

PRESS RELEASE

**"NONO"**

**Chu Yun, He An, Jiang Zhi, Kan Xuan, Liu Wei, Shi Qing, Colin Chinnery, Wang Wei, Xu Zhen, Yang Zhenzhong, Zhu Yu**

**2007.4.22 - 6.17**

**Long March Space, Beijing**

Is NONO a double refusal and rejection, or is it the rejection of refusal? Is it saying no, or not saying no? Perhaps the phrase accurately presents the current contradiction in contemporary art, where minor issues are over done, and major issues over looked. The exhibition, curatorless and themeless, is nonetheless linked with each artist's personal perspective and their attitude towards the contemporary. In a period accustomed to the enfeebled discourse of the curator, is the lack of a curator an inadequacy or another sign of curatorial impotence? In comparison to curators without action, the act of refusing a curator is a direct and raw reality and experiment. The artist's have done it all DIY, the exhibition itself is spontaneous, autonomous and naturally occurring exchange of experiences, as well as a collective game. There is a consensus among the artists, one that is premised upon the ability to amuse one another. One can conflate it to a metaphysical artistic ideal, or a mundane and profane experience. This is an emerging reality, the self referential packaging of artistic intelligence, and an artistic sincerity restricted by its own freedom. Is there an illusion of swampy marshes from which contemporary Chinese artists must rescue themselves? Is a "bottle neck" among art and artists a hypothetical exercise, or a sign of imminent disaster? To what degree can an artist's social idealism incite response? Can the work be engaging, or will it merely exist as the artist's self-delusion? Do these conflicting realities point at a deficiency in the practice of contemporary art, or in the artists themselves? The eleven artists in this exhibition are the leading young artists in the contemporary Chinese art world including the two leading forces in Shanghai, Xu Zhen and Yang Zhenzhong, two Guangdong artists Chu Yun and Jiang Zhi, and the mainstays of Beijing art, Liu Wei, Shi Qing, Colin Chinnery, Wang Wei,

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Zhu Yu, and He An, and finally female artist Kan Xuan. All of them are showing newly commissioned work. Xu Zhen's latest effort follows a line of his recent large-scale installations, large not only in size, but also in its concept and possibilities of interpretation – a good example for the exhibition's ambitious scale.

Covering the entire 1500 square meters of the Long March Space, as well as a specially constructed building in the Long March Space courtyard, it is one of the most anticipated experimental exhibitions to open in Beijing in many years. The exhibition opens in April and will run for three months. The participating artists have kept a low profile leading up to this exhibition, with few photos or written words related to the works. Perhaps, this kind of experience is a necessary requirement for creativity, yet with regards to the public and the media, this kind of reserved attitude has secured an air of mystery. Perhaps this is also one of the intended characteristics of "NONO."