

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

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April 1, 2011 - June 26, 2011

Wang Jianwei: *Yellow Signal*

—Dynamic 4-part multimedia exhibition explores the realm between permission and prohibition

April 1, 2011. Beijing.

Yellow Signal, the first UCCA solo show by pioneering video and multimedia artist Wang Jianwei, is the largest and most ambitious multimedia exhibition ever showcased in China. In *Yellow Signal*, the yellow traffic light is both signal and signifier, a physical expression of the legal limbo between red and green, prohibition and permission. Designed specifically for UCCA's Big Hall exhibition space, *Yellow Signal* is a work in constant progress, an ongoing narrative in the form of four consecutive "chapters" that will be unveiled over the course of the exhibition.

UCCA Director Jérôme Sans says that Wang Jianwei uses "elements of theatre, philosophical inquiry, artistic methodology and 'scripted accident' to illuminate the in-between, that poorly-defined grey zone where most of us live—and where most of the really interesting things happen."

The exhibition unfolds in four separate chapters. The first chapter, *Making do with Fakes*, features eight different videos projected upon four large gateways, or portals. The projected images are experienced differently depending on how one passes through the portals. The second chapter, "*We know what we are doing...*", is an installation of basketballs and linked basketball hoops snaking throughout the exhibition hall. Chapter three, *Internal Conflict*, involves a series of dynamic mixed-media installations, while the fourth and final chapter, *Go to the Conference Room on the 13th Floor for Free Films*, attempts

to create “an impossible space” via a useless rubber staircase that takes us nowhere.

In his artist’s statement, Wang Jianwei explains that the yellow traffic light “signals the termination of the given right of green, and the negation of the given right of red. It is only when the other two lose their monopoly on dominance that the yellow signal can gain its rightful place as a legitimate state of in-between.” The exhibition itself represents “a setting whose constant state lies somewhere between permission and prohibition, activity and passivity.”

Wang Jianwei’s work has always been thought-provoking and ambitious, and *Yellow Signal* is no exception. UCCA Art Department Director Zheng Yan notes that the exhibition presents us with a space between opposing concepts whose “blurred interactions offer us even more complex truths... As the saying goes, ‘Spectators see the game more clearly than the players.’ Perhaps this is what exhibition-goers are meant to ponder: whether or not they can recognize how their perspective shifts when frames of reference change or interfere.”

UCCA Director Jérôme Sans stresses the evolving nature of the exhibition, which makes *Yellow Signal* “an open invitation for audiences to return again and again to experience each stage as it happens, and to become an integral part of an evolving process.”

This exhibition is co-produced with Long March Space.

About Wang Jianwei

Wang Jianwei (b. 1958, Sichuan), a pioneering figure in Chinese contemporary art, currently lives and works in Beijing. With an eclectic practice that encompasses video, installation, sculpture and performance, Wang Jianwei employs diverse media to discover and expose the connection between beings, matters and concepts that may seem random on the surface. His work displays elements of the theatrical and cinematic, with large and small dramas of daily life staged against a backdrop of history, philosophy, literature and modern criticism.

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Wang Jianwei's major solo exhibitions include *Yellow Signal* (2011, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing); *Time Theater Exhibition* (2009, Today Art Museum, Beijing); *Hostage* (2008, Shanghai Zenda Museum of Modern Art) and *Dilemma: Three Way Fork in the Road* (2007, Chambers Fine Art, New York.) UCCA visitors may also be familiar with the artist's *Engineering System Project*, an eye-catching installation of brightly colored pipes and a red-curtained stage that is one of the most recognizable works in UCCA's semi-permanent Super Fengshui collection.

Related Events at UCCA

Artists' Talk: "Yellow Light Community" – A Dialogue with Wang Jianwei & Shu Kewen

April 17 / 14:00-15:30 / UCCA Auditorium

Guest speakers: Wang Jianwei, Shu Kewen

Language: Chinese with English translation

Artists' Workshop

June 19 / 14:00-15:30 / UCCA La Suite

Guest speaker: Wang Jianwei

Language: Chinese

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.