

PRESS RELEASE

**"Long March Project: Building Code Violations"**

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"Building Code Violations" is a metaphor. Its etymology is from the legal lexicon of modern urban planning directed at those individual actions which are in contravention of a normalized and unified social system. In this exhibition, "Building Code Violations" is a cultural approach towards a "universalist" notion of modernity, specifically as imposed upon China. This type of "top down" revolutionary approach has resulted not only in overturning local knowledge systems, but also in a displacement of nature and space, a distortion of bodily experiences, and heightening of class tensions. If the democratic model put forth by modernity is a universal historical process, then, how do we confront the failure of this model to "universalize"? The expression of "violations" are built upon offshoots of individual needs, but beneath this surface resides a critique towards the construction of a particular idealist aesthetics. Confronted with failure from inception, "Building Code Violations" are expressions that go beyond purely material or architectural concepts, entering into the cultural and political arenas of society, and using one "wrong" to subvert the ridiculousness of another "wrong". Here, the term "violation" does not provide any basis for the judgment, rather it is a self-constructed pronoun, an aesthetic attitude based upon experience of the indifference of difference, ubiquitous and decentralized, visible and invisible, and knowable and unknown.

"Building Code Violations" are based upon unstable subjectivities that turn what should be inside outside, and vice versa. Here, modernity itself is not the "violating" building, rather it is the experience of modernity which is the corresponding "violation" to modernity. The building code violations around the

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world and the supposed codes that they violate are all unique. Currently, China's definition of building code violation is:

Those constructions which have not obtained a construction permit; those which violate given stipulations of a permit; or those constructions which severely interfere with city zoning.

1. Constructions built either without permission, and/or without prior obtaining of necessary urban zoning permits or land use permits.
2. Unauthorized alteration of a construction which has obtained the necessary urban zoning permits.
3. Unauthorized alteration of the use of a construction.
4. Unauthorized turning of a temporary construction into a permanent construction.

Modernity reconfigures space and landscape so as to be conducive to the organization of production, only to find what it has created to be antagonistic to its needs at a future point in time, thus beginning a process of tearing down and building anew. This process is enacted culturally through the paradoxical turning temporary constructions into permanent ones, and permanent constructions into building code violations.