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SPECIAL EDITION COVER
LI LEI MALEONN YANG YONGLIANG POPIL

THE ART ISSUE
Your complete guide to the city's art scene

+ Interviews: DJ Shadow Peter Hook Black Rebel Motorcycle Club
Martial arts • Cut throat shaves • Win! A Philippines escape

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ART OF THE CITY

From critics' favourite artists to painters' favourite pa
we've canvassed everything art in Shanghai



OUR COVER ARTISTS

1 Yang Yongliang 'Artificial Wonderland 2' (2010)
Yang's compositions chart China's development in a strikingly effective way. Not only do they bridge the gap between traditional *shanshui* images and contemporary cityscapes, they've also been seen in ads as well as art galleries.

2 Popil 'POPILXMEETTHEPEOPLE' (2011)
Guangdong-born Popil has been marking Shanghai's walls with her art for three years now, notably the graffiti wall on Moganshan Lu. The illustrator has also published her own book and designed a range of t-shirts (see www.oinksh.com).

3 Li Lei 'Shanghai Flower No 69' (2011)
As important to abstract art in Shanghai as he is to art administration, executive director of the Shanghai Art Museum, Li Lei's exuberant, dynamic works show his mastery of colour.

4 Maleonn 'Mechanical A-Fu' (2011)
Ma is the city's finest art tableau artist, taking staged photographs inspired by Shanghai's surrealism. He's recently shifted focus towards pencil illustrations like the one he chose for our cover.



Clockwise from top: 'The Fifth Night' (2010) by Yang Fudong; 'Nude' (2008) by Yang Jianping; 'Long Live Great Unity' (2011) by Yang Zhenzhong; 'Appearance of crosses' (2007) by Ding Yi



Li Xu's career includes a 17-year stint at the Shanghai Art Museum, co-curating the seminal 2000 and 2002 Shanghai Biennales, and creating his own Z-Art Centre with a focus on public art. He introduces us to some of the most significant artists in Shanghai

Among my favourite Shanghaiese painters are **Sun Liang** and **Ding Yi**, who were part of the first group of Chinese artists to participate in the Venice Biennale in 1993. Many of the Beijing artists that went painted with overtly Chinese elements, but both Sun and Ding were different. Sun has always had an independent style, and Ding is one of the few great artists born in the '60s who remained in China.

Huang Yuanqing is an abstract painter who emerged a little after Ding Yi, around 1997. I like him because he's not just an artist, he's like a *wenren* (literati). His *guwen* (ancient Chinese) is especially good. He also started BizArt.

Many Chinese artists have moved on to multimedia styles, but **Zhang Enli** has remained successful and continued to evolve as a painter. When I first met him he was painting more impressionistic work but now he's more conceptual.

Xue Song began as a painter, but his works were burned up in a studio fire in the early '90s. I remember seeing him that day. He didn't know what he was going to do, but that incident changed the way he saw the world. One piece I particularly like is 'Red

Horse', which makes fun of the glut of horse images in Chinese art. He took a horse drawing instruction manual, burned it, and then used that to make his image.

One of my favourite sculptors is **Yang Jianping**. His most famous piece is a female nude with no hair, which was done in an otherwise very classical style. Many of his works have this mixed classic/modern style. He's also able to make pieces without a model, which is very impressive.

Liu Jianhua is Yang Jianping's student. He's very conceptual. At a show at the Shanghai Gallery of Art, he took Western waste, made it into art, and then sold it back to the West. The concept was 'conceptual art stinks', because it really did smell bad. He's very cutting edge.

Xu Zhen's early works had a lot to do with his body, dealing with embarrassing or naughty things. It makes a lot of people uncomfortable but I think in contemporary art you need someone like this.

I consider **Yang Zhenzhong** in the same group as Xu Zhen. He's a philosopher. He has an ongoing piece where people say 'I will die' in front of a video camera. Children just say it but then there are older people who really don't want to.

Finally, I really like **Yang Fudong**. In contemporary art circles, he's a poet. His video art emphasises the way he tells a story, for instance by displaying seven different viewpoints at once, instead of the story itself. I always tell him he should be a movie director but he always says he doesn't want to.



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