

Yang Fudong

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*The Half Hitching Post, Video (single channel)
35 mm color film, 7 minutes, 2005*

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*Close to the Sea, Video (multichannel installation)
8 minutes, 2004*

Yang Fudong's films and photographs combine and accumulate multiple perspectives, conducting an investigation into the structure and shaping of identity through ancient mythology, personal memory and lived experience. Each of his works is a dramatic existential experience and a challenge to take on. His work is open-ended and inconclusive, therefore open to individual interpretation. Every film and video is about human being. In them he mostly depicts his own generation. Being in their late 20s and early 30s, these young people seem confused and appear to be hovering between the past and present. Indeed, Yang Fudong's work epitomizes how the recent and rapid modernization of China has overthrown its traditional values and culture. What is remarkable though, is how skillfully Yang Fudong balances this dichotomy to create works that are endowed with classical beauty and timelessness. This comes through in his choice of scenes and close-ups, in the characters he selects, in the angles he films from, in the relationship between foreground and background and finally in the reconciliation of colors. On the fringes of both tradition and innovation, the films bifurcation give them an expectant quality, as if something is going to happen that never quite does. Yang Fudong seeks through multiple vignettes to offer the poetics of place and people as an alternative to the prominent politics of power. Whatever occurs, Yang's filmic work and photography indicate that something remains untouched and unmoved, and perhaps all the more valuable for that reason.

Recent films include *The Half Hitching Post* (2005), *The Revival of the Snake* (2005), *Close to the Sea* (2003), *An Estranged Paradise* (2002), *Flutter, Flutter - Jasmine, Jasmine* (2002), and *Seven Intellectuals in Bamboo Forest* (1-3) ongoing.

Yang Fudong was born in 1971 in Beijing. He trained as a painter in China Academy of Fine Arts in Hangzhou. Starting in the late 1990s Yang Fudong embarked on a career in the medium of film and video. Today he is one of the most successful and influential young artists emerging from China.

Yang Fudong has participated at the 50th Venice Biennale (2003), at the First Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, Russia (2005), at the First International Sharjah Biennale, United Arab Emirates (2005), First Prague Biennale (2003) and at the 5th Shanghai Biennale, China (2004). And participated in shows at most acclaimed institutions such at Kunsthalle Wien, Austria (2005), MoMA Film at Gramercy Theatre, NY, USA (2005), Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2005) and at ARC/Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, France (2003) among many other places.



*Su Xiaoxiao, Video (multichannel/installation)
15 minutes, 2001*