

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation Announces First Edition of Creative China Festival

*Exciting 3-month program to present groundbreaking works from cultural movers
and shakers in China*

*Festival to further promote vibrancy and richness of Chinese contemporary art
and culture to American audiences*

Festival Dates: September 7 – November 24, 2017



Left: CAI Shangjun, still from *The Conformist*, 2017, 123 mins. Courtesy of Fangjin Visual Media Culture Communication (Beijing) Co., Ltd. Right: LU Yang, *LuYangAsia*, 2017. Photography by KA Xiaoxi. Courtesy of Lu Yang

(August 25, 2017, Beijing | New York) The [Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation \(BCAF\)](#) is proud to announce the very first **Creative China Festival (CCF)** that 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, CCF 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.



SONG Dong, *Eating the City in Beijing*, 2003, installation view ©Song Dong. Courtesy of Pace Beijing

From September 7 to November 24, 2017, the Festival will offer an array of exciting events to be presented in collaboration with over 10 globally recognized cultural institutions, such as [Asia Contemporary Art Week](#), [Brattle Theatre](#), [Chambers Fine Art](#), [China Institute](#), [Columbia University](#), [Metrograph](#), [Modern Sky USA](#), [New Museum's NEW INC](#), [New York Foundation for the Arts](#), [New York University](#), [School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University](#), and [Special Special](#). Events will take place at major landmarks such as Central Park, the Grand Central Terminal, Library of Congress, Skylight Clarkson Square, and UN Headquarters.

CCF aims to share significant cultural aspects of Chinese contemporary art and culture with American audiences, and this annual event brings together a combination of acclaimed and emerging artists, designers, film directors, and intellectuals highlighting the identities and creative forces in modern-day China, including SONG Dong, YU Fan, Zuoxiao Zuzhou, CAI Shangjun, CAO Baoping, CHENG Er, DIAO Yi'nan, XIN Yukun, GUO Hongwei, HE Wei, LU Yang, LI Jun, Angel CHEN, Min WU, Hiuman CHAU, A Si, Edison CHEN, HHH, MA Di, Re-TROS, and many more.

Each year CCF will introduce a guest city to American audiences in an ongoing effort to promote cross cultural exchange and awareness. This year, the Festival is proud to announce Nanjing as the first edition's guest city, featuring [Nanjing Week](#) 2017 as a part of the wider CCF program. As the ancient capital of six dynasties, Nanjing will bring its modern culture, tradition, and charm to New York through its outstanding platform Nanjing Week.

"The Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation is honored to partner with such prestigious collaborating institutions from China and the United States to present the first *Creative China Festival* and to share our values of freedom, energy, curiosity and discovery to the world. In alignment with our innovative global work in recent years, the initiative of organizing the Festival is to support the new generation of Chinese creative forces and enhance the long-term collaboration of cultural institutions between China and the US. In the complex and diverse world that we live in, it is important to learn how to observe, think, and retain our ideas and values, learn and understand from cultures, and contribute positively to society. The *Creative China Festival* aims to encourage and continue such thought processes with our global counterparts," says **CUI Qiao, President of Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation**.

CCF 2017 will present a **program** of diversity, exploration, and insight through six important sections with new exhibitions, thought-provoking talking platforms, innovative fashion concepts, and artistic engagement. The series of dynamic events will continue to enhance the strength of Chinese influence and prowess to the world in the areas of fine, performing, and visual art.

Film Series

September – November

"New Noir: Chinese Crime Films" will present 5 hard-hitting fugitive films from established Chinese filmmakers who redefine the crime genre in China. Panel discussions and seminars will be held and attended by the directors covering topics of their filmmaking practice and the industry in contemporary China. One of the highlight films to open the program is "The Conformist" by award winning Beijing-based director CAI Shangjun. In 2011, CAI won the Silver Lion for the Best Director at the 68th Venice International Film Festival, and his latest work "The Conformist" recently won the Best Actor award at the Shanghai International Film Festival in 2017. Screenings will kick off at Metrograph in New York City on September 20 and will tour to Brattle Theatre in Boston in November.

China-US Cultural Forums

October

In collaboration with the pertinent cultural, financial and economic institutions, the forums will present exclusive conferences covering topics on China-US Cultural Cooperation, China-US Relations, Social Innovation, as well as Cultural and Creative Dialogue. With a stellar lineup of distinguished speakers and familiar faces in art, culture, and social responsibility, each conference is comprised of keynote speeches, roundtable discussions, and followed by in-depth Q&A sessions. The conferences will discuss the experiences and prospects on the new areas of social and cultural innovation in recent years and establish a long-term collaborative platform.

Collaborating institutions include Asia Contemporary Art Week, the Center for China and Globalization (CCG), China Institute, The DO School, New York University China House, Tencent, and Tenyun Think Tank.

Artist Residency & Public Art Exhibitions

September – November

Collaborating with [Asia Contemporary Art Week](#) (ACAW) which runs from October 5 to 26, the curatorial and educational platform in New York along with CCF will present renowned Chinese artist SONG Dong, YU Fan, and emerging artist LI Jun in ACAW's signature program "[THINKING PROJECTS](#)," a series of pop-up exhibitions dedicated to examining process-oriented artistic endeavors which audiences are welcome to experience.

In September, sculptor YU Fan will take on a one-month residency at the School of Museum of Fine Arts in Boston at Tufts culminating with a presentation of new sculptural works hosted at ACAW Consortium Partner Sundaram Tagore Gallery in New York from October 12 to November 4.

On October 15, ACAW Consortium Partner Mana Contemporary hosts SONG Dong's large-scale public engaged project *Eating the City* where visitors are invited and encouraged to consume SONG's miniature model city made from cookies, biscuits and candies. The performance has been presented in Antwerp, Barcelona, Brasilia, London, Paris, and Shanghai. At the same venue LI Jun's community conscious *Zi Jie at East Lake* (2010-2015) addresses issues of urbanization and gentrification in China. This exhibition will be on view through December 15.

Design Exhibitions

September 23 & 30 and November 10 – 24

In an effort to further engage the world of Chinese garment design and fashion culture, CCF will organize a pop-up exhibition by edgy contemporary designer and artist LU Yang. In Collaboration with Special Special, an independent art gallery/shop located in East Village, the exhibition represents a collection of 40 garments and selected latest video art, showcasing a modern Chinese outlook on urban chic and

visual aesthetics. Stimulated by a medley of boundary-pushing multimedia works that explore neuroscience, mortality and religion, LU's work tends to invoke a "shock and awe" reaction.

Having had her work featured in the China Pavilion at the 2015 [Venice Biennale](#), LU's main basis for her pieces stem from the extremities of balancing intense color, body parts, and oriental motifs. The results of her work, whether fabric based or video, tend to be an over synthesized visual that is both appealing and objectionable, forcing the viewer to further engage in them whilst questioning why they can't look away.

Designers [Angel CHEN](#), [Min WU](#), and Hiuman CHAU will participate in the Modern Sky Festival which takes place in both New York City and Los Angeles in September, collaborating with the participating music groups by creating unique clothing for them and presenting an exhibition of their works on site.

Live Music Performances at Modern Sky Festival

September 23 & 30

Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation will collaborate with the Modern Sky Festival on bringing artistic elements into the music festival. In addition to the fashion designers' participation, legendary rock musician and contemporary artist Zuoxiao Zuzhou will present a series of his paintings on site.

After three years in New York City and a decade of festivals in Mainland China, Modern Sky brings its signature festival to New York on September 30 and to LA for the first time on September 23. A full day of music and festivities will take place at Santa Anita Park, California and will feature Beijing-based singer-songwriter sensation MA Di, folk songstress A Si, seminal Beijing post-punkers Re-TROS, hip-hop crew HHH, Korean indie sensations Hyukoh, and Californian music bands The Molochs and Cotillon.

The Modern Sky Festival NYC, now in its fourth year, returns to Central Park on September 30, with headline acts including Hong Kong music and film icon Edison CHEN, indie-pop songwriter A Si, Re-TROS, HHH, and additional Modern Sky USA Records singers Calvin Love and Brian Hill.

Nanjing Week

September 7 – 13

Opening on September 7 and recognized as CCF's first guest city, Nanjing will be showcased through a series of activities celebrating the city of Nanjing through seven days of activities and performances with Nanjing Week. Organized by Nanjing Municipal Committee and Nanjing Municipal Government, Nanjing Week is presented under the guidance of the state strategy "Chinese Culture go global" as a way to foster the importance of Nanjing and its efforts to "go global." Nanjing Week has since been launched at the Milan Expo in 2015 and at the London Design Festival in 2016, with its globalization now moving to New York this year to continue the outreach of introducing Chinese culture to the international audiences. Coinciding with the iconic New York Fashion Week, Nanjing Week will feature a special program including an opening ceremony, couture runway shows, musical performances, design tours, and travel inspirations. Highlights of the program include a "Future City" seminar, "The Taste of Nanjing" culinary event, an International Forum series, and various exhibitions, showrooms and performances highlighting the modern culture, tradition, and flavors of Nanjing.

Initiated by the Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation (BCAF), the only publicly-funded foundation and cultural think-tank in China focusing on the development of contemporary arts and humanities, the future editions of CCF will be organized by the newly established Creative China Centre (CCC). Together these two entities will continue to present the Creative China Festival to a global audience and the American arts community.

Partnering with a number of leading US institutions and with strong support from its strategic cooperation partners including Tencent, Tenyun Think Tank, LAM Group, and Lam's American Dream, CCF aims to further present and collaborate on ambitious projects, expand geographically and travel to more cities across the country for the following editions of the Festival. These dates, along with a full program, will be announced later.

– Ends –

Notes to Editors:

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 in order 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.

Creative China Center (CCC)

Creative China Center is a nonprofit arts and cultural organization dedicated to advancing the understanding and appreciation of Chinese contemporary arts and culture to international audiences. It provides cultural exchange platforms for artists, organizations, and individuals in China and the US to gather, collaborate, and create. CCC organizes the annual "Creative China Festival" across the United States, with participating artists and industry intellectuals from the fields of film, literature, design, visual and performing arts, to showcase the identities and creative forces of modern-day China.

Strategic Cooperation Partners: Tencent, Tenyun Think Tank, LAM Group, and Lam's American Dream

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