

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# MASTERS OF CHINESE PHOTOGRAPHY

Exhibition Dates JULY 8 - SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

Viewing by appointment



HONG HAO My Things - Book Keeping of 06C, 2007 - Digital print - Ed. of 9 - 120 x 205 cm

Poligono Gallery will present a selection of top photography works by internationally acclaimed Chinese artists Wang Qingsong, Hong Hao, Wang Ningde, Zhang Huan, Cui Xiuwen, Huang Yan, Chen Shaoxiong, Sheng Qi, Chen Jiagang and Liu Bolin.

The exhibition will display iconic pieces of Chinese photography showing the various sides and developments of the last 15 years.

The presented artists are leaders of a major artistic movement of the end of the twentieth century. They defied the oppressive regime claiming their position as artists. The works are powerful, fascinating and often provocative.

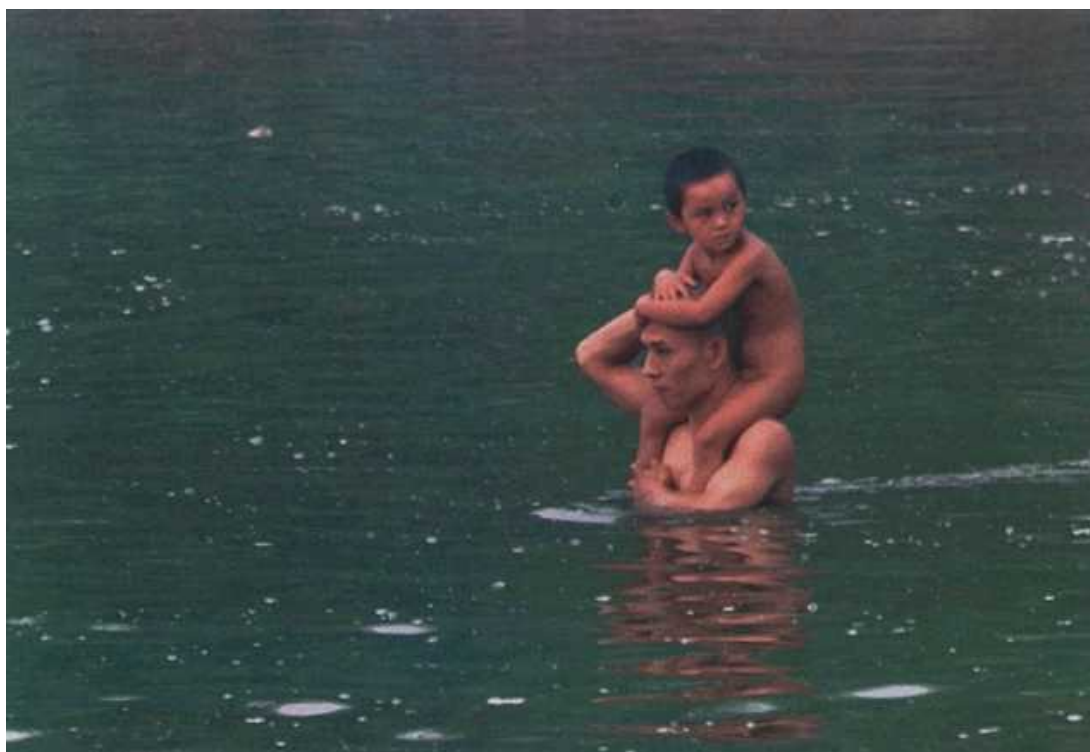
Today the work of Chinese artists has upgraded. The authorities attitude towards the artists having loosened up, even though censorship still exists, there is less need of shocking or shaking taboos. Despite this, Chinese contemporary photography remains extremely rich, highly original and still exciting.

The photographers of this Chinese rebirth are young. Born at the time of Mao, but living in an ever-changing China, they draw the gripping portrait of a country full of contradictions, at the same time self-oriented as well as opened to the world.



**WANG QINGSONG** is one of the **top five photographers in the world** and China's most highly regarded contemporary artists. Trained as a painter at the Sichuan Academy of Fine Art, Wang

Qingsong turned to photography in the late 1990s in order to convey a distinctive and often acerbic vision of Chinese society during the country's current economic boom. Working in the manner of a film director, he stages elaborate scenes involving dozens of models on enormous stages. His large-scale color photographs combine references to classic Chinese art with ironic nods to China's new material wealth and rapidly growing consumer culture. His artwork has been collected by the Billstone Foundation (Spain), San Diego Museum of Art (USA), K20 and K21 (Dusseldorf, Germany) and the Cisneros Foundation (Miami, USA).



**ZHANG HUAN** began his career in art by sitting still. A performance artist with a provocative edge, Zhang has managed, from humble beginnings, to make himself an international contemporary art success by enduring punishments of his own devising. His first performances were a melange of masochism, Taoist tests of endurance and angry rebellion. Their violence and nudity gained him a bad-boy reputation in Beijing. Zhang Huan is acclaimed as one of the foremost artist of the new wave from China. Selected Public Collections: The **Museum of Modern Art**, New York, USA, Solomon R. **Guggenheim Museum**, New York, USA, The **Metropolitan Museum of Art**, New York, USA, Asia Museum of Fukuoka, Japan, University Art Museum, University of California, Berkeley, USA, The **Pompidou Center**, Paris, France, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, USA, **Louis Vuitton Foundation** for Creation, Paris, France.

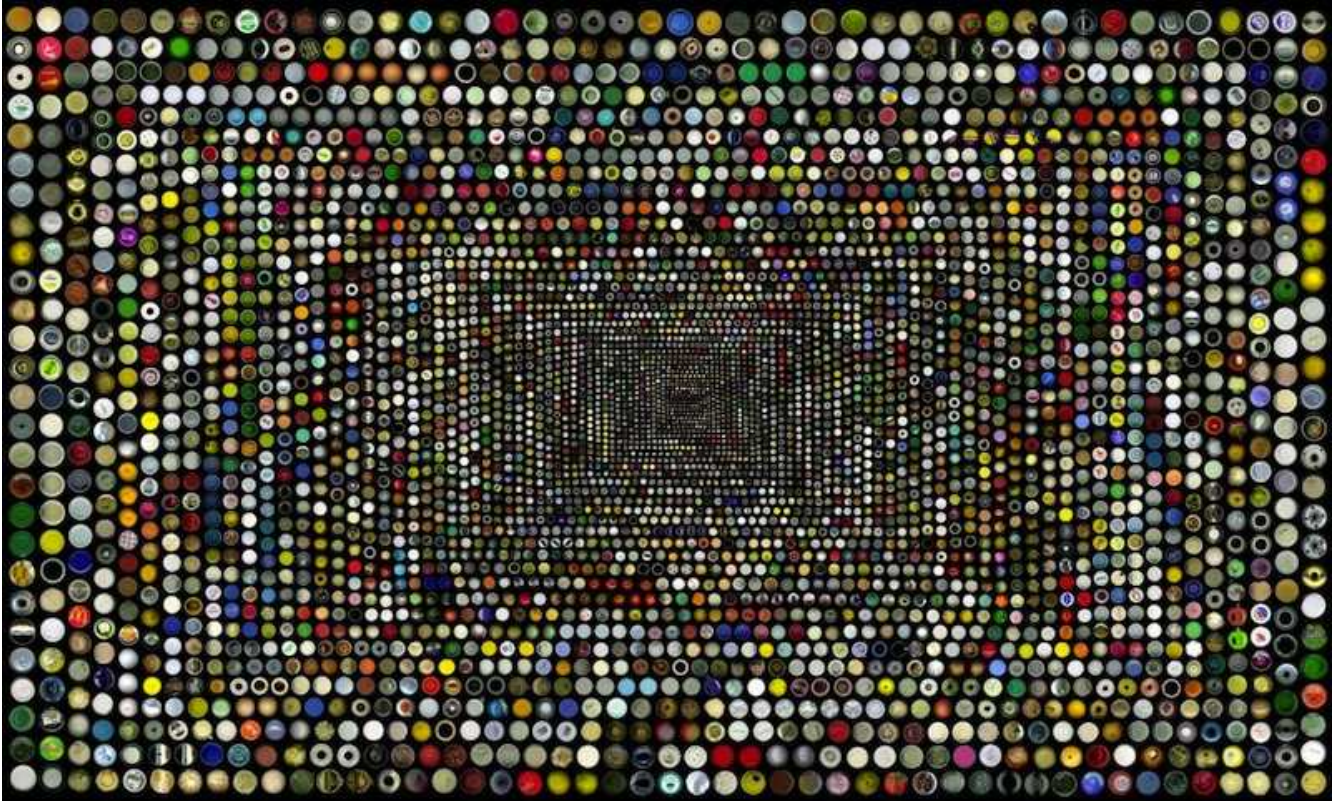


**WANG NINGDE** is one of the most famous Chinese contemporary photographers today. Wang Ningde was selected to participate in an exhibition which was shown at London's **Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A)**, **Asia Society and Museum** in New York, Smart Museum and Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, Seattle Art Museum, **The House of World Cultures** in Berlin.

Wang Ningde photography is silent and peaceful. His signature trademark is figures with their eyes closed, which makes the viewers pause and meditate. Few Chinese artists are able to capture people's attention without shocking them like Wang Ningde.



**CUI XIUWEN** is a leading figure in Chinese Photography. Cui Xiuwen's photographs often come up for auction and fetch impressive hammer prices. Photographs from her "Angel" series (2006) have fetched over USD 60,000. Her work has been collected by important institutions such as The **Centre Pompidou**, Paris, The **Olenska Foundation**, Geneva, The **Estella Collection**, New York.



**HONG HAO** is one of the most important Chinese photographers today. Widely exhibited, his works has been collected by important institutions such as The **British museum**, UK, **MOMA New York**, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, National Gallery of Canada, **UBS BANK Switzerland**, **Ullens Foundation**, Belgium, **Fukuoka Asian Art Museum**, Japan



**HUANG YAN** As one of the leading artists of his generation, Huang Yan has been widely exhibited in China, Europe, and North America.

He has participated in key exhibitions of Chinese contemporary art, among others are: **Between Past and Future**: New Photography and Video From China, ICP, New York City, USA (2004), **Mahjong** - Chinese Contemporary Art from the Sigg Collection, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany (2006) and The **1st Guangzhou Triennale**, Guangzhou Museum of Art Guangzhou, China (2004).

His work has been collected by some of the most influential institutions and private collections in the world. Recent acquisitions have been made by **The Museum of Modern Art**, New York (Chinese Landscape Painting, 1999) and **Victoria & Albert Museum**, London (Orchid, Chrysanthemum, Bamboo and Plum, 2004).



## LIU BOLIN

35-year-old Liu Bolin, from Shandong, China, manages to camouflage himself in any surroundings, no matter how difficult they might be.

Liu works on a single photo for up to 10 hours at a time, to make sure he gets it just right, but he achieves the right effect: sometimes passers-by don't even realize he is there until he moves.

The talented Liu Bolin says his art is a protest against the actions of the Government, who shut down his art studio in 2005 and persecutes artists. It's about not fitting into modern society. Despite problems with Chinese authorities, Liu's works are appreciated at an international level.





**Sheng Qi** was born in Hefei, China, in 1965. He Graduated from the Central Academy of Art and Design, Beijing, and completed his MFA at the Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London. Being a key figure of Chinese avant-garde, Sheng Qi has been widely exhibited in institutions such us **Victoria and Albert Museum - V&A**, London and **Asia Society and Museum, NY**, United States. His work was included the much-hyped "**Inside-Out**" 1998 exhibition in New York that showcased contemporary Chinese art, as well as the influential "**Between Past and Future: New Photography and Video from China**", where his work made the cover of the exhibition catalogue. His work has been collected by **The Museum of Modern Art**, NY, **The International Center of Photography**, NY and the **Smart Museum of Art**, Chicago among many others. Sheng Qi lives and works in Beijing.



**CHEN JIAGANG** was born in Chongqing, China, in 1962. His photography works have been exhibited in Paris, USA (Florida Museum in Photographic Arts), Hong Kong, Italy, Korea and Germany. Highly promoted by the press and praised by the critics, his work has been lately featured on numerous magazines such as **The New Yorker**, **Libération**, Yishu, Life Magazine and Azart. Influential institutions and collectors such as the **MOMA** New York and the **Sir Elton John photography collection** have recently acquired his work.

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