Press Release

A Solo Exhibition by Cheng Ran
沉默影院 The Cinema of Silence

Period | Thesday, July 10th – Sunday, August 12th, 2012
Venue | Arario Gallery Seoul samcheong
Works | 06 pieces including videos and photograph
Opening Reception | 6pm, Thesday, July 10th, 2012

Arario Gallery Seoul Samcheong is pleased to present a solo exhibition by Cheng Ran (b.1981) from July 10th to August 12th, 2012. This exhibition features 6 new video and photography works by the young Chinese artist, who was born in Mongolia and currently lives and works in Hangzhou, China.

Media art is in the spotlight in the art scene in China. Observing the rapidly changing society since China’s economic reform and opening up, Chinese artists are embracing new media as an artistic tool that casts and honest reflection on the realities of China. In such turning point in Chinese contemporary art, Cheng Ran is celebrated for his media art works that observe the everydayness of Chinese society as well as capture beautiful images combined with films. Cheng Ran has persistently exhibited his work at Arario Gallery through the group exhibition Daybreak at Arario Gallery Cheonan and Memento Mori in Arario Gallery Beijing in 2011. Displaying Cheng’s new works and photographs from 2012, The Cinema of Silence is Cheng’s first solo exhibition in Korea.

Mainly producing new media works, Cheng’s oeuvre mostly consists of video and film, as well as photography and installation works. Cheng’s video works are praised for its eclectic form in which films are integrated into the poetic culture of contemporary age. His works convey a young perspective on the unsolvable issues in life, such as problems regarding identity, and life and death, and the anguish felt by young Chinese people living through the globalized Chinese culture and cultural policy.

Cheng applies basic cinematic techniques to his work like cutting, rearranging and montage, but his works do not have a coherent narrative like in films. Cheng also applies classic films that inspired him, or symbolic elements of contemporary re-make of the classic films. In addition, the artist also often balances contradictory ideas or points of view in different films to create a new film. Cheng creates
his own filmic language through various expressions, such as introducing rock n’ roll or electronic music to complement the aesthetic qualities of Chinese ink paintings.

In Cheng’s recent work *Ghost (Hamlet)* produced in 2012, three single-channel videos are projected at the same time. In each of the three videos that are 22 minutes long, a man and a woman start dancing in a space with a chandelier and a table. Dressed in modern Western attire, they respond to each other in body language by dancing passionately or slowly. Completely removed of all other sounds, the spaces in the video are filled with sounds created through the dancing bodies alone. After repeating gestures that tangle with each other or displaying improvised expressions, the dancers jump in the water either voluntarily or involuntarily. The space in the water is staged in the same setting as the space out of the water, and the dancers continue on with their gestures in the water.

**About Artist**

Born in Mongolia in 1981, Cheng Ran majored in Painting in China Academy of Art in Hangzhou. Kicking off his art practice in 2003, Cheng has worked in an artist theater as an actor as well as working as a director for video works. Cheng freely crosses over boundaries of different genres from painting to performing arts and video production, and such interdisciplinary nature has become a catalyst in his art practice.

Cheng has held numerous solo exhibitions, including at Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing in 2009 and in Galerie Urs Meile and Leo Xu Projects in Beijing in 2011. He has also participated in many group exhibitions in galleries and institutions in China and abroad, including James Cohan Gallery and Meulensteen Gallery in U.S. in 2011. In 2011, Cheng won the *Bes Video Artist Award* held by online art magazine Randian.
Image courtesy of the Artist and Arario gallery
CHENG RAN (b.1981, Inner Mongolia, China)

Lives and works in Hangzhou, China

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2012  The Cinema of Silence, Arario Gallery Seoul
       samcheong, Seoul, Korea
       CHENG RAN: WHAT WHY HOW, Leo Xu
       Projects, Shanghai, China
2011  Hot Blood, Warm Blood, Cold Blood, Galerie Urs Merle, Beijing-Lucerne, Beijing, China
       Everything Has Its Time, Galerie Urs Merle, Beijing-Lucerne, Beijing, China
       Circadian Rhythm, Qingying Gallery, Hangzhou, China
2009  Immersion and Distance, Ullens Center For Contemporary Art, Beijing, China

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2012  DAY FOR NIGHT: Between Reality and Illusion: In Collaboration with Art21: Season 6 BMCC (CUNY),
       New York, USA
       Memento Mori, Arario Gallery Beijing, China
       Model Home, Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai, China
       Boy: A Contemporary Portrait, LEO XU PROJECTS, Shanghai, China
       FCAC Video Project, Hannover, Germany
2011  The Other Wave: Contemporary Chinese Photography, BEN BROWN FINE ARTS, London, UK
       Video Art in China - MADATA, Reina Sofia Museum, Madrid, Spain
       "ONE WORLD" EXPOSITION, Hong Kong, China
       "Two people, Solar eclipse and butterfly” video projects, Art Basel Miami Beach, Miami, USA
       Video Art Terminal _ Un Viatico per i Viaggiatori, Venice, Italy
       Reunion Island Biennale of Today’s Art 2011, Reunion Island, France
       Moving Image in China: 1988 - 2011, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China
       Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This), LEO XU PROJECTS, Shanghai, China
       Daybreak, Arario Gallery Beijing, China and Arario Cheonan Spaces, Korea
       Be With Me, House of Electronic Arts Basel, LISTE, Basel, Switzerland
       Catch the Moon in the Water: Emerging Chinese Artists, James Cohan Gallery, New York, USA
Hypnosis, Other Gallery, Beijing, China

Present Continuous Past(s), Taikang Space, Beijing, China

Far Away Beauty Lingers, Other Gallery, Shanghai, China

In A Perfect World..., Meulensteen Gallery, New York, USA

INTERMISSION, James Cohan Gallery, Shanghai, China

YUN LANG PROJECT, Galleria dell’Arco, Shanghai, China

OPTIONAL EXERCISE, Li-space, Beijing, China

How to do, Henglu Art Museum, Hangzhou, China

2010

Out of Focus, Hangzhou, China

Alex: A Tribute to Alexander McQueen, James Cohan Gallery, Shanghai, China

In the Garden Contemporary Art Exhibition, Shiwudong Garden, Hangzhou, China

Cultivating the future: 798 Art Festival, Beijing, China

Reflection of Minds: MOCA Envisage Biennale, MOCA, Shanghai, China

Mongolia 360°: 1st Land Art Biennale Mongolia, National Modern Art Gallery, Ulaanbaatar, China

Get Moving, Li-Space, Beijing, China

Use the hand do the job, Shift station, Shanghai, China

Gas station 3: soft landing, hand landing, Vanguard Gallery, Shanghai, China

3rd i program: compilation of Chinese video art, V2_ Institute for the Unstable Media, Rotterdam, Holland

The Tell-tale Heart Part 2, James Cohan Gallery, New York, U.S.A

HOME-stay, Osage Gallery, Shanghai, China

Reshaping history, Arario, Beijing, China

Jungle: A Close-Up Focus on Chinese Contemporary Art Trends, Platform China, Beijing, China

The Tell-tale Heart, James Cohan Gallery, Shanghai, China

2009

CREAM-International festival for Arts and Media, Yokohama, Japan

Immersion and Distance, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China

There Is No I in Team, Contemporary Chinese Artists’ Work, PROGRAM, Berlin, Germany

Seoul International Experimental Film Festival, Seoul, Korea

The 6th China Independent Film Festival, Nanjing, China

YiPai-Century Thinking, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China

Blackboard, ShanghART H-Space, Shanghai, China

What has been happening here? Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China

New Work from China, Fortune Cookie Projects Singapore, HT Contemporary Space, Singapore
2008  
*Farewell to Post-colonialism: The Third Guangzhou Triennial*, Guangzhou, China  
*The 3rd China Media Art Festival*, Hangzhou, China  
*There Is No I in Team: Contemporary Chinese Artists’ Work*, Newcastle Upon Tyne, U.K.  
*Infantization*, MOCA Art Museum, Taipei, China

2007  
*Focus automatically 15 video art works*, Suzhou, China  
*Refresh: Emerging Chinese Artists*, ARARIO BEIJING, Beijing, China  
*Amateur World*, Platform China, Beijing, China  
*Today’s Documents*, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China  
*Refresh: Emerging Chinese Artists*, Zendai MoMa, Shanghai, China  
*Marking Time, Waiting for the Answer*, DoArt-Beijing, Gallery Hyundai, Beijing, China  
*IDAP*, Australia  
*Infantization*, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China  
*The First Fase of Chinese Contemporary Art In Anhui Province*, Hefei, China  
*CIGE multi media arts international lab forum*, Beijing, China  
*Shouting truth*, Platform China Space, Beijing, China  
*On view: Selections From China*, Paul Morris Gallery, New York, U.S.A.

2006  
*Contemporary Video In Asia*, Video Garden Miami Beach, Miami, U.S.A.  
*GIFT-2*, Loft49, Hangzhou, China  
*Elektrische Schatten China Video Festival*, Salzburg Museum of Modern Art, Austria  
*Image Flux: China: New work in Video Art*, Guangzhou, China  
*Chinese Independent Films Screenings 05-06*, RCM ART MUSEUM, Nanjing, China

2005  
*GIFTS: Contemporary Art Exhibition*, H.N.U. Art Museum, Hangzhou, China  
*In the Deep of Reality: A Case of Chinese Contemporary Art*, Beyond City, Hangzhou, China

2004  
*Wink: 2 Seconds Ultra-Short Video Festival*, DDM Warehouse, Shanghai, Beijing, China  
*The Second: Chinese new Media art Festival*, China Academy of Fine Art, Hangzhou, China  
*Circle Place: Video installation Exhibition*, Bai Ta Ling Space, Hangzhou, China  
*Chinese Independent Films Screenings*, Nanjing Arts Institute, Nanjing, China

2003  
*BAI TA LING*, Hangzhou, China
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Exhibition Hour: Tue - Sun 10:00 am - 07:00 pm (closed on Mondays)
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