

artparis 09
18-23 march

press release

ifa gallery : booth D14

showing artists :

- Dai Guangyu..... ifa-gallery.com/artists/daiguangyu
- Gao Brothers..... ifa-gallery.com/artists/gaobrothers
- Fan Jiupeng..... ifa-gallery.com/artists/fanjiupeng
- Nguyen Minh Thanh..... ifa-gallery.com/artists/nguyenminhthanh
- Arnaud de Gramont..... ifa-gallery.com/artists/adegramont

In the framework of Art Paris, ifa gallery is pleased to present a selection of Chinese and Vietnamese artists representative of these two vibrant creative scenes in Asia.

The Gao Brothers, well known in Europe for their provocative frescos and Miss Mao sculptures, have two works on display. Less flashy and subtler are their 'Sense of Space', with its quasi mystique dimensions, and a more recent photographic work 'The Forever Unfinished Building no.4'. This veritable fresco of humanity is a technological feat: hundreds of figures relate the history of China and the world on this astonishing photograph that is three metres tall.

In a different vein, Dai Guangyu uses photography to record his performances works that are strongly linked to China and its social upheaval. His works are always very strong aesthetically and they are occupied by a fascination with the power and beauty of ink, which is explored from many angles: on the body; in installations, on fabric, as contemporary calligraphy. Dai Guangyu is one of the fathers of China's avant-garde of 1985 and also a leader of the Sichuan region where he restated performance as an art form and revisited the traditional usage of ink. For the past 30 years, his work is continually entwined with poetry and astutely interrogates Chinese society.

Fan Jiupeng, talented young painter and former student of Liu Xiaodong, has perfected a technique of double sided paintings; a system enabling the viewer to regard the front and the back of the work. On semi-opaque sheets

of PC or on canvas he creates amusing daily scenes often of the Beijing middle class. Listless youth, a couple strolling, old friends just out of the public baths... By playing with the two-sided system, Fan Jiupeng refers to the notion of people's double personalities and the various levels of interpretation in which people are required to engage in for many daily situations.

The present preoccupation with Chinese art often leaves surrounding countries with lively creative scenes ignored. Such is the case with Vietnam, opened up in 1986 with *Doi Moi*, the economic and political reforms that encouraged an awakening of contemporary research and experimentation, which broke away from the academicism of fine art. Nguyen Minh Thanh, born in 1970, was part of this generation. A graduate of the Hanoi University of Fine Arts, he chose to express himself freely, following his identity and personal references, a route which was quite opposite to the artistic references to nationalism and the propaganda still prominent at that time. In coloured ink on rice paper or canvas, his work is delicate and intense, and often features portraits of himself. His work bears an almost dream-like quality; of a being floating between two worlds. The language that he has developed is very personal and far from the clichés and exoticism that could be associated with Vietnam.

Finally, the work of Arnaud de Gramont with photography that explores space and light. Neon lines that flare up, vividly punctuating the black background. His images call on the megalopolis of Asia with bright colours and invasive lighting.

[end]

High resolution images and biographies :
press.ifa-gallery.com/artparis09

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image1 [JPG - 5.03MB - 300dpi - 18.58x12.4cm] *catalogue*

Dai Guangyu, "Shooting at Myself" ed. 1/5

C-print • 1997 • performance & installation (Sichuan) • 185x127cm

press.ifa-gallery.com/artparis09/images/dgy_shootingatmyself.jpg

image2 [JPG - 15.54MB - 300dpi - 27.6x18.4cm]

Dai Guangyu, "Picturesque Landscape" ed. 1/5

C-print • 2008 • performance (Germany) • 185x127cm

press.ifa-gallery.com/artparis09/images/dgy_picturesque.jpg

image3 [JPG - 8.68MB - 300dpi - 25x32.06cm]

Gao Brothers, "Sense of Space- Reading" ed. 3/10

C-print • 2000 • 78x100cm

press.ifa-gallery.com/artparis09/images/gao_senseofspace.jpg

image4 [JPG - 4.42MB - 300dpi - 30x10.13cm]

Gao Brothers, "Forever Unfinished Building No.4" ed. 2/8

C-print • 2007 • 295x100cm

press.ifa-gallery.com/artparis09/images/gao_bldg4.jpg

image5 [JPG - 3.70MB - 300dpi - 20.73x27.64cm]

Fan Jiupeng, "Red Sofa" / "Unmarried Couple"

Acrylic on Polycarbonate • 2008 • 130x93cm

press.ifa-gallery.com/artparis09/images/fjp_redsofa_unmarried.jpg

image6 [JPG - 1.84MB - 300dpi - 21.1x11.86cm]

Nguyen Minh Thanh, "Spring Flower"

Watercolour and Chinese ink on dô paper • 2009 • 110x61cm

press.ifa-gallery.com/artparis09/images/nmt_springflower.jpg

image7 [JPG - 1.97MB - 300dpi - 21.35x11.91cm] *catalogue*

Nguyen Minh Thanh, "Blue Fortune"

Watercolour and Chinese ink on Dô paper • 2009 • 112x61cm

press.ifa-gallery.com/artparis09/images/nmt_bluefortune.jpg

image8 [JPG - 1.49MB - 300dpi - 18x24.32cm]

Arnaud de Gramont, "2003/02" ed. 1/3

C-Print • 2003 • 90x120cm

press.ifa-gallery.com/artparis09/images/ag_2003-02.jpg

image9 [JPG - 1.42MB - 300dpi - 18x23.91cm]

Arnaud de Gramont, "2005/08" ed. 1/3

C-Print • 2005 • 90x120cm

press.ifa-gallery.com/artparis09/images/ag_2005-08.jpg

introduction to the gallery:

ifa gallery was established in May 2006 in a 700sqm converted textile factory space in Moganshan Road - m50 Creative Centre – Shanghai's contemporary art district. With a quality exhibition programme of principally Chinese contemporary art, and a supporting line-up of performance, cinema and musical events, the gallery contributed to the dynamism of the area. Major exhibitions during that time include the solo shows of Park Sung-Tae (Korea) and sought-after young artist Liu Bolin (China).

In Summer 2008, ifa relocated to new premises, a charming residence built in 1923 for an official of the British Customs House. The gallery offers an innovative and artistic angle to the central part of the city and acts as an artistic meeting point for contemporary art in Shanghai.

ifa gallery exhibits contemporary art from Asia with a focus on Chinese art. The gallery is also oriented towards South East Asian art, and the work of artists, regardless of origin, that have a specific influence or association with Asia.

We represent both established artists such as Dai Guangyu, a leading figure of China's avant-garde, and the Gao Brothers; as well as emerging artists, including recent graduates of the fine arts schools in Beijing and Hangzhou. ifa features work in a wide range of media formats, from painting to photography, video, installation and performance.

For 2009, the gallery will feature two seasons of Vietnamese art with an overview exhibition of the current state of the arts in spring and a second exhibition of works of established artists such as Dinh Y Nhi and Nguyen Minh Thanh in autumn.

Continuing this exploration of Asia, the work of young photographers of non-Asian background will articulate different approaches in the expression of China's multiple faces.

Additionally, an influential and little known period in Chinese contemporary art history will be unveiled with an exhibition and comprehensive publication on the community of artists in Dongbahe, near Beijing, from 1995-1997.

ifa's international team presents and supports artists that have an original language and means of expression, that shy away from clichés and conventions and that have strong concepts and artistic vision.

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**French mobile available from 15 to 25 March 09*