



XU ZHEN

Xu Zhen (b. 1977, Shanghai) is a trans-medial conceptual artist based in Shanghai. Incorporating painting, installation, video, photography performance and even extending into curatorial practice, Xu's work satirizes, exposes and reworks dominant rhetoric of the contemporary art-world. Currently working under his company name MadelN Inc, a self-declared 'multi-functional art company', he appropriates the art-as-brand discourse to criticize it from within. A jester at heart, he plays on authorial conventions and expectations, creating pseudo-fictions replete with cultural clichés, wittingly challenging the pervasive longing for clearly delineated so-called cultural authenticity. An irreverent artist with a unique ability to produce work across multiple platforms and media, Xu Zhen is the key figure of the Shanghai art scene and a foundational figure for the generations of Chinese artists born since 1970. Xu's practice reflects the lingering concerns of an artist participating in the international art world while remaining deeply sceptical of it and its conventions, most immediately the label 'Chinese contemporary art'. Working in his own name since the late 1990s, Xu Zhen is now producing new works under MadelN Company's newly launched brand 'Xu Zhen'. Recent major exhibitions include his retrospective, 'Xu Zhen: A MadelN Company Production', at Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing (2014) and his Commissioned Artist exhibition at the Armory Show in New York (2014).

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

1996 Shanghai School of Arts and Crafts

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 **Commissioned Artist for Armory Show**, New York, US
Xu Zhen: A MadelN Company Production, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China
- 2013 **Light Source**, Tian Ren He Yi Art Center, Hangzhou, China
2012 **Forbidden Castle**, Montanelli Museum, Prague, Czech Republic
Movement, MadelN Company Exhibition Space, Shanghai
Turbulent, MadelN Company Exhibition Space, Shanghai
Sleeping Life Away, Galerie Nathalie Obadia, Paris, France
Inside the White Cube, White Cube, London, UK
- 2011 **MadelN: Spread**, Kunsthalle, Bern, Germany
- 2010 **Xu Zhen - Video Works**, Galerie Waldburger, Belgium
Don't Hang Your Faith On the Wall: MadelN, Long March Space, Beijing
Spread: By MadelN (Xu Zhen), ShangArt, Beijing
- 2009 **The Starving of Sudan- Art Unlimited**, presented by Long March Space at Art 41
Basel, Basel, Switzerland
XU ZHEN: Lonely Miracle- Middle East Contemporary Art Exhibition
Curated by MadelN Co, Ltd, James Cohan Gallery, New York
XU ZHEN: Seeing One's Own Eyes - Middle East Contemporary Art Exhibition
Curated by MadelN Co, Ltd, ShanghART H-Space, Shanghai, China
- 2008 **Nothing is Impossible: Xu Zhen Solo Exhibition**, Long March Space, Beijing, China
Just did it!, James Cohan Gallery, New York, US
Untitled, Solo Exhibition, ShanghArt, Shanghai, China
- 2007 **Art Basel Miami Beach 07, Xu Zhen: ShangArt Supermarket**, Art Fairs Booth N14, Miami Beach Convention Center, Miami, US
Art Unlimited - Xu Zhen 18 Days, Art Basel, Basel, Switzerland
In Just a Blink of an Eye, James Cohan Gallery, November 7-10, 2007
Art '38 Basel, Art Unlimited-Xu Zhen 18 Days (at B3), Art Fair Switzerland
- 2006 **Xu Zhen: 8848 - 1,86 Xu Zhen Solo Exhibition**, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, Netherlands
An Animal, 2577 Linghua Road, Shanghai, China
- 2002 **Careful, Don't get dirty**, Galerie Waldburger, Berlin, Germany
A Young Man - Xu Zhen Solo Exhibition, BizArt Art Center, Shanghai, China

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 **China China**, Pinchuk Art Center, Kiev, Ukraine
- 2012 **Art of Change**, Hayward Gallery, London, UK
How to Eclipse the Light, Wilkinson Gallery, London
Image Fetish and Phobia, ShanghArt H-Space, Shanghai
Art of Change: New Directions from China, Hayward Gallery, London
Surplus Authors, Witte de With, Rotterdam
NEWTOPIA: The State of Human Rights, Cultural Center Mechelen, Belgium



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- ShanghART Group Exhibition**, ShanghART Gallery, Shanghai
UnINKable, Art-Ba-Ba Mobile Space, Shanghai, July 21-August 19, 2012
MOVE: Art & Dance since 1960, National Museum of Contemporary Art, Korea
Soundworks, Institute of Contemporary Art, London
ARSENAL 2012, Kiev, Ukraine
Revitalizing - A Gathering upon Awakening of Insects, ShanghART Gallery, Shanghai
- 2011 **The Liminal Body**, Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Vancouver, Canada
ACT►TION Video Exhibition, Long March Space, Beijing, China
Thirty Years of Chinese Contemporary Art - Moving Image 1998- 2011, Mingsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China
- 2010 **21st Century: Art in the First Decade**, Queensland Art Gallery - Gallery of Modern Art
Big Draft Shanghai, Kunsthalle Bern, Germany
China Power Station - part 3, Pinacoteca Agnelli, Torino, Italy
Rehearsal: 8th Shanghai Biennale
Great Performances, Pace Beijing, Beijing, China
The 7th Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai
Nether Land: Act VIII of Morality, organized by Witte de With, Dutch Culture Center, Shanghai, China
Retro-Tech, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA, July 22 - February 6, 2011
Jungle: A Close-Up Focus on Chinese Contemporary Art Trends, Platform China, Beijing
Seeing One's Own Eyes, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, UK, May 26-July 22
- 2009 **Matters of Faith**, James Cohan Gallery, Shanghai, China
Building Code Violations III, Long March Space, Beijing, China
Breaking Forecast: 8 Key Figures of China's New Generation Artists, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), Beijing, P.R.China
China! China! China!, Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, Sainsbury, UK
- 2008 **Moving Horizons - The UBS Art Collection: 1960s to the present day**, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China
The 3rd Guangzhou Triennial - Farewell to the Postcolonial, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
Artissima - The Forgotten Bar Project, Booth 17, Art Fairs Green Hall, Torino, Italy
FIAC 2008, Booth B12, Art Fairs Grand Palais, Paris, France
Life? Biomorphing Forms in Sculpture, Kunsthau Graz, Graz, Austria
Insomnia Photographs Exhibition, Bizart Art Center, Shanghai, China
Avant-garde China: Twenty Years of Chinese Contemporary Art, The National Art Center, Tokyo
Our Future - The Guy & Myriam Ullens Foundation Collection, Ullens Foundation, Beijing, China
The World of Other's - A Contemporary Art Exhibition, Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai, China
Cylwxx, Chu Yun, Liu Zhen, Esther Schipper, Berlin, Germany
Mellow Fever, Galerie des Galeries, Paris, France
Community of Tastes: The Inaugural Exhibition of Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China
Art season: The Third China New Media Art Festival, China Art Academy, Hangzhou,

China

Like Animals, Musee cantonal des beaux-arts de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland

Building Code Violations II, Long March Space, Beijing, China

The Real Thing: Contemporary Art from China, IVAM, Valencia, Spain

Selected, ShanghArt H-Space, Shanghai, China

Xu Zhen, Folkert de Jong, Martha Colburn, James Cohan Gallery, New York

INVOLVED, ShanghART, Shanghai, China

Avant-Garde China: Twenty Years of Chinese Contemporary Art, The National Art Center, Tokyo; The National Museum of Art, Osaka; Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Nagoya

2007 **Performa 07 - The 2nd Biennale of New Visual Art Performance**, New York, USA

China Power Station: Part II, Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, Oslo, Norway

NONO - Self Curated Exhibition of New Works by 11 Individual Artists, Long March Space, Beijing, China

China Welcomes You: Desires, Struggles, New Identities, Kunsthaus Graz, Graz, Austria

The Real Thing - Contemporary Art from China, Tate Liverpool, Liverpool, UK

Shanghype! portrait of the city from dawn to dusk. Selection for Artissima 2007, Turin November 2007, Italy / January 2008, in Shanghai Bund18, FUTURA, Smichov, CH

China-Facing Reality, Museum of Modern Art Ludwig Foundation Vienna, Austria

FIAC art fair, Paris-Booth D04, Art Fair Cour Caree du Louvre, Paris

Wuhan 2nd Documentary Exhibition of Fine Arts -Theme Exhibit: Forms of Concepts: The Reform of Concepts of Chinese Contemporary Art 1987
2007: The New Generation and Bad Art, Wuhan

Rejected Collection: More the 40 Chinese artists /over 60 rejected proposals, Ke Center for Contemporary Arts, Shanghai

A l'horizon de Shangri-La, Frac Lorraine, France

Individual Position 2, ShanghART H-Space, Shanghai

ShanghART at Art'38 Basel-Focus Shanghai (Professional Day Special Exhibition), Art Fair Switzerland

NoNo-Self-curated Exhibition of latest artworks by 11 individual artists, Long March Space, Beijing

2006 **The Thirteen - Chinese Video Now**, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, USA

It's all right - Contemporary Art Exhibition, Hu Qing Tang Museum of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Hangzhou, China

Restless - Photography and New Media, Shanghai Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai, China

Everyday people, Festival of Creativity, Fortezza da Basso, Florence, Italy

All Look the Same? Art from China Korea and Japan, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Torino, Italy

China Power Station: Part I, Battersea Power Station, London, UK On Mobility, De Appel, Amsterdam, Netherlands

China: Facing Reality, Museum of Modern Art Ludwig Foundation Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Energy - Spirit - Body - Material, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China

The 2nd Wuhan Documentary Exhibition of Fine Arts, Hubei Museum of Art, Wuhan, China

Tomorrow, Kumho Museum of Art; Artsonje Center, Seoul, Korea

The 10th International Istanbul Biennial: Not only Possible, But also Necessary-

- Optimism in the Age of GlobalWar**, Istanbul, Turkey
Rejected Collection - More the 40 Chinese Artists /Over 50 Rejected Proposals, Ke Center for Contemporary Arts, Shanghai, China
A l'horizon de Shangri-La, Frac Lorraine, France
Individual Position 2: Video, Photo, and Installation, ShanghArt H-Space, Shanghai, China
Attention! - Contemporary Chinese Photography, Artium, Basque Museun-Center of Contemporary Art, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain
Never Go Out Without My DV cam - Video en China, Museo Colecciones ICO, Madrid, Spain
The Thirteen: Chinese Video Now, Platform China Contemporary Art Institute, Beijing, China
China Contemporary - Architecture, Art and Visual Culture, Netherlands Architecture Institute; Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen; Netherlands photo museum, Netherlands
Take It!, Universal Studios-Beijing, Beijing, China
Xu Zhen Solo Exhibition, 2577 Creative Garden, Shanghai, China
Microcosm - Chinese Contemporary Art, Macao Museum of Art, Macao, China
Mahjong - Contemporary Chinese Art from the Sigg Collection, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany
- 2005 **The 2nd Guangzhou Triennial - Beyond: an extraordinary space of experimentation for modernization**, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
Yokohama International Triennial of Contemporary Art 2005: Art Circus - Jumping from the Ordinary, Yokohama, Japan
Virgin Garden - China Pavilion: The 51st Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
Mahjong - Contemporary Chinese Art from the Sigg Collection, Kunstmuseum Bern, Bern, Switzerland
Zooming into Focus - Contemporary Chinese Photography and Video from the Haudenschild Collection, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China
Follow Me! Contemporary Chinese Art at the Threshold of the Millennium, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Monuments of the USA, Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art, San Francisco, USA
Between Past and Future - New Photography and Video from China, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, USA
The Second Guangzhou Triennial Self Organisation, BizArt: How to Turn Guangzhou into Shanghai, Xinyi International Club, Guangzhou, China
Something is Happening, Maple-poplar Woods - In Orioles Singing in the Willows Park, Hangzhou, China
Regeneration - Contemporary Chinese Art from China and the US, Samek Art Gallery, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, USA
Regeneration - Contemporary Chinese Art From China and the US, Jean Paul Slusser Gallery, Ann Arbor, USA
True to Life, Taikang Top Space, Beijing, China
Shanghai Constructions - Group exhibition by 10 Artists, Shanghai Gallery of Art, Shanghai, China
Melbourne International Arts Festival, Spacement, Watson Place, Melbourne, Australia
The Second Triennial of Chinese Art - Archaeology of the Future, Nanjing Museum, Video zoom: Chinese Video Artists - The City: Mirage and reflection, Galeria Sala 1, Centro Internazionale d'Arte Contemporanea, Rome, Italy

- 2004 **Techniques of the Visible - The 5th Shanghai Biennale**, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China
Dial 62761232 (Express Delivery Exhibition): Contemporary Art Exhibition, BizArt Art Center, Shanghai, China
Between Past and Future - New Photography and Video from China, ICP and the Asia Society, New York, USA
Zooming into Focus - Contemporary Chinese Photography and Video from the Haudenschild Collection, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China
The Monk and the Demon - Art contemporain chinois, Museum of Contemporary Art Lyon, Lyon, France
Light as Fuck! Shanghai Assemblage, The National Museum of Contemporary Art, Oslo, Norway
Something is Happening, Maple-poplar Woods - In Orioles Singing in the Willows Park, Hangzhou
Monuments of the USA, Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art, San Francisco, USA
Follow Me! Contemporary Chinese Art at the Threshold of the Millenium, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
5th Shanghai Biennale-Techniques of the Visible, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai
China Now, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
Shanghai Duolun Exhibition of Young Artists, Shanghai Duolun Art Museum, Shanghai
A l'Ouest du Sud de l'Est-L'annee de la Chine, CRAC Centre Regional d'Art Contemporain Languedoc-Roussillon, Sete, France
Chine: Generation Video, Mep-Maison Europeene de la photographie, Paris, France
Regeneration: Contemporary Chinese Art from China and the US, Samek Art Gallery, Bucknewll University, Lewisburg, USA
Is It Art? - Black Show, Noanoa Center, Xi'an
Regeneration: Contemporary Chinese Art From China and the US, Jean Paul Slusser Gallery, Ann Arbor, USA
Zooming into Focus (Singapore)-Chinese Contemporary Photography and Video from the Haudenschild Collection, Earl Lu Gallery, LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts, Singapore
Zooming into Focus (Tijuana)-Chinese Contemporary Photography from the Haudenschild Collection, Cultural Tijuana, Tijuana, Mexico
Zooming into Focus (SAM)-Chinese Contemporary Photography and Video from the Haudenschild Collection, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai
Shanghai Surprise, Lothringer 13, Munich, Germany
- 2003 **Second Hand Reality**, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China
The Minority is Subordinate to the Majority, BizArt, Shanghai
Control-Z, Top Space, Beijing
Dajia-Studying on Design from Contemporary Art, The Museum of Fudan University, Shanghai
System, Short videos from the world 2002-2003, BizArt, Shanghai Department-Contemporary art exhibition, Hangzhou
Fabricated Paradises, Le Parvis centre d'art contemporain, Pau, France
Open Sky-Grand Opening of Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art, Duolun Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai
The Fifth System: Public Art in the Age of Post-Planning, He Xiangning Art Museum, Shenzhen, Guangdong
Zooming into Focus (San Diego)-Chinese Contemporary Photography from the Haudenschild Collection, University Gallery of San Diego State University, San Diego, US
Nasty - a group exhibition of paintings, Bizart, Shanghai

- 2002 **Quick Look!** Shanghai Zhejiang Jiangsu Anhui Contemporary Art Exhibition, Consulate General of Switzerland, Shanghai
The First Guangzhou Triennale-Reinterpretation: A Decade of Experimental Chinese Art (1990-2000), Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou
Too Much Flavor Mirage, 3H Art Center, Shanghai
 Art in General - 4th Annual Video Marathon, 12 hour screening, New York, USA
VideoROM 2.0, Giancarla Zanutti Gallery, Milan, Italy
VideoROM, Le Toit du Monde -, Centre Multidisciplinaire Pour la Culture Actuelle, Vevey, Switzerland
24:30 Contemporary Art Exhibition, Bizart, Shanghai
Fan Mingzhen & Fan Mingzhu - Glad to meet you (Twin exhibition), Jin Sha Jiang Rd., Shanghai
- 2001 **Inside the body**, ISE foundation, New York, USA
Hotpot, Kinesisk Samtidskunst, Hustnernes Hus, Oslo, Norway
 49th Biennale di Venezia-Plateau of Humankind, Italy
ARCO-Asian Party, Global Game (curated by Hou Hanru), Madrid, Spain
Living in Time - 29 Contemporary Artists from China, Nationalgalerie im Hamburger Bahnhof Museum fuer Gegenwartskunst, Berlin, Germany
The First Valencia Biennale, Valencia, Spain
Mantic Ecstasy-Photography & Video, Hangzhou, Shanghai, Beijing
Developing Time / Temps de Pause, Bizart, Shanghai
- 2000 **Exit**, Chisenhale Gallery, London, UK
BIG Torino 2000, Torino, Italy
Inertia & Mask- Works on Paper, Shanghai Oil Painting & Sculpture Institute, Shanghai
Video-Circle, Hongkong; Berlin, Germany
Useful Life, Temporary Space, Dong Daming Rd, Shanghai
Uncooperative Approach (Fuck Off), Eastlink Gallery, Shanghai
- 1999 **Food for Thought: An Insight in Chinese Contemporary Art**, Canvas world art/Canvas Foundation, Amsterdam, Holland
Exchange, Paris, France
Love: Chinese Contemporary Photography & Video Int'l Arts Festival, Tchikawa, Japan
Art for Sale, Shanghai Plaza, Shanghai
BM99, Bienal da Maya, Maya Art Center, Portugal
Ideas & Concepts, Shanghai
The Same but Also Changed - Photography Exhibition, 859 Tian Yao Qiao Road, Shanghai
- 1998 **Jin Yuan Lu Nr.310**, Jin Yuan Lu 310, Shanghai

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2014 Walloga, April, "Want to Ride Around on a Piece of Art This Weekend?," *Gotham Magazine*, March 7, 2014
 Vine, Richard, "Xu Zhen's Brand of Armory Show," *Art in America*, March 4, 2014
 Pollack, Barbara, "Wryly Nibbling at His Bread and Butter," *The New York Times*,

- February 27, 2014
 “Ullens Center for Contemporary Art presents two major solo exhibitions by Xu Zhen and Ji Dachun,” *Artdaily*, January 30, 2014.
 Ambrozy, Lee, “Xu Zhen: A Madein Company Production,” *ArtForum*, January 2014.
- 2013 Yi, Song, “Xu Zhen by MadeIn Company: Movement Field,” *Leap*, July 25, 2013.
 Jeppesen, Travis, “Art, Inc. Shanghai,” *Art in America*, April 2013.
- 2012 Pollack, Barbara, “Risky Business”, *ARTnews*, March 2012.
 Zabolotna, Natalia, David Elliott, eds. *The Best of Times, the Worst of Times: Rebirth and Apocalypse in Contemporary Art*, Arsenele 2012, Ukraine:
 The First Kiev International Biennial of Contemporary Art, 2012.
- 2011 Moore, Chris, “An Interview with MadeIn Company Founder, Xu Zhen,” *Randian*, November 29, 2011.
- 2009 Pollack, Barbara, “Lonely Miracle- Middle East Contemporary Art Exhibition,” *Time Out*, October 1-7, 2009
 Tinari, Phillip, “Shanghai’s Shanghailorum,” *Artforum*, May 27, 2009.
 Parkin, Simon, “Norwich’s most laidback artists,” *Norwich Evening News* 24, February 27, 2009.
 Chinnery, Colin, “Xu Zhen,” *Artforum.com*, January 2009.
 Leanza, Beatrice, “Xu Zhen - Long March Space - Beijing,” *Flash Art*, February 2009.
 Vargas, Carlos Ramiro, “Ciudades lúdicas,” *Ecos de la Costa*, March 7, 2009.
 “El IVAM incrementa un 15% sus visitas y alcanza los 630.000 asistentes en 2008,” *Las Provincas*, January 10, 2009.
- 2008 Vine, Richard. *New China, New Art*. New York: Prestel Verlag, 2008.
 Cohen, David, “Painting’s Post-Feminist Form & Sculpture’s Matron Saint,” *The New York Sun*, September 17, 2008.
 Hsieh, Catherine Y., “Art Shanghaied: Conversations,” *NY Arts*, September 4, 2008.
 Masters, HG, “Xu Zhen: Just Did It,” *ArtAsiaPacific*, May/June 2008.
 Szupinska, Joanna, “10th International Istanbul Biennial,” *artUs*, Issue 21 New Year, 2008.
 London, Barbara, “Accelerated Vision: Chinese Video’s Leap Forward,” *Modern Painters*, March 2008.
 Jenks, Debra, “Crossing the borderlines of belief”, *Chelsea Now*, February 9, 2008.
 Cash, Stephanie, “Zu Zhen, *In Just a Blink of an Eye*, at James Cohan” in “Everywhere and All at Once,” *Art in America*, March 2008.
 “Britons to get a look at China Now,” *China Now*, January 8, 2008.
 Heartney, Eleanor, “Optimism on the Bosphorus,” *Art in America*, January 2008.
- 2007 Pearlman, Ellen, “Performa 07,” *The Brooklyn Rail*, December 2007/January 2008.



Orden, Erica, "Art Basel Beyond the Box," *The New York Sun*, December 10, 2007.

Rosenberg, Karen, "At Fairs by the Beach, the Sands of Creativity," *The New York Times*, December 8, 2007

Maerke, Andrew, "The Long March Project: Backward Progress," November/December 2007.

Chen, Xhingyu, "A New Era for Shanghai Gallery of Art," *Artinfo*, November 30, 2007.

Douglas, Sarah, "Chinese Contemporary Going Fast," *ArtInfo*, December 6, 2007. "First Take: Hans-Ulrich Obrist on Xu Zhen," *ArtForum*, January 2007.

Li, Pi, "Xu Zhen," *Ice Cream Contemporary Art in Culture*, (London: Phaidon Press Inc, 2007).