

**PRESENT TENSE SERIES VI**

**POETICS OF THE BODY.**

**A panel discussion about trajectories and possibilities of contemporary performance art in China.**

**Saturday 22th November, 5pm**  
Screening and Talk

Participant Speakers: Zhou Bin, Anja Goette, Petra Pözl

Curators: Chiara Cartuccia & Petra Pözl



Zhou Bin, *Trail of the Inspect* (2010)

Since the late 1980s performance art started to flourish in China as one of the most avant-gardist and challenging art forms. In the course of the last three decades body/live art, as well as other time-based artistic practices, conquer the spotlight, attracting the interest of the Western art world, and contributing to initiate an

international debate about contemporary visual arts and culture from China. The large interest that European countries have towards China's contemporary art, and performance art in particular is well demonstrated by the many exhibitions organized by major institutions in the past years. Nevertheless this fascination often does not correspond to a concrete understanding of the true peculiarities of performative practices developed by artists, both in China and abroad.

The panel discussion **Poetics Of The Body**, organized in the framework of Present Tense Series, has the purpose to open up a productive and meaningful conversation about the current state of performance art in/from China, about its position within the present international art scene and its future perspectives, referring to the history of this art form in the country, and underlining the original traits characterizing the most recent outcomes of Chinese performance art. In order to attempt this aim, we invited performance artist **Zhou Bin**, from Chengdu (China), one of the most prolific and best-known performance artists and performance art theorists from the area, to take part to the panel together with cultural scientist **Anja Goette**, and **Petra Pözl**, researcher on Performance Art in China.

The talk will have a fluid and open structure: screenings of Zhou's past works' video documentation will function as a starting point to open up the conversation between the speakers and the audience, which is strongly encouraged to participate with questions and comments since the beginning of the discussion.

**ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:**

**Zhou Bin** graduated from Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts in 1990. After his graduation he joined the Yuanmingyuan Art Village in Beijing and focused on Oil Painting. Zhou Bin moved to Chengdu in 1997. Since then he is focusing on performance art, installation, photography and video recording. Since 1997, he has made hundreds of performances and video works. From 2004 on Zhou Bin participated in several international exhibitions and live art festivals, such as in the United States, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Netherlands, UK, Spain, Israel etc. Since 2012 he is holding performing art courses at the Sichuan Fine Art Institute and The Art Institute of Sichuan University.

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**Anja Goette** is a curator, cultural scientist, and writer, specialized in China. Since 2001, she has worked for several cultural institutions, and for film, theater and music festivals in Europe and China. She co-curated the "Detour via China" festival at HAU Hebbel am Ufer Berlin, published the book "Chinaland" (with Danckwart/Vincenz, Blumenbar 2009) and was the head of German Pavilion's cultural program for the world exposition EXPO 2010 Shanghai.

**Petra Pözl** is a Ph.D. candidate, independent curator and researcher, working in Austria, Germany and China. Petra studied Chinese Studies, Chinese language and Theatre Studies in Vienna, Beijing and Berlin and holds a Master degree from the Free University of Berlin. At present she is working on her Ph.D. thesis. In her research she is focusing on the artistic and political strategies applied in Performance Art in China.

**PRESENT TENSE SERIES** is SAVVY Contemporary's performance programme for 2014, intended to investigate practices and theories of contemporary performance art through a series of live performances, artist talks and screening, with the final aim to open up a meaningful discussion about this particular field of artistic production, which eschew any codification and possible classification.

**PRESENT TENSE SERIES** brings together some of the most interesting performance artists from five continents, in order to involve them in an open dialogue, in the context of which the gallery will serve as a catalyst of energies and ideas.

For further information please visit: [www.savvy-contemporary.com](http://www.savvy-contemporary.com)

**PRESENT TENSE SERIES VI** is supported by:



*Started in 2011 by the NGO European Alternatives, Transnational Dialogues facilitates artists, creatives, professionals, intellectuals and writers from different continents to come together for a series of exchanges and co-productions in both physical form and online. The platform promotes sharing of information, networking, and conceptual collaboration between individuals and organisations working in a variety of disciplines, and offers a trampoline for future collaborations and initiatives. More information at [www.transnationaldialogues.eu](http://www.transnationaldialogues.eu).*