



Asia

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Imagine Australia 2010-2011

The Year of Australian Culture in China program, Imagine Australia, continues into 2011 from the extensive and exciting range of exhibitions, performances and events which featured late last year. The feature of many of the programs – particularly those in the visual arts – is the diversity of work and the modes of presentation: from large-scale touring exhibitions in national galleries to exhibitions in public spaces and academic institutions. A summary of events is listed, for more information visit www.imagineaustralia.com

Trepang: China and the Story of Macassan and Aboriginal Trade, organised by University of Melbourne, opening 1 April at Capital Museum, Beijing; *Our Land Our Body* (featuring works from the Warburton Ranges) opens at Shanghai Art Museum, the largest ever touring exhibition of Australian Indigenous artwork in China, 13 March to 8 May, also touring to Beijing's Today Art Museum from June; Jimmy Pike exhibition *Desert Psychedelic* at the Ningbo Art Museum, 1 to 30 April; *Light from Light*, an exhibition themed on solar-powered objects and installations, will feature at National Library of China in Beijing from late April; *Nu Yishu: Viriditas*, the 5th in the series of Australian and Chinese women's art, presented at Imagine Gallery in Beijing, 10 April - 5 June. **RN**

Conjuring Guan Wei

Australian-Chinese artist Guan Wei is making a significant mark on the local art scene with a major solo exhibition in April at OCAT in Shenzhen, China from 30 April to 15 June. Since returning to live and work in Beijing from Sydney in 2007, Guan Wei has found the sheer weight and scale of the contemporary art scene an enormous 'egg to crack' – however, following hot on the heels of a major solo show in Beijing's 798 art district, he is now mounting *Conjuring* which presents a course of walking, drifting and finally



returning to the origin. The exhibition is made up of three layers of viewing/conception which reflect the idea of heaven, earth and mankind intertwining and repeating themselves in endless circles like a conjuring. Part of the Imagine Australia program, the exhibition will be opened by the Australian Ambassador to China. **RN**

New Age: New Media @ CAFA

The China launch of the moving image project *New Age: New Media* will take place at the Central Academy of Fine Art, Beijing on 21 April. The project features 12 established artists – 6 Australian (Richard Bell, Jess MacNeil, Grant Stevens, Marilyn Fairskye, James Newitt, The Kingpins – and 6 Chinese (Miao Xiaochun, Shen Shaomin, Han Bing, Bu Hua, Zhang Xiaotao, TseKal/Yak TseTen). The launch will feature an opening by Dr Geoff Raby, the Australian Ambassador to China, artist talks, and a forum in which CAFA staff and students and the public will engage with artists and invited speakers on the nature of Australian/Chinese/International contemporary art. The project moves to various other venues in China over the next 2 months before going to Australia in June-July 2011. www.imagineaustralia.com. www.chinaartprojects.com. **RN**

Hot off the press

Personal Space: Contemporary Chinese and Australian Prints, a curatorial initiative of Michael Kempson (senior lecturer in printmaking and director of Cicada Press at COFA - UNSW, Sydney) highlights the practices of 25 Chinese and 25 Australian artists. With beautifully crafted, fresh images, it opens this month at Manly Regional Art Gallery & Museum, Sydney (21 April – 29 May), before touring Australia and China in 2012. Artists include Chen Qi, Song Guangzhi, Sui Cheng, Xu Bing, Li Wenmin, G.W. Bot, James Billy, Bruce Latimer, Fiona Hall and Martha McDonald Napaltjarri. Supported by the Gordon Darling Foundation. www.gallery.manlyaustralia.com.au/events **NC**

Ai for the news

The number of times reference to high-profile Chinese artist Ai Weiwei has surfaced in mainstream political and economic press reportage, separate to arts and culture reviewing, escapes me. A lengthy *Financial Times* (Asia) article early last month by the FT's Beijing-bureau chief Geoff Dyer was a recent one. Entitled

artnotes

1/ Feng Ling (China) showing in *Nu Yishu – Series V: Viriditas* an exhibition of new collaborative art by Australian and Chinese artists, curated by Denise Keele-bedford.

The exhibition by twelve women artists; six Australians and six Chinese, consists of work created through a collaborative process where each Australian artist is partnered with an artist from China.

Opens 10 April to 5 June. Opening 17 April at Imagine Gallery, XiangXiang Hualang, No.8 Yishu Gongzuoshi, Feijiacun, Laiguangyongdonglu, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China. www.imagine-gallery.com

2/ Song Guangzhi, *Seeker #20*, woodcut print, 2004. From the exhibition

Personal Space: Contemporary Chinese & Australian Prints, curated by Michael Kempson,

at Manly Regional Art Gallery & Museum, Sydney from 21 April to 29 May, Tweed River Art Gallery (NSW) and touring China in 2012.

'Who will be China's next leaders?', it quotes Wewei: 'We are not expecting much from the next generation of leaders ... maybe the generation after. After another decade, they will be more open in their ideas.' www.ft.com/home/asia **NC**

UCCA to go ...

After all the gossip and speculation a year ago about imminent foreclosures, the Ullens Centre for Contemporary Art (UCCA) in 798, Beijing, is finally set to wind up operations – at least as they currently stand. Whether or not it will re-emerge in a similar or completely different form remains to be seen. Media reports cite a change of heart by the original owners of the biggest collection in China (and possibly the world) of contemporary Chinese art as to their artistic orientation. The Belgian foodstuffs magnates, Guy and Miriam Ullens, have now shifted their attention from China to India, apparently. After unsuccessful attempts to keep the collection intact, it will be auctioned in sections and the UCCA building sold. **RN**

Red Gate AIR 10th anniversary

In its 20th year, Red Gate celebrates the 10th anniversary of its international Artists-in-Residence program with an exhibition of the Chinese artists who have participated over the years. These artists were initially selected from outside Beijing to give them an opportunity to connect to its thriving art scene; many of them now reside in Beijing. Artists include Chen Wenling (Fuzhou), Shen Jingdong (Nanjing) and Han Qing (Chengdu). Exhibition runs 23 April to 15 May. **RN**

2011 Caochangdi PhotoSpring

From 23 April to 31 May 2011, Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, Thinking Hands, and Les Rencontres d'Arles have joined together, in collaboration with galleries and art institutions in Caochangdi and 798 Art Districts, Beijing, to host the 2011 Caochangdi PhotoSpring. A busy program of exhibitions, screenings, concerts and a key symposium awaits. www.ccdphotospring.com **RN**

Live Ammo

The Museum of Contemporary of Art Taipei features *Live Ammo* until 17 April, an exhibition co-curated by Hao-yi Chen, Zian Chen, Hong-john Lin, Ya-ling Yang and Jia-zhen Tsai which attempts to reveal 'performativity' as social practice. With a bunch of crossover visual and performance artworks, *Live Ammo* highlights a situationist position and attempts to position arts in real life. www.mocatapei.org.tw **LY**

Arte da Taiwan

Taiwan's other key national art institution, the Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, features *Arte da Taiwan – Taiwan Contemporary Art* until 24 April. The exhibition, jointly curated by Centre Culturel de Taïwan à Paris and Museo di Arte Contemporanea di Villa Croce, Genova, Italy, demonstrates the development and trends of new-generation art in Taiwan through the work of 14 young artists. www.kmfa.gov.tw/ **LY**

The built experiment

Urban Core Gallery, Taipei, shows *Illegal Architecture* until 17 April. Renowned architects Ying-Chun Hsieh and Shu Wang have been highly involved in reconstructions of remote rural areas of Taiwan and Mainland China after natural disasters, and in this vein have both re-examined Western modern paradigms of architecture and traditional Eastern approaches. They now apply these solutions to present a new way of urban planning to deal with the prevalence of illegal architectures in many Asian cities. www.jut-arts.org.tw **LY**

On stage

Toshusai Sharaku is for many the quintessential Edo-period Japanese Ukiyo-e woodblock-print artist, his sudden appearance in 1794 followed by his equally sudden disappearance in 1795 helping consolidate the 'mystery' surrounding him. The exhibition *SHARAKU*, at the Tokyo National Museum, showcases the inimitable and highly animated Kabuki-actor portraits for which his fame endures. From 5 April to 15 May. <http://sharaku2011.jp/en/index.html> **NC**

Brophy trophy

Multimedia artist Philip Brophy is the incoming resident early this month at the OzCo Tokyo Studio. A *manga* and *anime* buff, Brophy was the curatorial force behind the exhibitions *KABOOM! Explosive Animation from America & Japan* (MCA, Sydney, 1994), and *Tezuka: The Marvel of Manga* (NGV, Melbourne, and AGNSW, Sydney, 2006-07). His residency runs until early July. www.philipbrophy.com **NC**

On the level

Japanese artist Utako Shindo, previously Melbourne-based though now back in her native Japan, is participating in the exhibition *Tree Line* at LEVEL Artist Run Initiative, Brisbane. It's the outcome of a collaborative residency – other artists being Trudi Brinckman, Lucy Griggs, Nicola Page, Saskia Pandji Sakti and Linda Tegg – the idea of inhabitable land for various life forms within a naturally occurring demarcation zone underpinning the exchanges and synergies between the artists and artworks on display. From 8 to 29 April. <http://levelari.org>, www.ushindo.blogspot.com **NC**

Double barrel

The Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo (MOT) has 2 drawcard shows. *Kyoji Takubo* surveys the work of this artist (b.1949, Ehime), who worked across performance art, the making of *objets d'art*, and architectural restoration (with 10 years in Falaise, Normandy, France restoring its Chapel de Vigor-de-Mieux), among many other projects. And *MOT Annual 2011 – Nearest Faraway* spotlights fresh new work, the artists this year being Akiko Ikeuchi, Chihiro Kabata, Junko Kido, Naoko Sekine, Motohiro Tomii, and Lyota Yagi. Both until 8 May. www.mot-art-museum.jp/eng/index/html **NC**

Voyage East

In 1911, Swiss architect Le Corbusier (1887-1965) took a voyage to Central Asia, Turkey, Greece, and Italy – which underpins the exhibition *Le Corbusier's Voyage to the East* at Galerie Taisei (Yokohama), drawing links to how it influenced his later work. The National Museum of Western Art (NMWA), Tokyo, built to house the collection of industrialist Matsukata Kōjirō and which had been stationed in England & France, was designed by Le Corbusier upon France complying with Japan's request after WWII for return of the artworks. France stipulated a French architect design the museum to house them – after which Le Corbusier's singular work in Japan came into being. Until 16 April. www.taisei.co.jp/galerie **NC**

SouthEast Asia

MacFarlane marks new space

In May Wei-Ling Gallery presents Stewart MacFarlane's 2nd solo exhibition in Kuala Lumpur titled *Inheritance*. Typically narrative paintings with their dramatic (aka film set) lighting, MacFarlane again forces Malaysian audiences to play the voyeur in unnerving urban-scapes. Showing at Wei-Ling Gallery 6 May to 1 June, the exhibition will also show at Wei-Ling Contemporary 7 to 30 June, a new 3800 square foot satellite space at The Gardens Mall KL, an exclusive venue that opened in April and which affirms this powerhouse gallery as a stronghold of this scene. <http://www.weiling-gallery.com/space.php> **GF**

Facelift for Hong Kong

Hong Kong's 10 Chancery Lane Gallery turns 10 this year and to celebrate it has given its signature space a facelift, re-opening with Vietnamese-American artist Christine Nguyen's large crystal installation showing through 9 April, followed by London-based Philippine artist Maya Hewitt to coincide with the HK11 fair, and exhibitions by Wang Keping, Gongkar Gyatso and Atul Dodiya. It is a stellar program that focuses more on artists from Pan Asia with a particular turn towards the emerging dynamic art scene from Cambodia and Vietnam; a welcome change from



1/ Yang Fudong, *No Snow on the Broken Bridge* (still), 2006, 35mm film transferred to DVD, music by Jin Wang. Showing at Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation (SCAF), Sydney until 4 June. Courtesy the artist at ShanghART Gallery, Shanghai and Marian Goodman Gallery, New York and Paris. www.sherman-scaf.org.au

Hong Kong's China-heavy art scene and which complements its industrial warehouse space at Chai Wan. www.10chancerylanegallery.com **GF**

Do-Ho Suh at STPI

New boundaries are pushed at Singapore Tyler Print Institute in the latest series of meticulous thread drawings and prints by internationally renowned, Korean artist Do-Ho Suh. Suh explores themes of identity and displacement in new ephemeral works on paper, a continuation of his earlier site-specific installations in 2 dimensions, and creating one of STPI's largest etchings. Showing 9 April to 7 May. www.stpi.com.sg **GF**

Bastards do clichés

The celebrated Philippine artist Manuel Ocampo is behind a new space in Manila along the popular gallery strip Pasong Tamo, called Department of Avant-Garde Cliches or DAGCgallery – with a decisive focus on the irreverent. An atelier dealing in multiples, artist books and prints, it's a collaboration with the Fine Art Press *Art Prints* backed by dealer Soler Santos, edgy Pablo gallery, the artist Bea Camacho, and Bongout in Berlin adding that international context. Opening this month, you can follow it on twitter <http://twitter.com/dagcgallery>. **GF**

New ship

Reuben Keehan, until recently curator at Artspace, Sydney, is now curator of contemporary Asian art at the Queensland Art Gallery. Reuben was in Singapore last month for the opening of the Singapore Biennale (curated by Matthew Ngui, Russell Storer and Trevor Smith - running to 15 May), before heading to Japan for research relating to the next Asia Pacific Triennial. <http://qag.qld.gov.au> **NC**

Mia Bustam self-portrait

The caption for the painted image of Mia Bustam reproduced in last month's Artnotes should have read *Self Portrait*, 1960 (rather than *Portrait of Mia Bustam*, 1952 by Sindutomto Sudjojono and in the Affandi Museum – a different image of her).

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