

PRESS RELEASE

**"Long March Project: 5 Year Retrospective"**

**2007.11.1 – 2008.2.17**

**Long March Space, Beijing**

"Long March has no ending; everyone is actually his/her own long marcher, so the Long March will happen again and again..." from an open letter to the artists at the end of 'The Long March – A Walking Visual Display' in 2002.

On June 28, 2002, the Long March Project started its journey with 'A Walking Visual Display', leaving from Beijing towards the first historical Long March site of Ruijin.

On September 9, 2002, after completing 12 of the 20 planned sites of 'A Walking Visual Display', this Long March troop returned to Beijing where Long March Space was officially established in early 2003.... and so began a new period of Long March Project continuing its indefinite journey.

Since its inception, the Long March Project has been reviewing the limits and boundaries of cultural awareness through visual display in different historical and geographical contexts, building meaningful connections between past and present, global and local, urban and rural, theory and practice. As a continuing journey in development with no fixed destination, the 'Long March Project' moves between international and national artistic platforms, beyond the staging of exhibitions, to become a seeding machine of creative dialogue through residency, publication, symposia, public intervention, and collaborative local activities. The relationship between art and social life continues to be explored with artists, curators, scholars, writers, independent art organizations and major international institutions in an engagement of local realities in the creation of new social experiences of artistic potential.

'Long March Project 2002-2007' is not an exhibition of self-affirmation or conclusion. It is an active form of reflection in collaboration with fellow Long Marchers that provides a brief summary of past experiments — a critical

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manifestation and confession. For the past five years, the Long March Project has been a provocative and enthusiastic non-stop practitioner in the creation, display and discussion of contemporary art. We seek to maintain a sincere and open attitude in the exploration of new means of contemporary art production. Our desire to challenge and question assumption, standard, perception and stereotype embodies the self-critical attitude of the Long March Project. This exhibition will showcase the theoretical methodology of the Long March Project by providing overview of the unique wealth of national and international pathways of its ongoing journey. It is hoped this 'exposal' of the 'unfinished' will entice the support of potential Long Marchers' for future constructions.

This exhibition will provide survey of the language, projects, and objects of the Long March route to date — through art works, text, archival materials, historical remains, video documentation and much more — putting these in a 'frame', which shows the Long March as a project and a complex independent organization with a history, an agenda and methodological structure. This is a theoretical and practical narrative that inherently speaks of success and failure from the local, international, individual and collective perspectives.

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