

Launch Event

5pm - 8th of FEB

FAT China will open at 5pm on the 8th of Feb with a special launch event including welcome speeches by Prof Nigel Ward (Head of Film Media and Performing Art School at UCA), Prof. Sabrina Qiong Yu (founder of CIFA, Newcastle University) and Jiang Zuosi (who instrumently involved in Ren Zhijun's Democracy Wall exhibition) followed by various activities relate to Chinese culture, Calligraphy, Paper-cutting Window Art, etc. This launch event will also give the audience a chance to make their own piece of Paper-cutting Window Art and to write their own Couplets!



Every Thursday during the month of the exhibition (15th of Feb, 22nd of Feb, 29th of Feb and 7th of March), we will also welcome schools to visit the exhibition. A maximum of 20 pupils per school visit can be accommodated.

Film Screenings:

4-6pm Every Friday, Cinema Room (G14)

4pm – 6:30pm, 16th February
Self-portrait: Fairy Tale in 47KM
(Zhang Mengqi, 2021, 109mins)

4PM – 6PM, 23rd February
The Revolution Will Not Be Air-conditioned
(Wang Bo, 2022, 27mins)
An Asian Ghost Story
(Wang Bo, 2022, 37mins)

4PM – 5PM, 1st March
Maria by the Sea
(Tawfiq Nizamidin, 2019, 38mins)

4PM – 6PM, 8th March
Reading Virus (Theatre performance recording)
(Caochangdi Workstation, 2021, 97mins)

Many thanks to

Gallery curator: Dr. Loucia Manopoulou;
Technical support: Amanda Wilson, Ming-Yi Sung, Papu Miah, Roger Pryn, Victoria Cooper Pedrote, Yunxuan Shi.
Research Assistant: Liaoliao Wu.



Chinese Independent Film Archive (CIFA), located in the Old Library Building at Newcastle University, is dedicated to the preservation of and access to Chinese independent film culture. It holds a large and rare collection of films and footage, their associated material culture, existing publications on Chinese independent cinema in both English and Chinese, and oral history material with a wide range of stakeholders. The archive provides invaluable primary sources for teaching and researching contemporary China and opens a window onto China's culture, society and politics for academic communities and the general public alike. CIFA is open to the public on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, from 9:30am to 5:30pm. Please visit CIFA homepage at www.chinaindiefilm.org to make a reservation to visit the archive.

FAT CHINA EXHIBITION

Curated by Dr. Ang Gao; co-curated with CIFA
Event organiser: Dr. Ang Gao
co-organiser: Stephen Featherstone

9am – 5:15pm
Feb 8 – March 9, 2024
Foyer Gallery, University for the Creative Arts
Farnham

Lunar New Year
2024

The “FAT (Film, Art & Theatre) China” exhibition brings the spirit of independent creative practice in China to the University for the Creative Arts’ Farnham campus. It will showcase collections from recently launched Chinese Independent Film Archive (CIFA) located in Newcastle University. A range of thought-provoking works in film, art and theatre produced by independent artists from China will be displayed to throw a new light on creative practice and provoke discussions about a range of social and political issues in China. “FAT China” presents Ren Zhijun’s drawings, Wang Wo’s film posters and Wu Wenguang’s documentary – *Bumming in Beijing*. By showcasing different forms of artistic works from the three artists, the audience will have a glimpse into the artistic spirit in China from the 1980s onwards.



Ren Zhijun has been engaged in Fine Art for more than 40 years. His artwork maintains a thoughtful reflection on society. In 1979, Ren Zhijun exhibited his artworks on the “Xidan Democracy Wall” in Beijing. From November 1978 to December 1979, thousands of people put up “big character posters” on a long brick wall on Xidan Street, Xicheng District of Beijing, to express and create discussion about political and social issues in China, soon after the end of the Cultural Revolution. The wall became known as the “Democracy Wall”. This exhibition will display Ren Zhijun’s art works in the 1980s, which captured the social fabric of China in the turbulent 1980s.



Wang Wo has worked as a graphic designer for many years and produced videoworks and independent documentaries. Wang’s posters offer a captivating window into the rich legacy of Chinese independent films and film exhibition.



The exhibited posters meticulously chosen from over two hundred designs spanning the years from 2005 to 2023 are being presented to the public outside Newcastle for the very first time.

Wu Wenguang is a documentary filmmaker and co-founder of the well-known Folk Memory Project. Wu’s acclaimed documentary *Bumming In Beijing* (1990, 70mins) presents five artists – a writer, a photographer, two painters and a director of avant-garde theatre – who reject a life tethered to the state system yet still hope to modernize the urban cultural scene. Their frank ruminations about life, art, and the future are punctuated by ground-breaking verité shots of people doing their chores in squalid back alleys and studio apartments.

