RADE BY CHINESE **ZHANG LEHUA** THE INTERPRETER WHO INTERRUPTS

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ZHANG LEHUA / THE INTERPRETER WHO INTERRUPTS, AN EXHIBITION CURATED BY MIAN MIAN 8TH OF JANUARY TO 7TH OF FEBRUARY 2015, GALERIES ENRICO NAVARRA AND 75 FAUBOURG



Shanghai-born and based artist, Zhang Lehua was born in 1985. Graduated from the Huashan Art School in 2004, and later studied in the New Media Department of the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou, graduating in 2008. Zhang's practice has included video, installation, performance, photography and more recently, painting. He is also a member of Double Fly (Shuang Fei), a new media art collective established in 2008 and active in Shanghai, Hangzhou and Beijing.

His last personal exhibitions were held in China: Black-Bone Chicken (2009, C5 Art Center, Beijing), Love in a Golden Bowl: Zhang Lehua Solo Exhibition (2013 Art Plus, Shanghai) and The World's Longing for Lushan (2013, Vanguard Gallery, Shanghai). This exhibition with the Enrico Navarra Gallery is his first time in Europe.



Mian Mian lives in Shanghai and works as a writer and an art event producer/curator and a film maker. Her novels be published 16 langueges world wild. Each art event she made is like her literary work, in that it always secures the involvement of pioneering ,economic, political, electronic and rock music and communities.

Mian Mian's work and life influent very much the young people in china, who are born in 70s, 80s. She has become a cultural icon to a generation of Chinese youth who value her authenticity and honesty in portraying the new future of Shanghai. In a rapidly changing China which is in a state of violent transformation, Mian Mian is a creator of culture who uses art to facilitate communication.



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Zhang Lehua

My recent work is based on painting, this rich system of a medium. I still take "observation", "experience", and "description" as the basis for action—yet rather ironically "interpreting" the scenes of reality we see and attempting a bit cruelly to produce specimens out of what we see.

Zhang Lehua



Mian Mian

Zhang Lehua is the ultimate epitome of the young Shanghai artists born in the 1980s, who grew up in Shanghai and had practically never travelled far abroad. They are a hybrid mix of talent, nihilism, emptiness, hard-heartedness, innocence and warmth.

From an early point, Zhang Lehua has considered "painting well" and "being a good student" to be a disgrace; he has strived and contrived to remain vigilant of all pre-existing rules, attempting to skirt and sidestep them. Every time I want to give him a few kicks, I always immediately find what is moving in him: he has kept up with his usual earnestness in "interrupting and interpreting" all kinds of mass information, generating various varieties of the inarticulate, of self-mockery, and of self-abuse.

I do not know if he is innately broken or if he had once been deeply damaged. He doubts all value systems in education and art, but I absolutely do not doubt that he has always been a serious artist. His artistic experimentation is like burrowing into one frightful cave after another; whenever he reemerges from the cave, we all eagerly await his next experiment.

Mian Mian



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Teenage Demo

The Teenage Demo series is an exercise in drawing with a nostalgic and Pop-like form. The meaningful part for me lay in the process of creation and the fun arising spontaneously between the selection of the captions and the expression of the images. During the same time period when I was creating these "propaganda paintings", I shot two videos "Shout Painting" and "Facebook Demo", which jokingly discuss everything in the whole wide world with painting as an excuse.



The Knowledge & Observation of The Marriage Between Astronauts and Proletariat's Offspring, 2014 Acrylique sur toile de lin 80 x 110 cm



How the Young Can Achieve a Melancholic Temperment, 2014 Acrylique sur toile de lin 80 x 110 cm



Specification and Psychological Counseling Teenagers Masturbation (upgrade version), 2014 Acrylique sur toile de lin 80 x 110 cm

Thus in my recent experiments, I started directly mingling "images" and "words", or "drawing" and "writing". "I have to become someone (a painter) who forbears and is ignorant, who is exhausted and yet humorous" was one sentence of a "life sketch" I made spur-of-the-moment in my notebook—a gridded notebook with little squares.





Untitled, 2014 Acrylique sur 168 toiles de lin, croquis avec cadre 240 x 280 cm / 35 x 40 cm



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Copy of the Nature

The initial intent of the Copy of the Nature series was simply to solve a basic question of framing I had with extensive landscapes. When I could not help but superficially face the landscape I am perusing—one I was about to depart from—"portraying from life" (xiesheng) was the best mode of practice. After I finished "writing" (xie), I recorded the GPRS code of that reflective sphere (which belonged to or which I placed on sculpture and architecture within the city) as the title of the piece.



40.032850, -6.828974 , 2014 Acrylic markers pen on canvas 40 cm



29.557569,115.98319, 2013 Acrylic markers pen on canvas 50 cm



40.242441, -6.799176, 2014 Acrylic markers pen on canvas 30 cm

All about < >

The series All about < > is the result of an attempt I made when I accepted the consequences of a mistake and made the best of it—"painting a film". I threw my efforts at painting under a moving image projected on the wall, having it and the light and shadows engage in an intimate relationship which belies its appearance. Each drawing seems like a nervous game of overcoming obstacles—the end point being that utopia which "abstraction" wishes to found.



All About <>-No.4, 2014 Acrylic on canvas(linen) 235 x 310 cm



All About <>-No.5 , 2014 Acrylic on canvas(linen) 162 x 208 cm



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MADE BY CHINESE

When in 2008 we decided to publish a book on contemporary art in China, we thought it would be defined by its volume and by its quality, following the works we had already published like «Made by Indians» and «In the Arab World ... now!" But as often, encounters and friendships have changed the course of our projects.

In 2001, the Enrico Navarra Gallery had already organized with the Hanart TZ gallery a series of exhibitions called «Made by Chinese» and published a catalog. This collaboration has never stopped thanks to the faithful help of Johnson Chang in the development of this new project.

Frédéric Edelmann has agreed to form a team and to take charge of the architecture section. In a few months and several trips...the 150 pages chapter that was expected became a 300 pages volume and finally ended up being 704 pages divided into two volumes, the whole in a package that is today available.

The rest of the editorial project has followed the same «inflation». It is henceforth five other volumes gathered into two packages that will soon join the first package to create: MADE BY CHINESE... more than 3,000 pages about contemporary China.

One of our most decisive encounters was with the writer Mian Mian. She became a true friend, opening up to us her extraordinary network among Chinese contemporary creators : artists, gallery owners, collectors, filmmakers, actors, writers, journalists, editors, fashion designers...

Beyond the book, we decided to pursue a long lasting collaboration with Mian Mian by offering her to select Chinese contemporary artists for exhibitions that we will organize in Paris and for projects to come in the south of France.

The 27th of May, 2014 took place the first of theses exhibitions, in collaboration with the 75 Faubourg Gallery : Qiu Axiong – E-Motion.

The 8th of January 2015, this adventure continues with the exhibition of the young artist Zhang Lehua: The Interpreter who Interrupts. And many more still to come.

Enrico Navarra



Made by...

Artists, critics, gallerists, designers, curators, architects...

Made by... Indians, Chinese, Egyptians, Lebanese, Thai, French... Made by... Because art is never Made In... Made by... The art world to show art in the world.

Fabrice Bousteau & Enrico Navarra



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