

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 10<sup>th</sup> to August 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 Meulenstein Gallery in U.S. in 2011. In 2011, Cheng won the *Bes Video Artist Award* held by online art magazine Randian.

Images



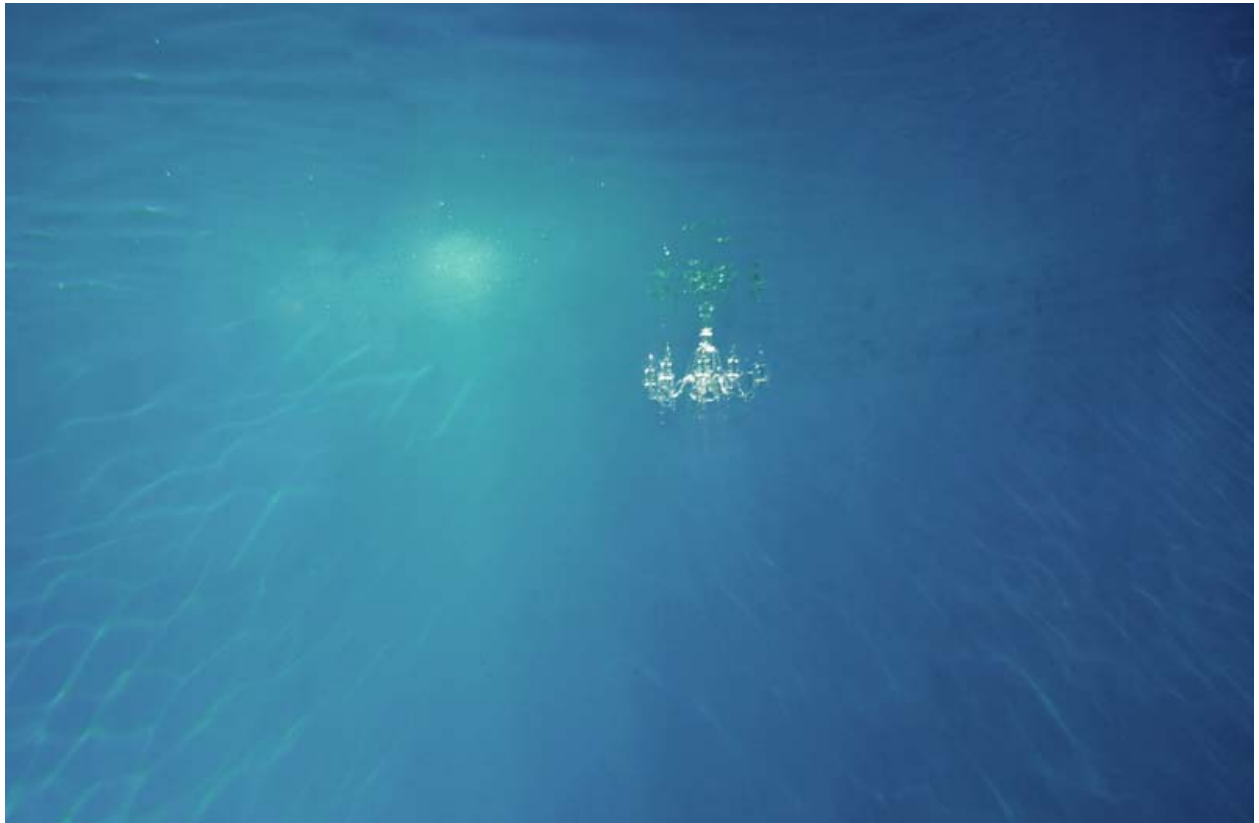
Untitled\_2012\_photography\_112.5x200cm



Untitled\_2012\_photography\_100x178cm



Untitled\_2012\_photography\_70x125cm



Untitled\_2012\_photography\_140x212.4cm



Untitled\_2012\_photography\_120x180cm



Untitled\_2012\_photography\_120x225.7cm

**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 - MADATAC*, 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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**Image**

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Exhibition Hour : Tue - Sun 10:00 am - 07:00 pm (closed on Mondays)

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