

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

Editorial contact:

Sybella Chow
+86 10 5780 0253
+86 186 1115 7030

sybella.chow@ucca.org.cn

Exhibition dates:

Jan 15, 2011 - Mar 9, 2011

Curated by Rong Rong: Inner Ear —The voice of new Chinese photography comes through loud and clear

January 15, 2011. Beijing.

In *Qiu & Ren Hang: Inner Ear*, the latest addition to UCCA's popular **Curated by...** series, the voice of new Chinese photography comes through loud and clear. Guest curator Rong Rong, famed photographer and founder of the Three Shadows Photography Arts Center in Beijing, has selected work from two very different young talents, Qiu and Ren Hang, offering us a tantalizing glimpse into the future of Chinese photography.

UCCA and Bloomberg: Bringing China's "rising stars" to a broader public

UCCA is particularly pleased that this exhibition will be free to the public, thanks to Bloomberg's generous sponsorship of the UCCA **Curated by...** series. All through 2011, UCCA and Bloomberg will be teaming up for a fantastic line-up of **Curated by...** exhibitions in UCCA's Black Box and White Cube spaces. The list of established guest curators for 2011 includes Rong Rong, Zhan Wang, Zhang Peili and many more. All **Curated By...** exhibitions will be accompanied by specially-designed art workshops to enrich the lives of the children of migrant workers.

Qiu & Ren Hang: Different Parts Working in Concert

“*Inner Ear* showcases two very different young talents working on the frontiers of Chinese photography,” writes UCCA Director Jérôme Sans in his preface to the exhibition. “Qiu’s poetic black and white images are often grainy or blurred: like scenes glimpsed through a pane of rain-spattered glass, they evoke memories of rural southern Chinese landscapes and a rapidly disappearing way of life. Ren Hang’s clean lines, vivid colors and playful eroticism reflect the new urban China: his young subjects strike poses in sterile apartments, couple on nondescript sofas, crouch on cold porcelain toilets or tiled bathroom floors...”

Exhibition curator Rong Rong likens the two young photographers to the parts of the inner ear – the cochlea and the vestibular system, respectively – that allow us to hear and to maintain our equilibrium. Different parts working in concert, transmitting messages “straight to our synapses.” Rong Rong describes Qiu’s contemplative black and white images as “fragments of silent poetry, born of southern China, the place he [the artist] calls home.” Of Ren Hang’s color photography, he writes, “His youthful tableaux, played out like scenes from a silent film, show us life at its most primal and instinctive, in all its unrestrained creativity.”

In his artist statement, Qiu describes himself as “a collector of memories” with conflicting feelings about urban development and disappearing traditions. “Coming to the city from the countryside has made me a passive participant in China’s urbanization,” he writes. “The only thing I can do is maintain my right to observe and experience the world.” If Qiu uses his camera for recollection and remembrance, Ren Hang uses his camera to shock the senses and document “the brutal after-effects – the unbearable tension, self-isolation and abnormal psyches – bred by societal oppression and repression. These things I have seen with my own eyes...”

Summing up the exhibition that places the work of these two unique young photographers side by side, UCCA Director Jérôme Sans writes:

“Like the inner ear, whose differentiated parts are necessary for hearing and equilibrium, the work of Qiu and Ren Hang allows us to hear more clearly the voices of this generation, and to maintain our sense of balance in an age of disequilibrium.”

About the Artists

Qiu was born in Pingyuan, Guangdong Province, in 1974. He currently lives and works in Guangzhou. Qiu's lush, lyrically introspective black and white photography delves into the artist's mind, depicting the world through the filter of his own emotions. He transforms dreamlike subject matter into a quiet and meditative vision based on classical photographic principles.

Ren Hang, born in Jilin Province in 1987, now lives and works in Beijing. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Advertising Department of Communication University of China in 2010. With intense clarity of color and an uncompromising curiosity about the physical realm of both men and women, Ren Hang's increasingly expansive body of work captures the edgy perspective of contemporary Chinese youth.

Related Events at UCCA

Artists' Talk: The Language of Images A Dialogue with Photographers

Guests: Rong Rong, Qiu, Ren Hang
Saturday, Jan 15, 2011 13:00-14:30
UCCA Auditorium
Chinese with English translation

Migrant School Students' Art Program Rainbow Journey 8: Face to Face with Photography

Guest: Ren Hang
Thursday, Feb 24, 2011 14:00-16:00
UCCA Loft
In Chinese only

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

About the UCCA *Curated by...* Series

Initiated in July 2008 by 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. Thus far, UCCA has presented 9 *Curated by...* exhibitions in its Black Box & White Cube space. The average age of the thirteen young artists showcased in these exhibitions was 30 years old; the youngest was a second-year student at the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) in Beijing.

About UCCA

The Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) is a non-profit, comprehensive art center founded by collectors Guy and Myriam Ullens in November 2007. UCCA presents exhibitions of established and emerging artists and develops a trusted platform to share knowledge through education and research.