



September 12 – October 24, 2004

Yang Fudong: 5 Films

The Renaissance Society

at The University of Chicago

Shanghai DIY

Shanghai-based filmmaker Yang Fudong (b. 1971) is not a child of *The Cultural Revolution* but of a cultural revolution in more general terms. The steady recession of state authority in determining content and access to the means of film production (facilitated by the advent of digital technology) has resulted in historically unparalleled creative freedoms for Chinese filmmakers of Yang's generation. With the State's sanctioning of independent production, film practices across the spectrum have flourished as artists have adopted a variety of positions in relation to the immense economic and social changes taking place throughout China. Some filmmakers have produced comedies and romances specifically to avoid politics. Others feel unquestioningly obliged to address the current changes with all the criticism the censorship boards permit. And still others are unable to adopt a singular approach, producing work in different styles to express different concerns, or perhaps to express the same concerns differently as is the case with Yang Fudong.

Initially trained as a painter at the China Academy of Fine Arts, Hangzhou, Yang has gone on to create staggeringly beautiful, self-produced works of 35mm black and white film. Considering himself a visual artist in the broadest sense, his practice, in addition to film, includes photography and digital video, a booming medium in China. For Yang, there is no singular means for expressing the dynamic and therefore contradictory state of contemporary Chinese society. On the one hand, the improvement in the quality of life attending China's adoption of free market values is cause for

celebration. On the other, radical change cannot fail to be met with a sense of loss and skepticism as such change questions the viability of traditions that constitute individual and national identity. Yang lays stake to both claims, revealing in the rhyme and rhythm of contemporary urban life as reflected in his digital video work, and at the same time questioning his generation's relationship to cultural values running centuries deep. The latter being a task he reserves largely for his black and white films which have an anachronistic character with references ranging from Chinese films of the 1930s and 1940s, to *Nouvelle Vague*, to Jim Jarmusch.

The Society will present five of Yang's films, produced over the course of his career. The exhibition will feature the debut of *Part II of Seven Intellectuals in a Bamboo Forest*. In addition to the first chapter of *Seven Chinese Intellectuals*, there will be three older works—*Liu Lan*, 2003, *Backyard: Hey! Sun Is Rising*, 2001, and *An Estranged Paradise*, 1997-2002.

This exhibition is concurrent with *Between Past and Future: New Photography and Video from China* which runs from October 2, 2004 – January 16, 2005 at The Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago and The Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.

Opening Reception
Sunday, September 12, 4-7pm
Artist Talk
Sunday, September 12, 5pm in Cobb Hall Rm 307, directly below the gallery

Panel Discussion
Intersections: A Symposium on Experimental/Chinese Photography, Video and Film
October 2, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, at the Film Studies Center, University of Chicago
October 3, 2:00-4:00 pm, The Museum of Contemporary Art

This two-day symposium will bring together exhibition organizers and artists with guest scholars, filmmakers and curators from China and the United States to explore the dynamic relationships—defined by content, style, history, and practice—among contemporary Chinese film, video art and photography. During three panels and a roundtable, speakers will consider the ongoing cross-fertilization between art forms, thematic overlaps, and the role of performance in recent photo-based work. Related performances and gallery talks will complete the program.

Presented by the Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago in collaboration with the International Center of Photography, The Asia Society, The Renaissance Society and The Film Studies Center, University of Chicago. Saturday's event will take place at The University of Chicago, Film Studies Center, Cobb Hall Room 307 (directly below The Renaissance Society). Sunday's event will take place at The Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago. FREE

Concert
Chao-Ming Tung, gu-zheng (Chinese zither)
Bernhard GALL, electronics
with Ensemble Noanmesia
Sunday, October 3, 8:00 pm

Tung is a Taiwanese-born composer and gu-zheng player based in Cologne, Germany. His music encompasses stage, instrumental, vocal, and electro-acoustic works. Since 2000 he has gradually incorporated Chinese instruments into his music, and improvises with gu-zheng and live electronics in concerts. In 1988 he began composition studies with Chien Nan-Chiang in the Chinese-Culture-University Taipei. He continued his training from 1990-1997 at the Musikhochschule Köln Germany and later at the Folkwang-Hochschule Essen where he graduated with distinction. Since 1999 he has worked as a freelance composer and musician, and facilitates East-West cultural exchanges. This concert will take place in the gallery. FREE

Concert
Brad Bricker (clarinet solo)
Tuesday, October 5, 8:00 pm

The Society is pleased to present Hyde Park native Brad Bricker who unbeknownst to many is an extremely accomplished clarinetist with an outstanding repertoire of twentieth-century solo works. This concert will feature compositions by S. James Kurtz, William Albright, Luciano Berio, Dorrance Staley, Gordon Cosse, and William Bolcom. This concert will take place in the gallery. FREE

Concert
YAGQ by Gene Coleman
A work for saxophone quartet, a Gagaku trio, and live electronics
Tuesday, October 26, 8:00 pm
In Rockefeller Chapel, 5850 S. Woodlawn Ave.

Four years ago, composer and bass clarinetist Gene Coleman was invited to program the *Transonic Music* festival at the House of World Cultures in Berlin. His idea was to stimulate an intercultural dialogue incorporating new and traditional music. The results culminated in YAGQ, a composition for live electronics, a saxophone quartet and a Japanese Gagaku ensemble. The performers will be YASAX saxophone quartet (Serge Bernocchi, Jean-Michel Gorny, Pierre-Stephane Merge and Marcus Weiss), a Gagaku trio (Aya Motohashi, Satoru Takeshi, and Ko Ishikawa) and live electronics by Toshinaru Nakamura and Kazuhisa Uchinashi. Not to be missed, this evening's performance will also feature ensemble performances by the saxophone quartet and the Gagaku trio. This concert will take place at Rockefeller Chapel, 5850 S. Woodlawn Ave. FREE

Concert
Wu Wei, sheng (Chinese mouth organ)
with Ensemble Noanmesia
Friday, October 29, 8:00 pm
In Bond Chapel, 1025 E. 58th St.

Wu Wei is amongst a generation of Chinese musicians as well known for new music as for their performances of traditional music. His musicianship renders the issues of genre, style, new versus old, or composed versus improvised, a moot point. His playing of the sheng, a vertical flute with pan-like pipes which produces harmonics similar to an organ, embodies a millennium's worth of experimentation in a perfected form. This bill will feature a mixture of traditional and new compositions for solo sheng and small ensembles. This concert will take place in Bond Chapel, 1025 E 58th St. (one building east of Cobb Hall). FREE

This exhibition, which inaugurates The Society's 89th season and its 25th in the Begman Gallery, is dedicated to the memory of Edwin Begman. Through his commitment to new and provocative art, Ed championed all The Society stands for. We remain grateful for his outstanding example, friendship, service and support.

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AmericanLines!

is the official airline of The Renaissance Society's 2004-2005 season.

[This side]
Production still from
Backyard: Hey! Sun Is Rising, 2001
35mm film
[That side]
Still from *Seven Intellectuals*
in *a Bamboo Forest: Part II*, 2004.
35mm film

The Renaissance Society

at The University of Chicago
6971 South Ellis Avenue
4th floor
Chicago, IL 60637

Museum Hours
Tuesday - Friday: 10 am - 5 pm
Saturday, Sunday: 12-5pm
Closed Mondays
<http://www.renaissanceociety.org>

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