



Ullens Center for
Contemporary Art
尤伦斯当代艺术中心

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Exhibition Dates:

21 November 2014 - 4 January 2015

Exhibition Venue:

Lobby, Long Gallery, Nave, and Central
Gallery

Press material also available for
download from the UCCA website

Polit-Sheer-Form: Fitness for All

Released on 11 November, 2014

Polit-Sheer-Form transforms the UCCA Gala and Benefit Auction 2014 into a state banquet in blue as a preface to their largest exhibition in China to date.

“**Polit-Sheer-Form: Fitness for All**” is the largest survey by any Chinese art institution of the groundbreaking, five-member collective’s nine-year career. An expansive yet concise exhibition comprised of more than ten works, its focus falls on several of the group’s installations and **includes the premiere of the performance piece *Whip It***. The show occupies the Central Gallery, Nave, and Long Gallery **from November 21, 2014, until January 4, 2015**. The night preceding the opening, guests of the UCCA Gala and Benefit Auction 2014 bear witness to a unique on-site project designed by Polit-Sheer-Form to mirror the familiar pomp of official gatherings. The two events promise to bring blue—Polit-Sheer-Blue—back to the grey capital.

Polit-Sheer-Form was founded in 2005 by artists Hong Hao, Xiao Yu, Song Dong, Liu Jianhua, and curator/critic Leng Lin. The group’s multi-disciplinary projects address the idea of “we” in a “me” world, and their activities of talking, traveling, eating, reading, and playing together form the basis of their commentary on political, cultural, and spiritual life in twenty-first century China. “Polit-Sheer-Form’s five members were born in the 1960s—a lost generation with memories, albeit only childhood memories, of High Socialism. As a result they have sought to reconstitute the visuality and affect of the socialist moment, distilling its political imperatives into pure (sheer) forms, devoid of content,” says UCCA Director Philip Tinari who organized the exhibition together with UCCA Assistant Curator Guo Xi.

“Polit-Sheer-Form: Fitness for All” alludes to a Chinese slogan encouraging physical exercise among citizens and is the starting point for their installation ***Fitness for All***, which appropriates the publicly funded workout equipment found in city squares and residential compounds throughout China, treating it as sculpture for the betterment of museum visitors. In their signature tongue-in-cheek style, politicized aesthetic forms from a bygone era are repurposed as in ***Mr. Zheng***, a “leader portrait” formed by combining their individual likenesses into a single figure wearing their blue insignia.

Guests are greeted in the lobby by ***Flower Bed***, an installation reminiscent of floral topiaries popular during China’s National Holiday season. Other pieces in the show include a video



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installation of the performance *Do the Same Good Deed* in which they host a mass cleaning of city buses in Guangzhou. *Manifestos* from 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2014 lend context to the group's paradoxical conception. *Polit-Sheer-Form Chronology* (2005-2014) records the group's activities through an astounding collection of hundreds of official invoices [*fapiao*] documenting their endeavors and encounters, scanned and printed as wallpaper. "Polit-Sheer-Form: Fitness for All" is a mental exercise engaging viewers with a diverse body of work produced by a uniquely conceived and positioned collective.

About Polit-Sheer-Form

Polit-Sheer-Form is a China-based art collective founded in 2005 by artists Hong Hao, Xiao Yu, Song Dong, Liu Jianhua, and curator/critic Leng Lin. Through their work they reconstitute the visuality and affect of the socialist moment, articulating politics as pure (sheer) forms.

This November Polit-Sheer-Form has an exhibition "Polit Sheer Form!" at the Queens Museum, New York, with accompanying performance *Do the Same Good Deed* held in Times Square. Polit-Sheer-Form has participated in several major exhibitions internationally, including: "Duchamp and/or/in China" (UCCA, Beijing 2013); "We are Polit-Sheer-Form" (Shanghai Gallery of Art, Shanghai, 2011); "Tofu, Kungfu, Polit-Sheer-Form" (Beijing Commune, Beijing, 2009); and "Only One Wall" (Artspace, Sydney, 2006). The group's piece "Fitness for All" was featured in "Focus: China" section of The Armory Show, New York, in March 2014.

About the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art

The Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) is an independent, not-for-profit art center serving a global Beijing public. Located at the heart of Beijing's 798 Art District, it was founded by the Belgian collectors Guy and Myriam Ullens and opened in November 2007. Through a diverse array of exhibitions with artists Chinese and international, established and emerging, as well as a wide range of public programs, UCCA aims to promote the continued development of the Chinese art scene, foster international exchange, and showcase the latest in art and culture to hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

Sponsors

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