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**ALWAYS FRESH  
ALWAYS FREE**

**The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is pleased to present work  
by Chinese artists working in video and video installation.**

*Perspectives 180*  
*Unfinished Country: New Video from China*

Opening Reception  
Thursday, November 1, 6:30-9PM



Chen Qiulin, *Ellipsis*, 2001. Performance video, 25 min. Courtesy the artist.

HOUSTON, TX (October 15, 2012)—Since the introduction of market-based economic reforms in 1978, China has become one of the world’s fastest growing economies. Parallel to this economic growth has been the unprecedented production of art. While the majority of contemporary art practices have centered upon the traditional genres of painting and sculpture, the expansion of work in video and new media has been rapidly evolving. *Perspectives 180—Unfinished Country: New Video from China* presents a cross-section of work by a new generation of Chinese artists working in video and video installation. The exhibition is guest curated by James Elaine, an independent curator who has lived and worked in China since 2008.

Not long ago works in new media were unavailable and, depending on content, even illegal in China. But now the medium is at the forefront of a new generation of young artists. Formerly a curator at the

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Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, Elaine moved to China to experience first-hand the country's rapidly evolving culture and its impact upon the production of contemporary art. What he has chronicled, first in an exhibition and later in a blog for the Hammer, is work by a new generation of artists emerging from China who are increasingly inventive, thoughtful, and masterful in their use of the medium.

*Unfinished Country: New Video from China* is presented in two parts. On view at CAMH is work by eleven young emerging artists from China ranging from projections to sculpture and installations. Featured artists are Chen Qiulin, Chen Zhou, Hu Xiaoyuan, Huang Ran, Jin Shan, Li Ming, Li Ran, Lu Yang, Ma Qiusha, Sun Xun, and Yan Xing.

A separate but integral component of the exhibition is a selection of cinematic shorts that will screen at Asia Society Texas Center. The two-part screening features work from artists Cheng Ran, Chen Xiaoyun, Wang Qingsong, Yang Fudong, Yu Ying, Zhai Chenglei, and Zhang Ding, among others. The screenings are on Sunday, December 2 and Sunday, January 6, both at 5PM.

"The title *Unfinished Country* comes from a video of the same name by Yu Ying, a recent graduate of the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing. His video is based on an unfinished painting from the Cultural Revolution era in China. I borrowed his title intending it to portray contemporary China in a broader sense—the country is in transition in every respect. *Unfinished Country* provides us a small window through which to view what is going on in the minds and lives of these artists and to look at the ancient country of China as it rises to a new position in the twenty-first century," says Elaine.

#### **ABOUT THE GUEST CURATOR**

James Elaine is an independent curator who has lived and worked in China since 2008. Formerly, he was curator at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles and the Drawing Center in New York. For over 20 years, he has focused on the work of emerging artists. His most recent curatorial projects include *Antony* (2012) at the Hammer Museum and *In a Perfect World....* (2011) at Meulensteen Gallery, New York, which featured painting, sculpture, video, and installation work from China. Elaine has written and lectured extensively on contemporary art from Asia and is a faculty member for Art International Residency Projects in Beijing. In 2008, he was the recipient of the prestigious Ordway Prize.

#### **PUBLICATION**

*Unfinished Country: New Video from China* is accompanied by an illustrated, small-format Perspectives publication that includes an introduction by the exhibition's curator James Elaine, as well as an essay by Su Wei, an independent art critic and curator based in Beijing. Su Wei received his Ph.D. degree from Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in German studies and is a contributor to Independent Criticism and LEAP. He was a co-curator of *Little Movements: Self-Practice in Contemporary Art* presented at OCT Contemporary Art Terminal (OCAT), Shenzhen, China (2011) as well as the 7th Shenzhen Sculpture Biennale *Accidental Message: Art is Not a System, Not a World* at OCAT (2012). The twenty-one-page catalogue will contain a checklist of works in the exhibition as well as information on the project's cinematic section, and short biographies about each artist.

#### **ABOUT ASIA SOCIETY TEXAS CENTER**

[Asia Society Texas Center](#) is part of a leading global educational organization dedicated to promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among peoples, leaders, and institutions of Asia and the United States in a global context. Across the fields of arts, business, culture, education, and policy, Asia Society Texas Center provides insight, generates ideas, and promotes collaboration to connect Americans and Asians for a shared future.



## **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

**All events are free and open to the public and take place at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston unless otherwise noted. For complete listings and current information, please check [www.camh.org](http://www.camh.org).**

### **Opening Reception: *Perspectives 180—Unfinished Country: New Video from China* Thursday, November 1, 6:30-9PM**

Join us for the opening reception of *Unfinished Country*. Guest curator James Elaine will lead a gallery walk-through of the group exhibition beginning at 6:30PM.

### **Screening: *New Video from China, Program 1*\***

**Sunday, December 2, 5PM**

\*Special location: Asia Society Texas Center, 1370 Southmore Blvd., Houston 77004

Join us at Asia Society Texas Center for the first of a two-part special screening of works by Chinese artists. The program includes Yu Ying's *Unfinished Country*, Huang Ran's *Blithe Tragedy*, Lu Yang's *Reanimation! Zombie Frog Underwater Ballet!*, Chen Qiulin's *River, River*, Cheng Ran's *Tears*, Sun Xun's *Beyond-ism*, and Zhang Ding's *Great Era*. 75 min. Admission is free.

*Co-presented by Asia Society Texas Center*

### **Screening: *New Video from China, Program 2*\***

**Sunday, January 6, 5PM**

\*Special location: Asia Society Texas Center, 1370 Southmore Blvd., Houston 77004

Join us at Asia Society Texas Center for the second of a two-part special screening of works by Chinese artists. The program includes Wang Qingsong's *1 2 3 4 5 6 Chops*, Chen Qiulin's *Ellipsis*, Chen Xiaoyun's *Love You Big Boss*, Sun Xun's *21G*, Zhai Chenglei's *Half Underground*, and Yang Fudong's *Liu Lan*. 93 min. Admission is free.

*Co-presented by Asia Society Texas Center*

## **EXHIBITION SUPPORT**

*The Perspectives Series* is made possible by a major grant from Faye Sarofim and by donors to the Museum's *Perspectives Fund*: Anonymous, Bright Star Productions Inc., The Brown Foundation, Inc., Dillon Kyle Architecture, Heidi and David Gerger, Kerry Inman and Denby Auble, Mady and Ken Kades, Karol Kreymer and Robert J. Card, M.D., Poppi Massey, Leslie and Shannon Sasser in Honor of Lynn Herbert, William F. Stern, Martha Claire Tompkins, and 20K Group, LLC.

## **EDUCATION SUPPORT**

The Museum receives support for its education programs from: Anonymous, Louise D. Jamail, Mr. and Mrs. I.H. Kempner III, Kinder Morgan Foundation, Robert and Pearl Wallis Knox Foundation, Leticia Loya, Elisabeth McCabe, M.D. Anderson Foundation, Marian and Speros Martel Foundation Endowment, Mark and Mary Ann Miller, Texas Commission on the Arts, Texas Women for the Arts, Ms. Louisa Stude Sarofim, Martha Claire Tompkins, and Elizabeth Satel Young.

Teen Council is supported by Ms. Louisa Stude Sarofim, Texas Women for the Arts, and Texas Commission on the Arts.

## **GENERAL SUPPORT**

Funding for the Museum's operations through the Fund for the Future is made possible by generous grants from Chinhui Juhn and Eddie Allen, Anonymous, Jereann Chaney, Sara Dodd-Spickelmier and Keith Spickelmier, Jo and Jim Furr, Barbara and Michael Gamson, Brenda and William Goldberg, Marley Lott, Leticia Loya and Fayez Sarofim.

CAMH's operations and programs are made possible through the generosity of the Museum's trustees, patrons, members, and donors. The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston receives partial operating support from the Houston Endowment, the City of Houston through the Houston Museum District Association, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and The Wortham Foundation, Inc. CAMH also thanks its artist benefactors for their support including Ricci Albenda, Anonymous, McArthur Binion, Brendan Cass, Mel Chin, Leonardo Drew, Tim Gardner, Robert Gober, Wayne Gonzales, Oliver Herring, Jim Hodges, Michael Joo, Kurt Kauper, Jon Kessler, Terence Koh, Sean Landers, Zoe Leonard, Marilyn Minter, Donald Moffett, Ernesto Neto, Roxy Paine, Laurie Simmons, Josh Smith, Marc Swanson, and William Wegman.

United is the official airline of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston.

## **CAMH MISSION**

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is a leading destination to experience innovative art. CAMH actively encourages public engagement with its exhibitions through its educational programs, publications, and online presence.

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard, at the corner of Montrose and Bissonnet, in the heart of Houston's Museum District. Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10AM-7PM, Thursday 10AM-9PM, Saturday 10AM-6PM, and Sunday 12PM-6PM. Admission is always free. For more information, visit [www.camh.org](http://www.camh.org) or call 713 284 8250.