



7th Asia-Europe Art Camp Art Workshop for Visual Arts 2009/2010

Moved, Mutated and Disturbed Identities

Luxembourg: 5-19 July 2009
Shanghai: 2010



Project Outline

The 7th Asia-Europe Art Camp - Art Workshop for Visual Arts 2009/2010 is a joint initiative by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the Art Workshop organised by Casino Luxembourg - Forum d'art contemporain and the University of Luxembourg.

The **Asia-Europe Foundation** has been organising art camps to explore and tackle issues concerning contemporary and new media arts in Asia and Europe since 2003. Young artists from the two regions are brought together in this platform for dialogue, peer-to-peer exchange and collaboration to produce new work. The Camp focuses on the creative process rather than on the artistic product as it is designed to boost the participants' learning experience and opportunities for their professional development.

Built on similar principles, the **Art Workshop** was initiated in 1998 by the Luxembourg-born artist Bert Theis (in close collaboration with Paul di Felice) during his art project for Manifesta 2 - European Biennial for Contemporary Art. Every summer since then, **Casino Luxembourg** has been organising European art workshops, in partnership with the **University of Luxembourg**, where young artists from Europe conduct creative and intellectual exchanges. The aim is to challenge them in contemporary art-making through a European platform for research, analysis and the study of contemporary art methods and materials. It allows young artists to present their work and discuss it with contemporary art professionals as well as with other young artists from different cultural backgrounds. At the end of the workshop, the productions are presented in an exhibition at Casino Luxembourg - Forum d'art contemporain.

The 7th Asia-Europe Art Camp - Art Workshop for Visual Arts 2009/2010 will bring together a core group of comprising **9 European and 9 Asian visual artists**. The selected artists are expected to present their work to each other, to engage in art-making and fieldwork and to produce individual work for an exhibition in Shanghai (in either an arts centre or an arts academy), and a presentation at the Luxembourg Pavilion of the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai.

The process takes place over a period of 12 months starting in **Luxembourg**, the smallest country in the middle of Europe which has become a melting pot of immigrants from different European countries. The art camp will continue in **Shanghai**, the Chinese megalopolis which gathers very different people from all over China and which will play host to the World Expo 2010. ASEF and Casino Luxembourg will be working together with either a Chinese arts centre or an arts academy in Shanghai.

The project aims to encourage artistic exchanges between Asian and European visual arts professionals at theoretical, artistic and personal levels. Conceived as a programme for Master's degree graduates in visual arts from Asia and Europe, the art camp offers an environment where different cultures blend to add further maturity to the thoughts and experiences of the participants. Participants will be guided throughout the programme by workshop leaders, Paul di Felice (Luxembourg), Sylvie Blocher (France) and Binghui Huangfu (China).

Theme

Moved, Mutated and Disturbed Identities has been set as this year's theme to challenge European and Asian artists to realities and identities in both China and Luxembourg.

Movement, in the context of identity, suggests geographic displacements of a voluntary, involuntary or even forced kind. But it can also evoke distance, itinerary, gaps, and instances of the inexpressible that our own self has to confront in the face of cultures or moral codes distinct from our own. The thematic association of identity and mutation gives rise to a series of hybrid concepts. It enables the building of new identities, helped along by technological means of communication that render transparent the threshold between inner and outer worlds, between subject and object, between representation and reality.

Disturbance evokes an interruption in the linear development of identities. It carries along inevitable social and political changes - the consequences of which can be multiple, positive and/or negative - in the process of identity-shaping. It can also, in a figurative or psychological sense, bear witness to so-called disorders. In all these cases, probability is high that disturbed identities give way to new, sometimes knotty, relationships with the Other.

In general, the representation of identities is complex. Only parts are visible, because they are presentable. Reading between the lines, looking behind the façade is made difficult. Whereas represented, thus simplified, identities create fronts and barriers, disturbed ones may open up spaces for negotiation, change, infiltration, segmentation, transformation, alienation, discovery and re-appropriation. Movement, mutation, disturbance of identities can happen at micro and macro scales. Individuals, groups, communities, citizens, cities, states etc. can be the subjects or objects concerned by these acts and affected to become constructed identities, changing identities, fake identities, multiple identities, lost identities, split identities, refuted identities, hidden identities, repressed identities etc.

The artists are invited to respond to the theme through local contexts, states and situations.

Activities & Process

Phase I: Meeting in Luxembourg (5-19 July 2009)

Nine Asian and 9 European artists have been selected through an open call by an international jury comprising of a panel of workshop leaders and organisers. All selected participants will meet in Luxembourg for a two-week residency programme. The residency programme will focus on workshops, lectures, discussions as well as the production of individual works. Public lectures scheduled include talks by French Philosopher Bernard Stiegler, who serves as the director of the *Institut de recherche et d'innovation* at Centre Georges-Pompidou, Paris (7 July) and Françoise Vergès, Scientific and Cultural Director of the upcoming museum *Maison des civilisations et de l'unité réunionnaise*, Reunion Island, France (9 July). At the end of the two weeks, artists will present their works-in-progress in an exhibition at Casino Luxembourg. After the residency programme in Luxembourg, 12 artists will be selected to continue in Shanghai, based on the submission of a developed artistic concept to the jury.

Phases II + IV: Online Communication (Phase II - between the Luxembourg meeting and the first Shanghai meeting; Phase IV - between the first and the second Shanghai meetings)

An online platform will be set up for exchange through a common blog/website throughout the duration of the art workshop. Participants are to continue their work in their respective countries in Phases II and IV and will be closely monitored by the facilitators. The 12 selected artists are encouraged to work on their projects. Active use of online communication tools will enable artists to exchange ideas and update their progress effectively.

Phase III: First Meeting in Shanghai (April 2010, tbc)

The 12 selected artists will meet in Shanghai for a week of workshops, meetings, lectures and field research. Discussions and public lectures facilitated by the project's Chinese partner will continue to take place in order to prepare for the exhibition in July 2010. After going through the exchange programme, the participants will continue working, back in their own countries.

Phase V: Second Meeting in Shanghai with Presentation of the Works (one week in September 2010)

The artists will have a week in Shanghai to prepare for the presentation of the final works of art produced during the 7th Asia-Europe Art Camp - Art Workshop for Visual Arts 2009/2010 at an exhibition (either in an arts centre or an arts academy) and, at the Luxembourg Pavilion at the World Expo 2010. A publication and/or a DVD documenting the entire programme will be produced.

Workshop Leaders

Three workshop leaders from Asia and Europe will facilitate the Art Camp and give advice to the participants throughout the project.

Paul di Felice (Luxembourg)

Paul Di Felice has been one of the two workshop leaders of the annual Art Workshop organised by Casino Luxembourg – Forum d'art contemporain (in collaboration with University of Luxembourg) since its first edition in 1998.

At the University of Luxembourg, Paul is in charge of the Visual Arts Laboratory and is a lecturer on Art History and Visual Arts Pedagogy. He is also an art critic and independent curator of international contemporary photography exhibitions. He is an active member of AICA (International Association of Art Critics) and co-organises the European Month of Photography in Luxembourg in collaboration with the cities of Paris, Berlin, Rome, Vienna, Bratislava and Moscow. Since 1984, he is co-editor and co-publisher of *Café-Crème* edition, an international art and photography magazine. He has been invited to international photography meetings such as Pingyao International Photo Festival (China, 2008) and *Les Rencontres d'Arles – Photographie* (France, 2008). He is frequently invited as a jury member for exhibitions and was the head of the jury of the *Backlight Triennale Price*, Tampere, Finland.

Sylvie Blocher (France)

The French artist Sylvie Blocher lives and works in Saint-Denis in the periphery of Paris, France. She teaches at the *École Nationale Supérieure* of Paris-Cergy at the postgraduate level.

In 1993 Sylvie authored the term *Je Nous Sommes* (I Am Us) and the idea of Universal Local Art (ULA). These concepts are manifest in her ongoing video art series *Living Pictures*. In 1997, she and architect/urban planner François Daune founded the collaborative art and social action group *Campement Urbain*, which received the Evens Foundation International Prize for art and community collaboration in 2002.

Sylvie's recent solo exhibitions include *Wo/Men in Uniform* (Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina Public Library, Regina, Canada, 2007); *Men in Gold* (SFMoMA, San Francisco, USA, 2007); *Living Pictures and Other Human Voices* (Casino Luxembourg, Luxembourg, 2003); *Dignidad* (Museum of Modern & Contemporary Art, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2003) and *10 minutes of freedom* (E.R.O.A., Coudekerque, France, 2003). She participated in the 2005 Guangzhou Triennial in China at the Vitamin Creative Space, upon the invitation of curator Hou Hanru. Other recent group exhibitions include *El amor qué tal* (Gallery Santa Fé, Bogotá, Columbia, 2008); *Stopover* (SESC São Paulo, Brasil, 2008); *Alter Ego* (Art Center Chapelle de Melan, France, 2008); *Airs de Paris* (Centre Pompidou, Paris, France, 2007); *NowHere* (Fondation Olivetti, Venice Biennial, Italy, 2005) and at the New Delhi Triennial (India, 2005).

URL: www.sylvieblocher.com

Binghui Huangfu (China)

Binghui Huangfu was born in Beijing, China, in 1959. She studied painting at the Beijing Cultural Palace in the early 1980s and settled in Australia in 1989. She was the first Director of the Earl Lu Gallery at the LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts, Singapore, and in 2003 became Director of the Asia-Australia Arts Centre in Sydney. She currently serves as Deputy Director, Zendai Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai.

An internationally recognized curator and theorist in contemporary Asian visual arts, Binghui Huangfu has curated a number of major international exhibitions, accompanied by conferences and substantial catalogues canvassing themes underpinning the exhibitions. In addition Binghui has served on numerous boards including the Academic Board to the Asian Art Archive Hong Kong (2001-5), and as a judge for many major art prizes within the Asian region – such as the Philip Morris Art Award, Singapore, 2002.

Organisers

This project is a co-operation between the Asia-Europe Foundation, Casino Luxembourg and the University of Luxembourg with the kind support of the Ministry of Culture, Higher Education and Research in Luxembourg and Luxembourg@ExpoShanghai2010.

Asia-Europe Foundation

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) seeks to promote better mutual understanding and closer co-operation between the people of Asia and Europe through greater intellectual, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges. These exchanges include conferences, lecture tours, workshops, seminars and the use of web-based platforms. The major achievement of ASEF is the establishment of permanent bi-regional networks focused on areas and issues that help to strengthen Asia-Europe relations. Established in February 1997 by the partners of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), ASEF is the only permanent physical institution of the ASEM process. ASEF works in partnership with other public institutions and civil society actors to ensure its work is broad-based and balanced among the partner countries.

<http://www.asef.org>

University of Luxembourg

The University of Luxembourg's Visual Arts Laboratory focuses on research in contemporary art, comparative studies and discourse on contemporary art in Luxembourg. It is also an institution that manages ongoing research, promotes international co-operation and oversees the undertaking of coursework in contemporary arts as part of the University's postgraduate courses in arts and media.

http://wwwfr.uni.lu/recherche/flshase/ipse_identites_politiques_societes_espaces/laboratoires/laboratoire_d_arts_visuels

Casino Luxembourg - Forum d'art contemporain

Casino Luxembourg - Forum d'art contemporain functions as an exhibition hall throughout the year, organising contemporary art exhibitions and exposing the diversity and the complexity of emerging artistic tendencies. The thirteen rooms of the restored historical building are used in ways that allow various exhibitions to take place simultaneously. A rich cultural programme ranging from guided tours, conferences and round-table discussions to contemporary music performances complement the exhibitions.

<http://www.casino-luxembourg.lu>

<http://www.artworkshop.lu>