

What's On

Night Life

CocoRosie 2010 China Tour

The two-girl band was named in the Top 20 Bands and Musicians by Better Propaganda magazine in 2008 and has released four albums worldwide. Their music combines pop, blues, opera, electric music and hip-hop.

**Date:** August 4, 9 pm  
**Venue:** Mao Live House  
**Address:** 81d Jg 32, 570 Huaihai Road West 淮海西路570号32幢  
**Admission:** 180 yuan (pre-sale), 230 yuan (at the door)  
Call 5258-9999 for details

Class

Entrance to Wing Chun

Wing chun, also known as wing tsun, is a traditional Chinese martial art. These classes can improve the body's reflexes and coordination and the first class is always free.

**Date:** Every Tuesday and Thursday, 7 pm to 9 pm  
**Venue:** Longwu International Kungfu Center  
龙武国际功夫中心  
**Address:** 800 Guoshun Road East 国顺东路800号  
**Admission:** 100 yuan per class  
Call 1891-6774-888 for details

TV Programs

International Channel Shanghai (ICS)

6:30 pm You Are the Chef  
6:45 pm Cool Edition  
7 pm Real Fun  
8 pm EXPO360  
9 pm ICS News  
9:15 pm In Chinese  
9:30 pm DocuView

HBO

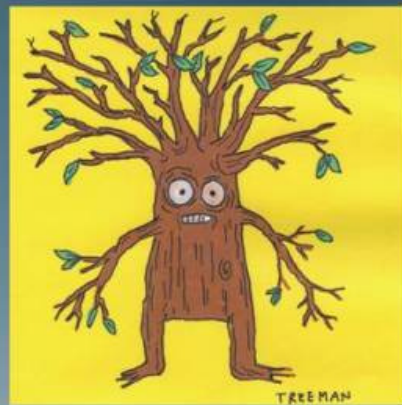
1 pm Public Enemies  
3:15 pm Duma  
4:50 pm The Rugrats Movie  
6:05 pm The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything: A VeggieTales Movie  
7:30 pm Burn After Reading  
9 pm True Blood: It Hurts Me Too

ESPN Star Sports

6 pm ESPNNews  
7:30 pm Sportscenter Asia  
8 pm FIM Men's Motocross  
9 pm FIM Men's Motocross World C'ship 2010  
10:30 pm US Senior Open Championship

Discovery

2 pm Perfect Predators  
3 pm Perfect Predators  
4 pm Man vs. Fish with Matt Watson; Tiger Shark  
5 pm Dirty Jobs: Jobs That Bite  
6 pm Dirty Jobs: Jobs That Bite  
7 pm Dirty Jobs: Jobs That Bite ... Harder  
8 pm Dirty Jobs: Greenland Shark Quest  
9 pm Shark Attack Survival Guide  
10 pm Day of the Shark 3



Tree Man by Laurina Paperina. Photo: Courtesy of 18 Gallery

By Nick Muzyczka

Laurina Paperina, a young Italian artist whose work has been enjoying a warm critical reception throughout Europe and internationally, has a selection of her work on display in 18 Gallery on the Bund. In this, her first China show, Paperina offers up her own particular brand of humor through a series of cartoon-like pieces that "give life to ironic protagonists such as superheroes and space frogs."

Many of her pieces focus on celebrity figures, and one continuing theme of her work is the death of the artist. In her rejection of the hyper-intellectualized conceptual art, which continues to dominate the international scene, Paperina often constructs witty pictures of over-serious modern artists being slain by their own artistic creations.

Although Paperina claims that she has no interest in producing work that can be framed conceptually, there is a sense in which she has been conceptualized, perhaps unwillingly, by the art world as "that girl who doesn't want to make serious art."

At least, this is how her work continues to be promoted by the numerous galleries interested in displaying her collections.

Paperina told the Global Times that she creates in a free, impulsive manner: "I travel a lot and take a lot of pictures while on the move. These then become inspiration for my works, but there is no general approach to my work. I just create whatever is in my mind," she said.

The vast majority of the pieces appear to conform to this model, especially the smaller ones, which sometimes look more like attentive doodling on a bar mat than anything else. Some of the photographic work, in which the artist has manipulated her photos using image-editing software in funky ways, also has a rushed aspect.

Some of these do work, however, such as the picture of a bathtub that has a simple line-drawn cartoon figure sketched onto the bathroom tiles so that its legs hang over the edge and into the water.

There is nothing profound about such art, but once the playful quality of Paperina's work has been grasped it has the ability to amuse in a quietly mischievous

way. Humor, rendered in a kitschy way, peppers the whole exhibition. *Smoking Pack* is one of the cuter pieces, showing an empty cigarette packet with a face and arms drawn on and a burning cigarette in its mouth.

Paperina's work is also dominated by monsters. Sometimes these arrive in the form of an altered version of an element of popular culture, such as the sharp-toothed "Pizza Pac-Man" who devours Ninja



Batman and Robin by Paperina. Photo: Nick Muzyczka

Turtles.

In other pieces we are shown a mountain cave transformed into a crude yet vicious beast-like mouth, as well as aliens and mutated animals.

The 18 Gallery exhibition includes two large pieces created by the artist while in Shanghai. One of these works, *Battle of the Eyes*, shows a battleground where most of the characters are eyeballs, some human some alien. Amid the general carnage of the piece there are a few nice touches but, on the whole, the work is a little scrappy.

Colors are vivid and engaging, but there is nothing that holds the work together. Impressive as it is to have created something substantial in the one day it took the artist, it is hard to think of *Battle of the Eyes* as anything other than a bigger and more beautiful version of something that might be scrawled on a blackboard by schoolchildren.

When asked how she devised her Shanghai-created works, Paperina was candid about her methodology: "I don't

Italian artist's Shanghai exhibition shows her sense of humor

FUN  
with  
FROGS  
and  
FRIVOLITY

know, I came here and had two canvases and wasn't really sure what to draw. Believe me, I really didn't know. I just started with the eyes and then created the UFO scene around them. It just went piece by piece."

Relaxed and unaffected by the admission that her work has absolutely no pretensions in terms of deeper meanings, the artist responded to the suggestion that she used human eyes as her topic because she was in a bizarre and unfamiliar environment with a good-natured, yet slightly indifferent, shrug: "Yes, maybe it's some kind of Freudian thing happening. Maybe I chose this theme because everyone seems interested in my blond hair."

While many of the lighter pieces can be evaluated very quickly, the exhibition does contain a few works with enough detail to encourage contemplation. The Global Times particularly enjoyed one series of manipulated photos which uses the lids of paint cans as canvases.

Each is a swirling mess of different colored paints with a central image in the middle of the lid. These images range from a slightly confused looking pig with a Nazi symbol etched on its forehead (again, for absolutely no reason) to Batman and Robin kissing.

The exhibition's curatorial statement offers the following: "Just like writing a text message, Paperina's work is a reflection of new means of communication, short yet striking, and always getting straight to the point."

While "straight to the point" may actually miss the point, it is interesting to think about to what extent artistic output will be affected by the increasingly rapid and data-dominated state of contemporary existence, with information being communicated in previously unheard of quantities, but with less time for analysis and evaluation.

**Date:** Until September 12, midday to late daily  
**Venue:** 18 Gallery  
**Address:** 4/F, Bund 18, 18 Zhongshan Road East 中山东一路18号4楼  
**Admission:** Free  
Call 6326-8099 ext 3001 for details

Send your story ideas, press releases, news topics and resolutions to editorship@globaltimes.com.cn or call 63263427

