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INSIDE

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June 2012 No 30
全国统一刊号:
CN42-1750/G0

ISSN 1674-5116
24
9 771674 511093

+ A whole month of fantastic Time Out-backed events

Omnivore Food Festival MiNi Film Fest Chen Danyan Book Walk
Maybe Mars' Fifth Anniversary Pride 2012 Zhujiajiao Photo Tour

Art

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Bombberman

In a culinary metaphor, Zhang Ding shoots and explodes five animals. He tells **Sam Gaskin** that it doesn't matter why. Portrait **Yang Xiaozhe**

The name of the dish 'Buddha Jumps Over the Wall' (*fo tiao qiang*), from which Zhang Ding's new solo show takes its title, comes from an apocryphal story. Journeying around Fujian, a Qing dynasty scholar kept the leftovers of his previous meals in a jar, adding new dishes to the mix each day. One evening, as he reheated the food, the combination of meats and seafood smelled so good that a Buddhist monk forgot his vegetarianism, leapt over a temple wall and demanded some.

In restaurants, the dish typically includes shark's fin, abalone, sea cucumber, chicken and many more ingredients. Zhang's rendition has just five, each cast in plaster: a fish, an oversized soft shell turtle, a chicken, a duck, a goat and a pig. Zhang hired a special effects team to plant small explosives, along with bags containing fake blood (in liquid and powder forms) inside the animals. At his Taopu studio, he shows us video of the bright white animals, being riddled with

bullets in slow motion, synthetic haemoglobin spilling out. When all five creatures are thoroughly killed, the entire scene explodes.

Born in Gansu in 1980, Zhang Ding established himself as one of the country's top new media artists years ago. In 2007 he created two memorable video works – 'Boxing No 1&2', in which he punched cacti until his fists were bloody, and 'The Great Era', where he wears a white tuxedo and rides a horse-headed exer-cycle – a nod to migrant workers, getting nowhere – in a series of surreal scenes.

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My goal is to create an atmosphere, but not something frightening



When we meet Zhang, he's plainly dressed in Chuck Taylors, jeans and a blue shirt, as if to illustrate one of his artistic preoccupations. 'My works combine reality and fantasy,' he says. 'I dress like this, but I can have an ideal or fantasy life.'

Zhang says that despite the macabre mess in his studio, 'my goal is to create an atmosphere, but not something frightening. These things, like action movies and the destruction of the

world, please everyone.'

When the exhibition opens on Saturday 2, a sculpture of a butcher will aim a handgun at the video screen. Another butcher, wielding a knife, will stand over a table of hacked up meats. Elsewhere, large tropical plants and white and red life rings are set on a raised table.

Why these seemingly unrelated elements? 'I began this show two years ago, and I've forgotten what the motivation for it was, though there must have been one. The motivation is not important.'

'We all have our own reference systems. All of my works are connected to my reality, my reference set. Everything is included in it. To me these elements have quite real connections, but maybe they exist in another universe.'

That sounds a little evasive, we say, to which Zhang replies: 'I can't even catch myself.' He does concede that he began by 'thinking about producers and consumers of goods and services, and emotion.'

No doubt Zhang would resist the interpretation, but if cooks need to kill everything that walks, swims and flies to whet a monk's appetite, maybe it takes an equally aggressive attitude to elicit a reaction from emotionally unavailable audiences – sending the scent of gunpowder drifting out the gallery doors.

Buddha Jumps Over the Wall is at Zhang Ding Studio from **Saturday 2**. See Listings for details.

Deep Thinking, Shallow Intent



At **Art Labor** until Monday 11. See Listings for details.

After over 20 years in Japan, including time spent earning a PhD from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts, Wang Qing has returned to China. His city scenes, layered up and exposed like a decade of posters stuck on and torn off an alley wall, are taken from Tokyo, Shanghai and New York.

Wang's process involves first taking photographs of dozens of people moving through cities and combining flattened images of them in acrylic on large canvases (1x1m-3x3m). Store fronts and street signage applied with ink transfers add texture.

The posture, clothes and accoutrements of these near silhouettes are telling; you can often infer their ages, class and occupation from their outlines alone. We see an old Shanghaiese man, for instance, wearing *wushu* shoes, clasping his hands behind his back, his belly almost pulling him down the street to get his next fix of *san huang ji*. We can't see the shuffling old man's face, even in silhouette, because it's been replaced with that of a cheetah.

Mixed in with the human-headed people, these animal-headed individuals – a dog businessman, a lion *baotan*, a raven punk – seem to suggest some more primal part of their personalities.

The title of 'Coming & Going – Air', one of the most remarkable works, refers not only to city dwellers' movements, but also to cultural changes. Behind the contemporary forms, we see faded depictions of ways of life that have come and gone – forgotten fashions, rickshaws, manual scales, a biplane and so on.

In addition to the city *mise en scenes*, Wang paints negatives of female nudes (white eyes, eyebrows, hair and nipples, bluish skin) and more animals – lions, dragons, dogs – using an airbrush and set against tropical leaves.

All these animals, insisting on a place in our metropolitan imaginations, bring to mind something NYC novelist Jonathan Lethem said when describing his love of James Thurber's story 'The Wood Duck': 'I really like stories with animals in them.' **SG**



FQ Art Room

258 Danshui Road, near Fuxing Zhong Lu, Huangpu district (138 1689 3760; www.fqprojects.com). Open 11am-8pm Sat-Fri. ☎ Xintiandi. 黄浦区淡水路258号, 近复兴中路

Opening Exhibition: FQ Projects

Artists This new art space and café on Danshui Lu near Xintiandi sells original artworks for under 5,000RMB. You can also make your own artwork to take home. See New space, opposite. ▶ Thur 28

FQ Projects

House 76, Lane 927, Huaihai Zhong Lu, near Maoming Nan Lu, Huangpu district (6466 2940; www.fqprojects.com). Open 10am-6pm Wed-Sun; 10am-9pm Thurs. ☎ Shaanxi Nan Lu. 黄浦区淮海中路927弄淮海坊76号, 近茂名南路

Don't Worry Be Happy Artists Chen Xiaobing, Hu Haocong and Zhang Guangxian. Opening party Sat 2, 5-7pm. Sun 3 ▶ Aug 2

Galerie Dumonteil

Room 102, Bldg 8, 153 Jumen Lu, near Liyuan Road, Huangpu district (6122 0981; www.galeriedumonteil.com). Open 11am-7pm Tue-Sun. ☎ Madang Lu. 黄浦区局门路153号8号楼102室, 近丽园路

Michel Loeb: Spring Safari Nature and animal paintings and lithographs with a surrealist slant from this Luberon artist. Opening party Sat 2, 5-8pm. Sun 3 ▶ Jul 15

ifa Gallery

621 Changde Lu, near Wuding Lu, Jingan district (6256 0835; www.ifa-gallery.com). Open 11am-6pm daily. ☎ Jingan Temple. 静安区常德路621号, 近武定路

Something in Common Discursive themes investigated by a range of interesting artists, with images by Dai Guangyu, Deng Yu, Liu Bolin, Shao Shao, Wang Xiaofeng, Zhang Xianyong, Zheng Jing and Zhu Ye. ▶ Sun 24

Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA)

231 Nanjing Xi Lu, near Huangpi Bei Lu, Huangpu district (6327 9900; www.mocashanghai.org). Open 10am-6pm daily. 20RMB. ☎ People's Square. 黄浦区南京西路231号, 近黄皮北路

Timeless Beauty Over 100 years of 'high jewellery' from French luxury brand Van Cleef & Arpels. ▶ Jul 7

Stir Gallery

Second Floor, 1 Maoming Nan Lu, near Yanan Lu, Huangpu district (2635 9535; www.stir-art.com). Open midday-8pm Tue-Sun. ☎ Shaanxi Nan Lu. 黄浦区茂名南路1号2号楼, 近延安路

The Remaining Stains Paintings and installations by Hu Xing Yi. ▶ Tue 26

Xintiandi Style

245 Madang Lu, near Fuxing Lu, Huangpu district (6289 5733; www.xintiandistyle.com). Open 10am-10pm daily. ☎ Xintiandi. 黄浦区马当路474号, 近复兴中路

Visually Hungry, a Rankin Retrospective Luxe shopping mall hosts a wide selection of UK photographer Rankin's extraordinary portraits. See Preview, page 54. Sat 2 ▶ Sun 17

M50

55 Gallery

Building 4, First Floor, 50 Moganshan Lu, near Xi Suzhou Lu, Putuo district (6266 4108; www.gallery55s.com). Open 1-6pm Tue-Sun. ☎ Zhongtan Lu. 普陀区莫干山路50号4号楼1楼, 近西苏州路

Chong Ma: Built by Heart Installations and photography about our emotional relationships to built environments. ▶ Sun 3



1 Buddha Jumps Over the Wall

TOP Contemporary Art Centre

Zhang Ding's explosive representation of a southern China dish made with plaster animals, charges and fake blood. Sun 3 ▶ Jul 1



2 Jiang Zhi: Love Letters

More creative destruction, with flowers flambéed and photographed before they can decay. ▶ Jul 7

3 Warehouse Story

Vanguard Gallery Animations, North Korean émigrés and handjob etiquette. Fri 1 ▶ Jul 8

4 Wang Qing

Art Labor A mix of Beatrix Potter-esque urban denizens and airbrush painted romps in the tropics. ▶ Sun 10

5 Liao Wenfang: Minute Gestures

OV Gallery Interventionist photography that leans in the doorway of performance art. Sat 9 ▶ Jul 25



Liu Yue: Echo Refined minimalist works on Moganshan Lu. ▶ Thur 7

Other Gallery

101, Bldg 9, 50 Moganshan Lu, near Xi Suzhou Lu, Putuo district (3353 2273; www.othergallery.com.cn). Open 11am-6pm daily. ☎ Zhongtan Lu. 普陀区莫干山路50号9号楼101座, 近西苏州路

Zhang Yu: Sealed Fingerprints Works created at the tips of the artist's fingers are cut off from the audience in various ways. ▶ Sun 17

OV Gallery

Room 207, Bldg 4, 50 Moganshan Lu, near Xisuzhou Lu, Putuo district (5465 7768; www.ougallery.com). Open 10am-6pm Tue-Sun. ☎ Zhongtan Lu. 普陀区莫干山路50号4号楼207楼, 近西苏州路

Liao Wenfang: Minute Gestures In photographs and videos, Liao intervenes: he boxes an underpass, swims in a perfectly level hedge, and recreates a public park in the middle of a river. Sat 9 ▶ Jul 25

Pantocrátor Gallery

Room 105, Bldg 4B, 50 Moganshan Lu, near Xisuzhou Lu, Putuo district (135 8559 1942; www.pantocratorgallery.com). Open 11am-6pm Wed-Sun. ☎ Zhongtan Lu. 莫干山路50号4B号楼105楼

Mariano Vargas: Soltanto Maddone Mariano Vargas shoots boobs-out portraits styled on Italian Renaissance masters such as Botticelli, Raphael and da Vinci. ▶ Fri 15

ShangHART

Bldg 16-18, 50 Moganshan Lu, near Xi Suzhou Lu, Putuo district (6276 2818; www.shanghart.com). Open 1-6pm daily. ☎ Zhongtan Lu. 普陀区莫干山路50号18号楼, 近西苏州路

Shi Qing: All That is Solid Melts Into Air Shi Qing examines art production and consumption by displaying work materials experimental models, unfinished works and reproductions. The exhibition takes its name from a line in Marx and Engels' The Manifesto of the Communist Party (1848), which is likewise concerned with production and illusion. ▶ Sat 30

ShangHART Group Exhibition A classic summer show from one of Shanghai's most esteemed galleries. ▶ Wed 20

Studio Rouge M50

Room 109, Bldg 7, 50 Moganshan Lu, near Xi Suzhou Lu, Putuo district (138 0174 1782; www.studiourouge.cn). Open 10.30am-6pm daily. ☎ Zhongtan Lu. 普陀区莫干山路50号109室7楼, 近西苏州路

Nirvana Now French artist Tao Hongjing creates cubist Buddhas in ten carat gold, Chinese landscape silkscreens on paper (they have the visual texture of money), and the 'Amithaba' series of Looney Tunes-esque concentric circles. ▶ Sun 10

What Can I Do To Attract You? A multimedia group show themed on our attempts to engage people romantically, professionally and otherwise. Opening party 4-8pm Sat 16. Sun 17 ▶ Jul 15

Vanguard Gallery

Second Floor, Bldg 4A, 50 Moganshan Lu, near Xi Suzhou Lu, Putuo district (6299 3523; www.vanguardgallery.com). Open 11am-6pm Tue-Sun. ☎ Zhongtan Lu. 普陀区莫干山路50号4A号楼2楼, 近西苏州路

Warehouse Story Gao Mingyan shows his 'Misunderstanding' series; Nam Hyeojun explores his identity as a Japanese born to North Korean parents; and Zhang Lehua appropriates the imperative voice of official pamphlets and public signage to imagine the state position on subjects such as hand job etiquette. Fri 1 ▶ Jul 8

Putuo

Art-Ba-Ba Mobile Space

Created by artists over art social network art-ba-ba.com, this 'space' has only a temporary address: Room 5215, 2/F, Bldg 5, 18 Wuwei Road, near Qilianshan Lu, Putuo district (no tel; www.art-ba-ba.com). Open 2-5pm daily. ☎ Qilianshan Lu. 普陀区武威路18号5号楼, 近祁连山路

Zan Jbai: Flesh, Ink... How Is Everything Going There? Zan Jbai contrasts our attitudes towards often derided tubes of 'skin tone' oil paint and the mystic qualities attributed to Chinese ink. Opening party Sat 2, 4-7pm. Sun 3 ▶ Jul 1

Yu Ji: Double Screens False walls and windows create illusions about the space audiences enter. The room will shift again during the course of the exhibition. Opening party Sat 2, 4-7pm. Sun 3 ▶ Jul 1

TOP Contemporary Art Centre

Building 5, 18 Wuwei Lu, near Qilianshan Lu, Putuo district (6250 4569). Open 2-5pm daily. ☎ Qilianshan Lu. 普陀区武威路18号5号楼, 近祁连山路

Zhang Ding: Buddha Jumps Over the Wall A brilliant Shanghai-based new media artist visits total carnage on a menagerie of plaster animal models. At the opening party, Zhang hopes to have ball room dancers, music, and chefs preparing fo tiao qiang, the mixed meat dish that inspired their work. See Feature, page 53. Opening party Sat 2, 4-7pm. Sun 3 ▶ Jul 1