



## **Chinese Pavilion at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Venice Biennial**

***To See a World in a Grain of Sand (Jian Wei Zhi Zhu 见微知著)***

**6 June – 22 November 2009**

Exhibiting Artists: Fang Lijun, He Jinwei, He Sen, Liu Ding, Qiu Zhijie, Zeng Fanzhi and Zeng Hao

Curators: Lu Hao, Zhao Li

**Giardino delle Vergini, Castello 2169 /F - 30122 Venezia  
Magazzino delle Cisterne, Castello 2169 /F -30122 Venezia**

**Beijing, May 19, 2009** - China Arts and Entertainment Group today formally announces Chinese Pavilion at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Venice Biennial, Venice, China's third participation in the biannual international art exhibition – *To See a World in a Grain of Sand (Jian Wei Zhi Zhu 见微知著)*.

Internationally renowned Chinese artist Lu Hao, an important representative of post-1999 contemporary Chinese art, will curate *To See a World in a Grain of Sand (Jian Wei Zhi Zhu 见微知著)*, at the Virgini Garden, Arsenale. The Venice Biennial and the artist are no strangers: Lu Hao was invited to participate in the thematic exhibition of the 48<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennial, the 25<sup>th</sup> Sao Paulo Biennial and Documenta 12.

As an associate professor at the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, Zhao Li and a prolific critic, Zhao Li was able to take into consideration multiple perspectives in the selection process and in the laying out of the exhibition strategies; international and local, and those of the artistic and academic communities. His curation of the exhibition is an experiment with which to endow the Chinese Pavilion with more Chinese characteristics and to further focus attention on emerging artists from the region. *To See a World in a Grain of Sand (Jian Wei Zhi Zhu 见微知著)* will seek to strengthen new forces burgeoning on the contemporary Chinese art scene, and to retain its international scope and vision without deviating from the latest trends emerging in the Chinese art world.

The theme and title of the Chinese Pavilion, *To See a World in a Grain of Sand (Jian Wei Zhi Zhu 见微知著)* comes from the translation of a Chinese idiom derived from the classic text by scholar and philosopher, Han Fei Zi·Shuo Lin Shang, signifying that trends in the future can be gleaned from the development from a tiny detail. Representing the realisation of a new value system the derivatives of which will continue to expand in the future, the exhibition will show Chinese society's integration within the historical process into the multiplex, shifting and

interdependent international order, demonstrate the vitality of China in her modernisation process and symbolise the differing charms of the Chinese way in a new context.

In accordance with this year's curating strategy, China will send seven artists to participate in the exhibitions at the Chinese Pavilion at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Venice Biennial. They are Fang Lijun, He Jinwei, Hen Sen, Liu Ding, Qiu Zhijie, Zeng Fanzhi and Zeng Hao. All in their 30s or 40s, these artists are not only cultural reformers of contemporary Chinese society, but also participants in the evolution of contemporary Chinese art. Their works encompass shifts taking place in China, and highlight ultra individualism, originality and pluralism.

Within the ideology of *See a World in a Grain of Sand* (*Jian Wei Zhi Zhu 见微知著*), the participating artists will endeavour to make the most of their vivid individual exhibiting tactics using the Chinese way of 'understanding a larger picture through looking at a tiny fragment'. Moreover, they will seek to break away from the artistic styles for which they are known (such as canvas, installation, video) and from the insufficiency of the medium, and to no longer view the Arsenale and the Virgini Garden where the Pavilion is located as the space in which the exhibits are uniformly allocated, but as the background to which their works are shown against. A resulting spatial environment will be built through the inherent relationship between their works.

While the Chinese Pavilion will again be exhibited at the temporary venues of the Virgini Gardens and the Depot, the Chairman of the Venice Biennale, Paolo Baratta, has proposed that the Chinese Pavilion be held permanently in one of the conventional venues in future years.

Like its predecessor in 2007 and the 2008 International Architecture Biennial, the 2009 Chinese Pavilion is organized by the China Arts and Entertainment Group, which is affiliated to the Chinese Ministry of Culture. Mr. Zhang Yu, General Manager of the Group commented, "In the past few years, contemporary Chinese art has gained very impressive influence on the international stage. The Chinese Pavilion at this year's Biennial will once again show the global artistic community the tremendous transformation taking place in contemporary Chinese society and the important achievements contemporary Chinese art has made against such a background. As the bridge through which Chinese culture engages the world, China Arts and Entertainment Group will, through their participation in the Biennial, implement the strategic cultural policy of 'crossing the borders', and fully demonstrate the pluralistic development of contemporary Chinese art."

**For further information please contact [chinapavilion@brunswickgroup.com](mailto:chinapavilion@brunswickgroup.com)**

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#### **Note to Editors**

##### **Fang Lijun**

B. 1963, Handan, Hebei Province, graduated at Print Dept., Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, 1989. Recent exhibitions include Fang Lijun Solo Exhibition, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, P.R.China, 2007, and Chinese Painting: Zhang Xiaogang, Fang Lijun and Feng Mengbo, The Galerie Rudolfinum, Prague, Czech, and Fang Lijun, *ARARIO NEW YORK*, New York, U.S.A, both 2008.

##### **He Jinwei**

B. 1967 in Nanbu Country, Sichuan Province, Graduated from Sichuan Academy of Art, 1993. Lives and works in Beijing. Recent exhibitions include *Purlieu-Nirvana*, Long March Space, Beijing, 2006 and *View:Century* and *Paradise-Chengdu Biennale*, New International Exhibition and Convention Center, Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China, both 2008.

##### **He Sen**

B. 1968, Yunnan Province, graduated from Sichuan Academy of Fine Arts, Chongqing, Sichuan, 1989. Lives and works in Beijing. Recent exhibitions include *Do You Have Time Tonight*, Galerie Frank Schlag & Cie, *Essen Come Together*, Jack Tilton Gallery, New York, both 2008, *Best Print Collection of He Sen*, A Story Gallery, Busan, 2009 and *Metropolis Now! - A Selection of Chinese Contemporary Art*, The Meridian International Center, Washington, D.C, 2009.

#### **Liu Ding**

B. 1976, Changzhou Jiangsu Province, Lives and works in Beijing. Recent exhibitions include *Traces Of Sperm*, L.A. Galerie Frankfurt, Germany, *Heros And Others*, Galería Espacio Mínimo, Madrid, Spain, 2008, *I Wrote Down Some Of My Thoughts*, Galerie Urs Meile Beijing-Lucerne, Lucerne, Switzerland, 2009, and the 5th Latin-American Biennial Of Visual Arts, Instituto Paranaense De Arte, Curitiba, Brazil, 2009.

#### **Qiu Zhijie**

B.1969, Zhangzhou, Fujian Province, China, graduated from the Printmaking Department, Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts, 1992. Associate Professor, Mixed Media Art Department, CAA, Hangzhou, Co-Director, Visual Culture Center, CAA, Hangzhou. Lives and works in Beijing and Hangzhou, China. Recent exhibitions include *A Suicidology of The Nanjing Yangzi River Bridge 3- Breaking Through The Ice*, UCCA, Beijing, 2009, *The Real Things: Contemporary Chinese Art*, Tate Liverpool, UK, 2007, and *Our Future: The Guy & Myrian Ullens Foundation Collection*, UCCA, Beijing, 2008.

#### **Zeng Fanzhi**

B. 1964, Born in Wuhan, graduated from Hubei Academy of Fine Arts, 1991. Currently works and Lives in Beijing. Recent exhibitions include *Scapes - Zeng Fanzhi works from 1990-2004*, He Xiangning Art Museum, Shenzhen, China, 2004, and *Zeng Fanzhi*, Acquavella Gallery, New York, USA, and *Narcissus looks for Echo*, Suzhou Museum, Suzhou, China, 2009.

#### **Zeng Hao**

B.1963 In Kunming, Yunnan Province, lives and works in Beijing. Recent exhibitions Include *Zeng Hao's Works*, Marella Gallery, Milan, Italy, *Accelerate: Chinese Contemporary Art*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore (jointly presented with the National Art Museum of China), *Contemporary Invitation Exhibition*, ShenZhen Art Museum, ShenZhen, *Facing Reality*, National Art Museum, Beijing, Beijing-Athens, *Contemporary Art from China*, Greece National Contemporary Art Center, Athens, all 2008.