founded by Dong Xun and Than Young (Liao Wenchao) in Chongqing in 2011, will carry out a series of performances that are part self-promotion and part practical joke, including guerilla-style sticker dissemination, brand promotion, and silent political protests. Documentation of the performances is displayed in the exhibition space.

Related Programs

【Art Program】

smart Artists' Talk Series: ON | OFF Public Program Series: Polyphony and Liminality

Time: 13:30-14:30, Tuesday, November 20
Venue: UCCA Auditorium
Special Guests: Philip Tinari (UCCA Director)
Bao Dong (curator)
Sun Dongdong (curator)
Language: Chinese Only

【Art Program】

smart Artists' Talk Series: ON | OFF Public Program Series: Self-Organizing · Self-Starting: A Diaodui, Double Fly Art Center, and N12

Time: 14:40-15:40, Saturday, October 20
Venue: UCCA Auditorium
Teachers: Zhang Lehua (Double Fly Art Center)
Sun Huiyuan (Double Fly Art Center)
iang Shuo (A Diaodui)
Wang Guangle (A Diaodui, N12)
Language: Chinese only

Current exhibition

Yung Ho Chang + FCJZ until 2 December 2012

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About UCCA

The Ullens Center for Contemporary Art is a not-for-profit art center in Beijing, located at the heart of the 798 Art District. As a platform for contemporary art linking China and the world, UCCA offers an average 15 exhibitions a year and over 500 public programs including art talks, film screenings, performances, workshops and public festivals. The international center maintains a special focus on recent developments and historical movements in Chinese contemporary culture, whilst also showcasing the latest in art and design and fostering international exchange.

www.ucca.org.cn