## **Continental Divide exhibition: Artwork Description**

Huang's drawings are in some ways more important than the finished product in his ontological system as for him the idea behind an artwork is usually better than it's actuality, and the godlike almost prophetic process of creation is more important than the final artwork, itself an impossibility and an eventual disappointment due to it's limitations. Three steps nine footprints refers to an act of terrorism in Paris in 1995. His anti-art belief in the temporary nature of art along with his belief in the ability of art to agitate resulted in this hypothetical deity which is a merger of three world religions. Each of the three legs signify a different religious deity – Christ, Mohammed and Buddha. The artwork itself consists of three panels (a significant number) in which the resulting performance art installation, possibly a vehicle for enlightenment, is mapped out. The work was performed in 1996 in Marseille, a few years after the artist's participation in the "Magiciens de la Terre" exhibition at the Pompidou. In the resulting installation, the ghostlike footstep imprints represent an enlightenment which was possibly attained and then lost, or not possible to fully actualize, or interrupted by a violent act. The contract between contemporary time and the historical continuum of Eastern thought is evident in this work.

相對於成品,黃永砯更着重作品的本質。他認為一件作品背後的意義比作品本身來得完美;近乎神聖而帶有預言色彩的創作過程比成品重要。相對於過程,成品是一個「不可能」,因為受到不同的限制,注定讓人失望。三步九腳印針對的是巴黎1995年的恐怖活動。藝術家同時質疑藝術短暫的本質,同時相信它煽動的能力。這種思想造就了這件融合世界三個最大宗教的作品—一個虛擬的神祇。神祇的每一隻腳都代表一個宗教的神,包括耶穌,穆罕默德和佛祖。作品包含三個面版(一個不少的數目)。在這個基礎上,一個具啟發性的裝置表演藝術就誕生了。作品在1996年在馬賽公演,那是藝術家參與蓬皮杜中心"Magiciens de la Terre"展覽幾年後的事。在這個裝置裡,有如鬼魅的腳印代表一種啟發。這種啟發剛剛獲得,但隨即又失去;或者根本沒辦法變成事實,甚至被強行中斷了。這件作品清楚融合了現代特色和東方思想的歷史延伸。

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後的事。在这个装置里,有如鬼魅的脚印代表一种启发。这种启发刚刚获得,但随即又失去;或者根本没办法变成事实,甚至被强行中断了。这件作品清楚融合了现代特色和东方思想的历史延伸。

This artwork, exhibited in Gu's arguably most important project, "United Nations", is centered on "the invention of meaningless, false Chinese ideograms, depicted as if they were truly old and traditional."

這件作品名為聯合國,被認為是谷文達最重要的作品。作品環繞「沒有意義,看似是古老而傳統但其實是偽造的中國文字。」

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Wenda Gu's ongoing use of script within his work reflects the importance of language as a defining element of identity. The artist's brilliant manipulations and combinations of real and composite scripts and sounds also raise issues of cross-cultural understanding and translatability.

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Gu's seals have willingly so, no actual linguistic meaning. Through their meaninglessness, they become sealed messages, an immutable and inflexible comment on language and on absolute meaning. Gu's pseudo characters no longer have the burden of signification and are free to act as aesthetic elements alone. Only the artist has the key to unlocking these hieroglyphic scrawls, freeing the Chinese language and Chinese tradition from serving any greater historical and cultural movements through a type of Chinese abstract action painting.

谷文達的印章沒有語言上的意義。正正因為它們沒有意義,他們變成密封的信息, 是對語言和絕對意義的嚴格批判。谷文達的新造字沒有了字義的包袱,能夠被獨立 當成美學符號來看。這樣看來,只有藝術家才有解放這些象形潦草的鑰匙,他用抽 象的筆觸把中文和中國傳統從大圍的歷史和文化運動中解放出來。

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**曾廣志在**流行藝術家氛圍中創作,並從安迪·沃荷1982年到訪中國長城拍攝的一系列在亞洲當遊客的照片中得到啟發,把自己的照片沖曬成近乎超自然的比例。在這個黑白照片中,曾廣志在探訪一個法國名勝。幽默地,他到訪的不是長城,而是一瓶法國紅酒。藝術家身穿毛主席的裝束在紅酒旁作態,人和紅酒一樣跟環境格格不入,幾乎好像把仙境中的愛麗絲放在柴郡貓旁邊。

曾广志在流行艺术家氛围中创作,并从安迪·沃霍尔1982年到访中国长城拍摄的一系列在亚洲当遊客的照片中得到启发,把自己的照片冲曬成近乎超自然的比例。在这个黑白照片中,曾广志在探访一个法国名胜。幽默地,他到访的不是长城,而是一瓶法国红酒。艺术家身穿毛主席的装束在红酒旁作态,人和红酒一样跟环境格格不入,几乎好像把仙境中的爱丽丝放在柴郡猫旁边。

Qiu became widely known as a performance artist by copying famous poet Wang Zixzhi's cursive writing for the the Orchard Pavilion Preface on the same sheet of paper a thousand times. This work is unique as it is across medium: a performance, an ink painting on paper, a photography, and a video (included in Artshare's piece). The Lan Pavilion was an important historical icon from Chinese cultural history. The preface this elegant poem speaks of a meeting in the pavilion in the 9th year of the Yong He period in 353AD. Using an important historical work such as this, Qiu takes traditional calligraphy as a point of departure to comment on the contemporary state of Chinese culture. The poem is obscured in a step-by-step process becoming eventually unreadable and the meaning obscured by the act of art-making itself, showing an evolutionary process of a work of traditional Chinese art becoming a work of contemporary art, rendering it's Chinese cultural essence unrecognizable.

邱志杰在同一張紙上以草書書寫王羲之的蘭亭序一千次而成為有名的表演藝術家。這件作品同時是一個表演,一件書法,一幅照片和一段錄影(包含在 Artshare 展示的作品中)。蘭亭序是中國文化歷史中重要的詩作,描述永和九年,即約公元353年在蘭亭中發生的一次聚會。透過運用這樣重要的歷史作品,邱志杰把傳統書法當成一個分水嶺,評論現代中國的文化概況。書法一步一步變得模糊,最後變成不可讀。文本的意思在藝術創作中流失了,象徵在傳統藝術過度到現代藝術的過程

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Fang's practice exhibits a rarefied technical skill rigorously studied through his Social Realist training.

方力鈞的作品展示了一種來自社會現實主義訓練的罕有技術。

方力钧的作品展示了一种来自社会现实主义训练的罕有技术。

Fang's prints revive the ancient Asian practice of woodblock printing -- a complicated and exacting process of carving a 'negative' image into a panel, coating the surface in ink, and impressing the image onto paper; each different colour and tone requires a separate plate and order of printing.

方力鈞的作品重現古老的亞洲印藝術——種繁複而講求精準的藝術。做法是把圖案的「反面」刻在一塊木板上,沾上墨水,再把圖案印到紙上。每一種不同的顏色和色調都需要一塊新的印版來印刷,相對的印刷次序也不同。

方力钧的作品重现古老的亚洲印艺术——种繁複而讲求精準的艺术。做法是把图案的「反面」刻在一块木板上,沾上墨水,再把图案印到纸上。每一种不同的颜色和色调都需要一块新的印版来印刷,相对的印刷次序也不同。

Rather than being influenced by Chinese literari traditions like many of the other artists of his generation, Fang placed his creative belief in the power of China's folk arts and other vernacular traditions such the centuries old practice of woodblock printing. Typical works of cynical realism made by an artist from the lost generation, these prints of tortured, bald figures turn their faces up to the sky, giving their individuality up to a higher socializing power which in the end has abandoned them or never existed.

有別於同期很多取材於中國文學傳統的藝術家,方力鈞更相信中國民間藝術與傳

統,例如流傳多個世紀的版印。作為迷失的一代,他的玩世藝術主義作品一般展示被折磨的禿頭人,臉朝天,把他們的個人特質都奉獻給高高在上的社會主義權威, 而這個權威最後要不離棄他們,要不根本沒有存在過。

有别於同期很多取材於中国文学传统的艺术家,方力钧更相信中国民间艺术与传统,例如流传多个世纪的版印。作为迷失的一代,他的玩世艺术主义作品一般展示被折磨的秃头人,脸朝天,把他们的个人特质都奉献给高高在上的社会主义权威,而这个权威最後要不离弃他们,要不根本没有存在过。