

MEDIA ALERT

## Creative China Festival Presents Art of SONG Dong, YU Fan, LI Jun, GUO Hongwei and HE Wei in New York in Collaboration with Asia Contemporary Art Week

*YU Fan's one-month-long residency at the School of Museum of Fine Arts in Boston at Tufts in September and an exhibition of his works at Sundaram Tagore Gallery, New York, from October 12 to November 4.*

*Exhibition of works by SONG Dong and LI Jun at Mana Contemporary, New Jersey, from October 15 to December 15.*



Left: SONG Dong, *Eating the City in Beijing*, 2003, installation view © SONG Dong. Courtesy of Pace Beijing. | Right: YU Fan, *White Horse and Sailor III*, 2009, Enamel on bronze. Courtesy of YU Fan.

**(October 4, 2017, Beijing | New York)** As part of the newly announced **Creative China Festival**, [Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation \(BCAF\)](#) is pleased to present a strong line-up of contemporary Chinese art programs, featuring SONG Dong, YU Fan, LI Jun and GUO Hongwei in New York in collaboration with Asia Contemporary Art Week (ACAW) as part of their signature "[THINKING PROJECTS](#)" series of pop-up exhibitions. The Festival also supports HE Wei's installation as part of the ACAW after-party (by invitation only).

### ACAW THINKING PROJECTS x Creative China Festival: SONG Dong and LI Jun

On view from October 15 at Mana Contemporary, ACAW Consortium Partner, the exhibition of works by the acclaimed Chinese artist SONG Dong and the emerging talent LI Jun will open with a participatory performance inviting the public and media to consume SONG's internationally renowned installation *Eating the City*. Constructed from thousands of edible cookies, biscuits, and candies, this miniature city will exist for one night only, with the performance promising to be a popular art event of the season.

SONG's *Eating the City* has travelled widely, having been previously exhibited in Antwerp, Barcelona, Brasilia, London, Paris, and Shanghai. Alongside, contemporary work of the emerging Chinese artist, illustrator, writer, and activist LI Jun will be displayed. The presentation will feature *Zi Jie at East Lake* (2010 – 2015), a community-conscious work addressing the issues of urbanization, gentrification, and capitalism in China. The artist has been selected from the BCAF's Poke Project. The duo exhibition will be on view through to December 15, 2017.

ACAW THINKING PROJECTS x Creative China Festival: YU Fan

In September the renowned Chinese sculptor YU Fan, whose work presents dialogues between the histories of Chinese and foreign sculpture, participated in a one-month-long artist residency at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts in Boston. Following this period of intense artistic creation, the resulting new sculptural work will be exhibited at the Sundaram Tagore Gallery in New York, ACAW Consortium Partner, from October 12 through to November 4.

**Partner Organization Events:**

He Wei's Participatory Installation *The Aerial*

Taking place on October 12 at Chambers Fine Art, ACAW Consortium Partner, *The Aerial* is a participatory installation by HE Wei, which comprises of hundreds of delicate, uncanny 'creatures.' Each of them has a feathered 'head' connected to three pointy 'legs' at the bottom via a long slim 'neck.' The work is inspired by the aesthetics of an ancient incense burner from Han Dynasty, which usually depicts a paradise full of animals and other creatures. *The Aerial* is presented during the after-party of this year's edition of Asia Contemporary Art Week (ACAW). Supported by the Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation (BCAF), the project is one of the programs of the Creative China Festival (CCF).

Guo Hongwei's Exhibition *The Pre-existent Painting*

Running from October 21 through to November 11 at Chambers Fine Art, ACAW Consortium Partner, *The Pre-existent Painting* by GUO Hongwei converts the gallery into a natural history laboratory. Featuring over 80 small watercolor renderings of mineral samples, 'painting-like' works produced organically using waste from industrial painting processes, as well as paintings on shells and pieces of coral, the exhibition provides a fascinating insight into Guo's artistic practice. The artist's experimentations are juxtaposed with a series of drawings about India made in 1990s by a New York-based artist Judy Blum-Reddy, exploring acts of tracing, archiving and ultimately processes of collecting that are evident in both artists' practices.

**Exhibition Details:**

ACAW THINKING PROJECTS x Creative China Festival: YU Fan

Date: October 12, 2017 – November 4, 2017

Opening Reception: October 12, 2017, 6 – 8pm

Venue: Sundaram Tagore Gallery (Chelsea)

Address: 525 West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street (10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue), New York City, New York, USA

ACAW THINKING PROJECTS x Creative China Festival: SONG Dong and LI Jun

Date: October 15, 2017 – December 15, 2017

Participatory Performance and Opening Reception: October 15, 2017, 6 – 8pm

Hours: Monday to Friday, 11am – 3pm

Venue: Mana Contemporary (Jersey City)

Address: 888 Newark Ave, Jersey City, NJ 07306, USA

He Wei's Participatory Installation *The Aerial*

Date: October 12, 2017

Opening hours: 8 to 10pm

Venue: Chambers Fine Art

Address: 522 West 19th Street, New York, NY 10011

GUO Hongwei: The Pre-existent Painting

Date: October 21 – November 11, 2017

Hours: 8 to 10pm

Venue: Chambers Fine Art

Address: 522 West 19th Street, New York, NY 10011

– Ends –

**Notes to Editors:**

**About Creative China Festival (CCF)**

Initiated by the Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation (BCAF), the Creative China Festival (CCF) will launch this autumn with a specially curated program of events in New York, Boston, and Los Angeles. Across three cities, six sections of exploring art and culture through talking forums, film series, design exhibitions, an art residency and public art exhibitions, live music performances, a guest city program, more than 10 collaborating institutions, over 100 participants and 50 events, the Creative China Festival explores the cultural innovation and establishes a crossroad meeting point between China and the United States, the East and West, the classical and novel, as well as the institutional and grass roots. CCF will run from September 7 until November 24, 2017.

**About Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation (BCAF)**

The Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation (BCAF) is the only publicly funded foundation and cultural think tank in China focusing on the development of contemporary humanities and arts. BCAF is dedicated to discovering cultural innovation and advancing the public welfare of art. Through extensive and dynamic public programs in three major fields including cultural innovation, art public welfare, and think tank research, BCAF hopes to share the arts and culture freely and equally with the public to develop a civil society based on the concept of "Creative China."

The team has extensive collective experience in working with international prominent organizations and platforms such as UNDP, UNESCO, documenta 14, the 56th Venice Biennale, the 15th Venice Architecture Biennale, the Cannes Film Festival, Locarno International Film Festival, and New York Fashion Week. With strong collective experiences in governmental initiatives such as China-EU High-Level People to People Dialogue Mechanism and Chinese-German Culture Year, BCAF is dedicated to supporting content creators with a global vision, having worked with a wide range of outstanding artists and scholars, and presenting contemporary Chinese arts and culture on the international stage.

**About the Partners**

**About Asia Contemporary Art Week (ACAW)**

Asia Contemporary Art Week (ACAW) is a dynamic platform that brings together leading New York and Asia-based art institutions, museums and galleries to present the largest showcase of cutting-edge exhibitions, innovative projects, provocative dialogues on current topics, and networking opportunities. Directed by Curator Leeza Ahmady, ACAW is a non-profit curatorial and educational initiative of Asia Contemporary Art Consortium (ACAC).

**About Chambers Fine Art**

Chambers Fine Art is a gallery specializing in contemporary Chinese art located in New York and Beijing. It was established by Christophe W. Mao in New York in 2000. During the first seven years, artists including Lu Shengzhong, Hong Hao, Song Dong and Yin Xiuzhen had their first solo exhibitions in the USA. Since then a younger generation of artists including Wu Jian'an, Zhao Zhao, Fu Xiaotong, and Guo Hongwei has added different perspectives to the gallery profile. Now in its second decade, Chambers Fine Art has become one of the essential destinations for all those interested in the latest and best coming out of China.

**About the Artists**

**LI Jun**

LI Jun is an illustrator, writer, and activist. From his participation in the socially-engaged initiative "East Lake Art Project", where he co-organized performances and installations with local artists, he started to focus on the issues of urbanization, capitalism, and public spaces. LI has been selected from BCAF's Poke Project. His work has been included in group exhibitions at Yang Art Museum, Beijing (2017), Power Station of Art, Shanghai (2015), and Times Museum, Guangzhou (2015), etc.

**SONG Dong**

SONG Dong is a significant contemporary art figure in Chinese conceptual art. He has presented his solo shows at MoMA, New York, and has been included in various prestigious international shows, such as the 5th Moscow Biennale, dOCUMENTA 13, and the 54th Venice Biennale. The artist was honored on various occasions, including in 2012 when he won "Power 100 of Chinese Contemporary Art: Artist of the Year" and "The First Kiev International Biennale Award."

**YU Fan**

YU Fan's work presents dialogues between the histories of Chinese and foreign sculpture. YU's work has been included in major exhibitions at the Israel National Museum, the Singapore Art Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Chicago's Smart Museum, and during the Shanghai Biennale.

**GUO Hongwei**

GUO Hongwei has achieved an international acclaim for his mastery of the watercolor technique, culminating in large-scale watercolors depicting objects from the natural world depicted with scrupulous fidelity exhibited in *Painting is Collecting I, II, III* at Chambers Fine Art in 2012. In these, as in his works in other media, the metaphorical associations of the objects he represents have always been of particular importance to him. This way of thinking about the world reached a climax in his 2014 exhibition, *The Great Metaphorist*, in which he used the twenty minute drive that he makes several times a day between his house and studio in Beijing as the thematic core of this exhibition.

**HE Wei**

HE Wei is the co-founder of HE+HU Creative Collective which is the first Chinese member of NEW INC, the first museum-led incubator hosted at the New Museum of Contemporary Art. HE+HU's work, with a focus on cultural communication and human relationships, adopts an interdisciplinary approach by combining sculpture, installation, design, technology, and performance in order to create a participatory social practice.

**Media Enquiries:**

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