

# CHINA RESIDENCIES

# 中国艺术交流

*CHINA'S CREATIVE CITIES  
DOCUMENTARY SERIES*

# SYNOPSIS

A short documentary series about the artistic and creative scenes in China's lesser known megalopolises:

Chongqing, Jingdezhen, Kunming, Lijiang & Xiamen

These often overlooked cities are teeming with creativity. We interview photographers, painters & sculptors as well as DJs, artist residency directors, bookshop keepers, critics, and ice cream store owners about their outlook on life, and the evolution of culture in their cities.

## **About China Residencies:**

China Residencies is a 501(c)3 non-profit organisation dedicated to creating a comprehensive directory of artist residencies in China; researching organisational best practices; and fostering successful creative exchange for visiting artists. Since 2013, we've supported over 40 individuals

Further information, visit [www.chinaresidencies.com](http://www.chinaresidencies.com)

# CHONGQING 重庆

## About the city:

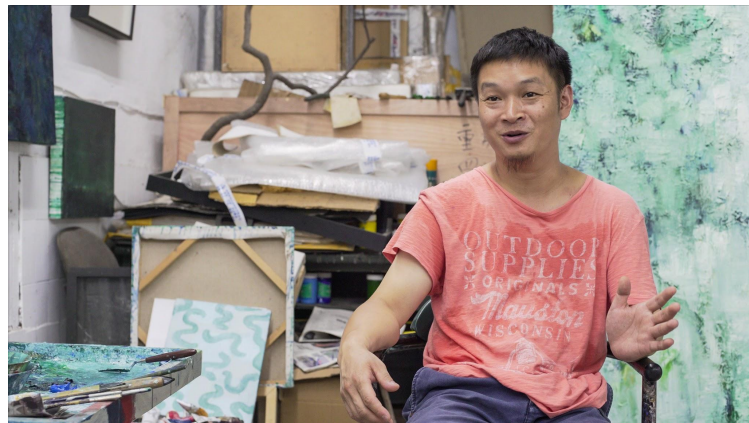
Chongqing is home to over 30 million people, set across three mountain tops in the center of China. Chongqing is rough and concrete, giving rise to vibrant street art, hiphop and punk scenes as well as DIY industrial art spaces.

## INTERVIEWS:

。 **Wang Jun 王俊**: painter born in Chongqing, recent series focuses on the intersection of fine art and everyday life

。 **Ni Kun 倪昆**: Director of Organhaus artist residency and the Little Poems art space

。 **Ye Shengda 叶生达**: Fujianese artist known for street art and photography, resident at Organhaus



*Still from Wang Jun's interview*



*Ye Shengda at work*

# JINGDEZHEN 景德镇

**Jingdezhen** is the world's porcelain capital. The entire city revolves around ceramics, and over the past ten years artists have moved here from all over the country drawn by the appeal of a freer, creative life.

## INTERVIEWS:

。 **Hua Ya 花鸦**: Multi-media artist from Hunan living in a village on the edge of Jingdezhen; body of her work focuses on village lifestyle

。 **Fan Juan 饭卷**: ceramic artist working on art access and education in Jingdezhen

。 **Dao Jin 道锦**: Ceramic artist, originally from rural Shandong; once high school dropout turned artist; previously in an artist collective, Nanjiao, now a solo producer



*Still from Hua Ya's interview*



*Dao Jin making pottery*

# KUNMING 昆明

**Kunming** is the largest city in Yunnan province, in Southwest China, near the border with Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar. Kunming is a diverse city with a strong arts scene, often perceived as a mountain getaway from China's bigger cities.

## INTERVIEWS:

- **Liu Lifan 刘丽芬**: Director of the independent art space Tai Project, curator and painter
- **Tao Fa 陶发** — abstract Bai 白族 painter from rural Yunnan, now living in Kunming. Mostly doing large scale oils and calligraphy on paper.
- **Luo Fei 罗菲**: performance and conceptual artist; gallery Director and Curator at TCG Nordica



*Still from Liu Lifan's interview*



*At the Tai Project space*



# LIJIANG 丽江

**Lijiang** is a smaller city in Yunnan renown worldwide for its historical old town, an important stop on the tea, horse, and silk roads. It is an important cultural center for the Naxi people and many other ethnic minorities in China.

## INTERVIEWS:

。 **He Wenzhao 和文朝**: Art critic and director of the Ciman residency (过境计划)

。 **Mu Yunbai**: Naxi painter and illustrator, current work focuses on large scale illustrations and portraits done with local residents of the village he grew up in



*Still from He Wenzhao's interview*



*Mu Yunbai's paintings*

# XIAMEN 厦门

**Xiamen** is an island city off the southern coast of China, known for its tech-startups, fashion & photography scene, and laid-back lifestyle.

## INTERVIEWS:

◦ **Zhu Lanqing 朱岚清**: Fujianese award-winning large-format photographer

◦ **Huang Zhenwei 黄臻伟**: Xiamen photographer known for his “Timeless Boundary” series



*Still from Zhu Lanqing's interview*



*Shot of Xiamen*

# TEAM

## **Nathaniel J. Brown**

*Director, Cinematographer & Producer*

Nathaniel is a filmmaker, photographer, and translator. As a Fulbright scholar to China 2013-2014, Nathaniel was based in Jingdezhen, Jiangxi to research the political economy of the ceramics industry. His most recent documentary short film, 手成 City of Hands, portrays young artists living in China's porcelain capital, and played at the Cannes Film Festival short film corner, the Cleveland Film Festival, screened at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, and won the award for best documentary short at the North Bay Art and Film Festival.

## **Kira Simon-Kennedy**

*Producer*

Kira is the co-founder & director of China Residencies, as well as an independent documentary film producer. She recently produced Jessica Kingdon's short film *Commodity City*, an observational portrait of the workers in Yiwu, the world's largest wholesale market. *Commodity City* played and won awards at over 50 film festivals worldwide.

## **AJ Sinker**

*Editor*

A.J. is an Emmy nominated film, video, and VR editor working for Major League Baseball. He has an undergraduate degree in Chinese and Film Studies.



# STYLE

## AESTHETICS & MUSIC

The videos are all shot with natural light, in an observational style that captures the cities' creative atmospheres.

The soundtrack is atmospheric and electronic, inspired by local musicians in each region.

## FORMAT

Each video will be one minute long, to give a glimpse into each city, and is meant to be seen online, embedded as social media content on Facebook, Instagram & WeChat.

Longer episodes - 10 to 20 minutes in length - can be expanded in the style of 'City of Hands' for submission to film festivals and a 6 episode web-series on creativity in China's lesser-known cities.

**谢谢**