

SHI YONG (CHINA) + **SETH JOSEPH AUGSTINE** (U.S.A.)

The Borders Within

Video & Invironmental Installation 2009

ShanghART
香格纳画廊

BASIC INTRODUCTION ABOUT ARTWORK *THE BORDERS WITHIN*

One cooperater of this artwork SHI Yong (an artist, born and live in Shanghai now) envisaged blindfolding another cooperater Seth Augustine (an artist, An American standard, can not speak any Chinese) with a black cloth, drove him to certain construction site in the suburb from downtown of Shanghai. In there, Augustine was requested to live for one week under the circumstances that there is not any assistance of translation.

IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

- a. Augustine can not leave the construction site within one work. Any possibility that sustain his life need to be settled by himself with the site project manager who can not speak any English, no matter any measures he took.
- b. Augustine had to eat, drink and sleep in the same way together with those migrant workers.
- c. An audio photographer would be hired by cooperater SHI Yong to make a continuous tracing and recording in the way of photos and audio. (6 hours sleeping in the night was not included)
- d. After one week's project was done, Augustine would be in the same way taken back by car to the downtown of Shanghai with his eyes blindfolded.

MAIN IDEA ABOUT THE ARTWORK

Augustine and I tried to discuss about borders of human being through one's body intervened suddenly with an unknown new geographical environment. We hope to think about the significance of communication if one's body can really be recognized through his own practice. When the intervened body faced the huge differences of ethnic, linguistic, social, political, religious, cultural, lifestyle and values, how would the psychological borders from inside body be like? Where was the bottom line of this border? Whether this kind of psychological border would be gradually broken, ablated or even fully integrated through the improvement of mutual understanding of communication? Or to some extents the body border could in fact not be truly broken?

Shi Yong
2009.8

THE BORDERS WITHIN

Our collaborative project, the Borders Within was a social experiment. By being blindfolded and introduced into a completely foreign environment I instantly became “The Outsider”. I was a bewildered, Caucasian American unable to speak the language, and unfamiliar with the work being done. At the same time, the Chinese workers became “The Insiders”. Our meeting was a tense, awkward, and curious moment, and it became apparent that the results of this experiment were open-ended– anything could happen.

Shi Yong and I framed our project in this way in order to discover where the internal boundaries were drawn within people. Where could we find common ground? Over the course of the week, living and working side-by-side with the Chinese workers, I understood a tiny bit of their life experiences. And through our limited communication, they came to know a small fraction of who I was. However, a vast chasm of unknown still existed, and we realized that we could never in fact know very much about one another. Ultimately, my juxtaposition within this environment served to highlight the Chinese workers daily life, and became a bridge into their concerns, and their struggles.

Seth Joseph Augustine
2009



Shi Yong + Seth Joseph Augstine *The Borders Within* Photo by Shi Yong 2009

This is a cooperative art project *The Borders Within* by Seth Joseph Augstine and Shi Yong. In this project, Seth Joseph Augstine, blindfolded, was taken by Shi Yong to a place that he absolutely didn't know...



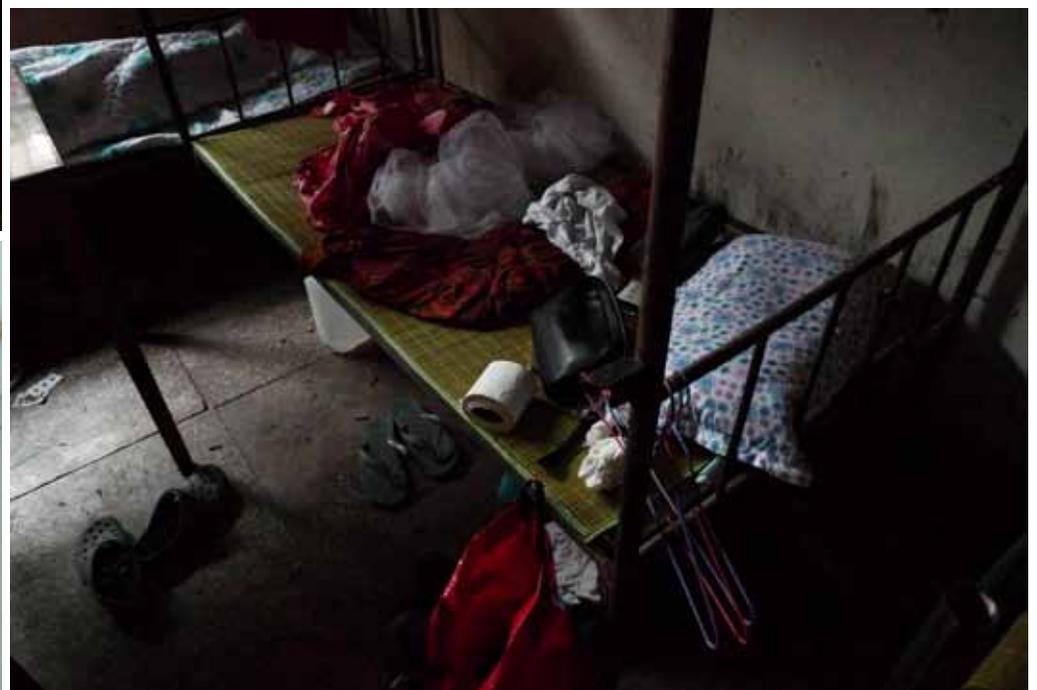


Shi Yong + Seth Joseph Augustine *The Borders Within* Photo by Shi Yong 2009









Shi Yong + Seth Joseph Augstine
The Borders Within
Photo by Shi Yong 2009







Shi Yong + Seth Joseph Augstine *The Borders Within* Photo by Seth Joseph Augstine 2009





Shi Yong + Seth Joseph Augstine *The Borders Within* Photo by Seth Joseph Augstine 2009









Shi Yong + Seth Joseph Augstine *The Borders Within* Installation view in *Bourgeoisified Proletariat - Contemporary Art Exhibition in Songjiang*, Shanghai Songjiang Creative Studio, Shanghai 2009



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SHI YONG

Think Carefully, Where Have You Been Yesterday?

Multichannel Video Installation 2007

Think carefully, where have you been yesterday?" this brief question with an interrogatory tone reveals one by one realities and life's of various human beings.

This new video work composed of interviews, completely discarded the vocabulary of his previous works. Interrogatories observe, even intrude the interviewees' memories and self-acceptance. By questioning closely and inducing, the artist exposes life and realities of people from different kind, professional background, social classes; "realities" that are sometime ludicrous made up stories, falsified and re-created.

For many years, Shi Yong focused on the modern culture and consumption society to create critical realistic works. Through an interactive survey on internet, he created "the New Image of Shanghai Today" represented by a man with blond hair, wearing a black suit and a pair of sunglasses. He extended this image concept to sculptures, photographs, performances, etc. such as "Made in China – Welcome to China", "You cannot clone, but you can buy it", etc., tactfully probing visual language about consumption society and industrial culture.

These last few years, Shi Yong attempted to progressively deviate from the symbolic "New Image". His large sculptures, installations and videos, still continued this cynical and humoristic style, concentrating on culture and society issues. This new video work composed of interviews, completely discarded the vocabulary of his previous works. Interrogatories observe, even intrude the interviewees' memories and self-acceptance. The artist exposes life and realities of people from different kind, professional background, social classes; "realities" that are sometime ludicrous made up stories, falsified and re-created.



Think carefully, where have you been yesterday?
 仔细想想，昨天你究竟干嘛去了？

施勇个展 Shi Yong Solo Exhibition | 上海比翼艺术中心 Shanghai BizArt Center

Opening: October 12th, 2007, Friday (18:30)
 Exhibition Dates: October 13th - October 22nd, 2007 (11:00-18:00)
 开幕时间: 2007年10月12日, 星期五 (18:30)
 展览时间: 2007年10月13日 - 10月22日 (11:00-18:00)

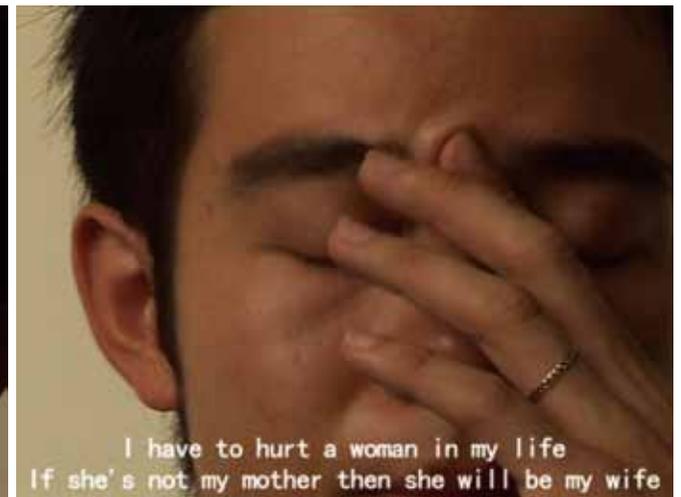
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 上海 BizArt, 90 Wujiaochang Rd
 200060 Shanghai, China

BizArt 上海比翼
 art hub
 艺术空间

Think carefully, where have you been yesterday? - Shi Yong Solo Exhibition in BizArt Art Center, Shanghai, China 12/10 - 22/10, 2007







INTERVIEWEES LIST OF *THINK CAREFULLY, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN YESTERDAY?*

Wu Yanping (student)

Yu Wen (designer)

Tao Huihua (reworker)

Zhang Da (civil servant)

Zhang Yichao (teacher)

Xiao Yue (prostitute)

Bao Guang (poet)

Li Xincheng (civil servant)

Lin Huizi (geomantic omen teller)

Guan Chaoqun (clerk)

Wang Jin (private company's legal person)

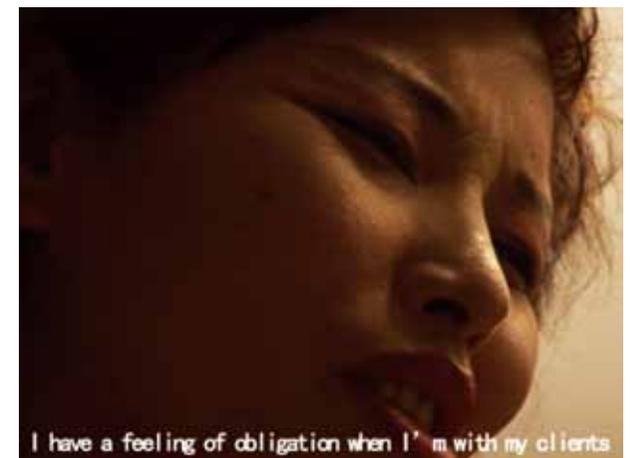
Li Li (prostitute)

Mo Xiaoxin (professor)

Cao Jun (lawyer)

Li Yuerong (part-time worker)

Jin Huilin (part-time worker)





Think carefully, where have you been yesterday? - Shi Yong Solo Exhibition in BizArt Art Center, Shanghai, China 12/10 - 22/10, 2007



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Shi Yong Solo Exhibition in BizArt Art Center, Shanghai, China
12/10 - 22/10, 2007

施勇

SHI YONG

Biography

Basic

1963 Born in Shanghai

Solo Exhibitions

- 2007 Think carefully, where have you been yesterday?, BizART Center, Shanghai
2004 The Heaven • The World-Solo Show by Shi Yong in 2 Parts, ShanghART H-Space, Shanghai

Group Exhibitions

- 2010 Big Draft Shanghai, Kunstmuseum Bern
Negociation, The Second Today's Documents, Today Art Museum, Beijing
GLASS FACTORY—Art in The New Financial Era, Iberia Center for Contemporary Art
- 2009 Bourgeoisified Proletariat -- Contemporary Art Exhibition in Songjiang, Shanghai Songjiang Creative Studio, Shanghai
Shanghai Kino-Shanghai Kino, KUNSTHALLE BERN, Switzerland
The Big World: Recent Art from China, Chicago Cultural Center
- 2008 The 3rd Nanjing Triennial-Reflective Asia, RCM ART MUSEUM, Nanjing
Our Future-The Guy & Myriam Ullens Foundation Collection, Ullens Foundation, Beijing
- 2007 Energy-Spirit . Body . Material, Today Art Museum, Beijing
- 2006 ALLLOOKSAME? / TUTTUGUALE?-Art from China, Japan and Korea, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin, Italy
Dual Realities-the 4th Seoul International Media Art Biennale (Media_City Seoul), Seoul Museum of Art, Seoul, Korea
- 2005 The Second Guangzhou Triennial-BEYOND: an extraordinary space of experimentation for modernization, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou
Felicidad Indecible (Unspeakable Happiness)-Arte contemporáneo de China, Museo Tamayo Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico City, Mexico
Follow Me!-Contemporary Chinese Art at the Threshold of the Millenium, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2004 All Under Heaven-Ancient and Contemporary Chinese Art the Collection of the Ullens Foundation, Koninklijk Museum, Antwerpen, Belgium
- 2002 XXV Bienal de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Money and Value, the Last Taboo, Expo 02, Switzerland
4th Shanghai Biennale-Urban Creation, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai
- 2001 Unpacking Europe, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, NL
Living in Time-29 Contemporary Artists from China, National galerie im Hamburger Bahnhof Museum fuer Gegenwartskunst, Berlin, Germany
- 1999 Food for Thought: An Insight in Chinese Contemporary Art, Canvas world art/Canvas Foundation, Amsterdam, Holland
The Third Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia
Art for Sale, Shanghai Plaza, Shanghai