

ULLENS CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART 尤伦斯当代艺术中心

LATEST INSTALLMENT IN “CURATED BY...” SERIES TO SHOWCASE FIVE RISING TALENTS

April 14, 2012. Beijing, China

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Curator: MadeIn Company

Media/UCCA Members/VIP Preview:

April 14

Exhibition dates:

April 15 – May 27, 2012

MadeIn Company curates “Standing on the Shoulders of Little Clowns,” a new project by GUEST at UCCA.

UCCA is delighted to announce its upcoming exhibition “Standing on the Shoulders of Little Clowns” by the artist collective GUEST. This is the latest in UCCA’s ongoing “Curated By...” series and the first to feature a collaborative project.

GUEST, a new collective established for the purpose of this exhibition but already active on other projects, comprises five of China’s most convincing young talents: Li Ming, Lin Ke, Lu Pingyuan, Xu Qu, and Zhao Yao, all of whom have also begun promising solo careers. In this assemblage of installation, painting, and performance, GUEST attempts to capture the absurd, poke fun at the self, and entreat the audience to “stop being so serious.”

Here, GUEST presents itself in the form of a circus. The works draw influence from the theatrics and fantastic disorder of a carnival, encouraging “an exit from reality, then a willingness to laugh at oneself, and finally a realistic acceptance of chaos,” in the artists’ words. Performers clown around, acrobats maintain precision and symmetry, and a piece of meat has been tamed. The works evoke at once blank faces and raucous laughter, self-deprecating punnery and serious introspection.

Created by Shanghai-based artist Xu Zhen in 2009, MadeIn Company is an artistic collective that acts as a platform for clever, collaborative expression. An influential conceptual artist in his own right, Xu Zhen’s intent in founding MadeIn Company was to downplay his own persona and provide direction for other artists. MadeIn Company has developed a tricky artistic personality, often employing disguises and playing with the audience. In an effort to force viewers to question their own interpretations, MadeIn Company have done everything from stage a “group show of Middle Eastern artists” to mounting a recent show in which sculptures were only visible fleetingly when tossed into



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the air above a set of empty walls built in the gallery.

With the punchline “madness is like gravity... all you need is a little push,” Madeln Company has curated an exhibition that juxtaposes the absurd with the somber, but amidst the confusion, the viewer may be unable to distinguish the two once the big top comes down.

Related Programs

smart Artists' Talk Series: What Do GUEST Want to Break Through?

Time: Sunday, May 6, 14.00-15.30

Venue: UCCA Auditorium

Guests: members of exhibiting artist collective, GUEST

Zhao Yao, Lu Pingyuan, Xu Qu

Language: Chinese with English translation

Exploring our Exhibitions: Standing on the Shoulders of Little Clowns

Time: Sunday, May 13, 10.00-11.30

Venue: UCCA La Suite

Teachers: Luo Zhen, Ding Zhaogeng

Language: Chinese

About UCCA

The Ullens Center for Contemporary Art is a not-for-profit art center in Beijing, located at the heart of the 798 Art District. As a platform for contemporary art linking China and the world, UCCA offers around 15 exhibitions a year and over 500 public programs including art talks, film screenings, performances, workshops and public festivals. The international center maintains a special focus on recent developments and historical movements in Chinese contemporary culture, showcasing the latest in art and design and fostering international exchange.

www.ucca.org.cn

About the “Curated By...” Series

Initiated in July 2008 by former UCCA Director Jérôme Sans, the UCCA “Curated By...” series invites established Chinese artists to recommend emerging talents and curate exhibitions for them. The series helps to forge connections between artists of various ages working at different stages of their careers, and provides valuable exposure and exhibition opportunities for young Chinese artists, particularly those who have never held a solo exhibition before. This will be the 14th “Curated By...” in

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the series. Bloomberg initiated sponsorship of the series in 2011.

About MadelN Company

MadelN Company, established in 2009 in Shanghai by Xu Zhen, is a contemporary art creation company focused on the production of creativity and devoted to researching the infinite possibilities of contemporary culture.

MadelN Company's exhibitions include: "Seeing One's Own Eyes – Middle East Contemporary Art Exhibition," ShanghART Gallery & H-Space (Shanghai, 2009), S.M.A.K., (Gent, Belgium, 2009), and IKON Gallery (Birmingham, UK, 2010); "Physique of Consciousness" Kunsthalle Bern (2011) and Long March Space (Beijing, 2011); "Action of Consciousness" ShanghART Gallery (Shanghai, 2011). MadelN Company also participated in the 8th Shanghai Biennale and the 7th Busan Biennale (both 2010), as well as other group shows including an exhibition at UCCA (Beijing, 2009) and RijksakademieOPEN (Amsterdam, 2011). Curatorial projects in Shanghai include the group show, "Bourgeoisified Proletariat," Shanghai Songjiang Creative Studio (2009), as well as exhibitions at MadelN Space (2010) and TOP Contemporary Art Center (2011).

About Xu Zhen

Xu Zhen (b. 1977, Shanghai) graduated from the Shanghai Arts & Crafts Institute in 1996 and exhibited widely under his own name before establishing the collective MadelN in 2009. Major exhibitions include "The Conspiracy" at the Kunsthalle Bern (2009); "China Power Station" at the Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art (Oslo, 2007); and "The Real Thing: Contemporary Art from China" at Tate Liverpool (2007). He was featured in the China Pavilion at the 51st Venice Biennale (2005) and participated in the 2007 Istanbul Biennial. Xu Zhen lives and works in Shanghai.

About GUEST

Li Ming (b. 1986, Yuanjiang, Hunan province) graduated from the New Media department at the China Academy of Art in 2008. He has exhibited widely in Beijing and Shanghai, having mounted a solo show "XX" at Platform China (Beijing, 2009), and participated with several well-known and upcoming artists in "EXHIBITION" at Taikang Space (Beijing, 2011). Li Ming lives and works in Hangzhou and is a member of the Shuangfei Arts Center.

Lin Ke (b. 1984, Wenzhou, Zhejiang province) graduated from the New Media department at the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) in 2008. He has participated in multiple collaborative projects and group exhibitions, including the "TOP Event" project (Shanghai, 2011), "Get It Louder" in (Beijing, 2010), and MadelN Company Space's "Dedicated to Money Makers | Li Ming, Lin Ke, Yang Junling" (2010). Lin Ke lives and works in Hangzhou and is a member of the Shuangfei Arts Center.

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Lu Pingyuan (b. 1984, Jinhua, Zhejiang province) graduated from the China Academy of Art's Shanghai Institute of Design in 2007. His installations, videos, paintings, and performances have been exhibited widely in Shanghai, including "Reflection of Minds" at the Shanghai MoCA Envisage Biennale (2010). Lu was also an IASPIS resident artist in Gothenberg, Sweden, and mounted a solo exhibition "Time Capsule" at Galleri Box in 2011. He lives and works in Shanghai.

Xu Qu (b. 1978, Suzhou) graduated from the Nanjing Art Institute in 2002. After finishing graduate studies at Braunschweig University of Art in 2007, Xu completed "Meisterschüler," a postgraduate program under Professor John Armleder. His work, which includes performance and video, has been shown in Europe and China; exhibitions include "XXQQ record 3:22" Art Recorders, Art Basel 39 (2008) and "51m2 No. 11: Xu Qu" at Taikang Space (Beijing, 2010).

Zhao Yao (b. 1981, Luzhou, Sichuan province) graduated from the Design Arts department at the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute in 2004. He began participating in group exhibitions in 2003, including "Entry Gate: Chinese Aesthetics of Heterogeneity" at Shanghai MoCA (2006) and "No Soul for Sale" at the Tate Modern (2010). His solo exhibitions of paintings, sculpture, and installations include "51m2 No. 3: Zhao Yao" at Taikang Space (Beijing, 2010) and "I Am Your Night" at Beijing Commune (2011). Zhao Yao lives and works in Beijing.