



Xu Zhen 8,848-1.86 2005
multi media installation

Single channel video
Photographic c-prints, series of 22
Various objects documenting the expedition
Ideal space requirements for installation: 400-600 sq m

2005年8月，徐震及其队友登上海拔8848.13米的珠穆朗玛峰山顶，并成功把珠穆朗玛峰顶锯下并运下山。
这里陈列着这个锯下来的山峰，锯山过程的纪录片、一些资料和相关和这次行动有关的物品。

徐震 男 1977年生于中国
沈越越 男 1978年生于中国
俞斌 男 1979年生于中国
金峰 男 1967年生于中国

In August 2005, Xu Zhen together with his team climbed the 8848.13 meters high Everest. They succeed in cutting the hill top and take it down from the mountain.

First Take: Xu Zhen

In August 2005 word began to spread through the Chinese art community that the Shanghai-based artist Xu Zhen had scaled Mount Everest and, what's more, managed (with a band of expert climbers) to saw off the top 1.86 meters of the mountain's peak. A month later, this icy trophy became the pièce de résistance of the artist's installation 8848-1,86 at the Yokohama International Triennale of Contemporary Art in Japan – preserved inside a refrigerated vitrine surrounded by video and photographic documentation of the climb as well as by the team's equipment. The natural reaction among audiences was, of course, to doubt that the evidence was real, even if the artifact's presentation conjured a seeming veracity (one thinks of those installations found at the Museum of Jurassic Technology in Los Angeles). Yet soon it was the audience's own distrust that was cast into doubt: Only a month after the triennial opened, the People's Republic of China Everest Exhibition Team publicly revised its official estimate of Everest's height, knocking four meters off the previous measurement of 8,848 meters.

Hans Ulrich Obrist, ARTFORUM, January 2007





Xu Zhen, 8,848-1.86, 2005, c-print, 108 x 86 cm



Xu Zhen, 8,848-1.86, 2005, c-print, 96 x 96 cm



It is hard to think of another contemporary talent as prolific as Xu Zhen. His projects articulate frivolity that entails multiple subject matters. The artist takes intrinsically slight material and plays with it without condescension: His work entails theatrical humor as well as social critique, neither entirely serious nor obviously ironic. Xu Zhen's extensive body of work includes photography, installation art and video evoking moments of complexity. His projects are informed by performance as well as conceptual art.

Xu Zhen was born in 1977 and graduated from the Shanghai School of Arts and Craft in 1996. He currently resides and works in Shanghai. Xu Zhen won the top prize at the China Contemporary Art Award (2004). He was invited to the 49th Venice Biennale and has since exhibited his works widely. Recent exhibitions include China Power Station: Part I, Battersea Power Station, (London UK, 2006), On Mobility, De Appel, (Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 2006), China Contemporary - Art, Architecture and Visual Culture, Museum Boijmanns van Beuningen (Rotterdam, 2006), The Thirteen – Chinese Video Now, PS1 Contemporary Art Center (New York, 2006), Restless, Museum of Contemporary Art (Shanghai, 2006), Universal Studios (Beijing, 2006) and Xu Zhen, H-Space at ShanghART Gallery (Shanghai, 2006).

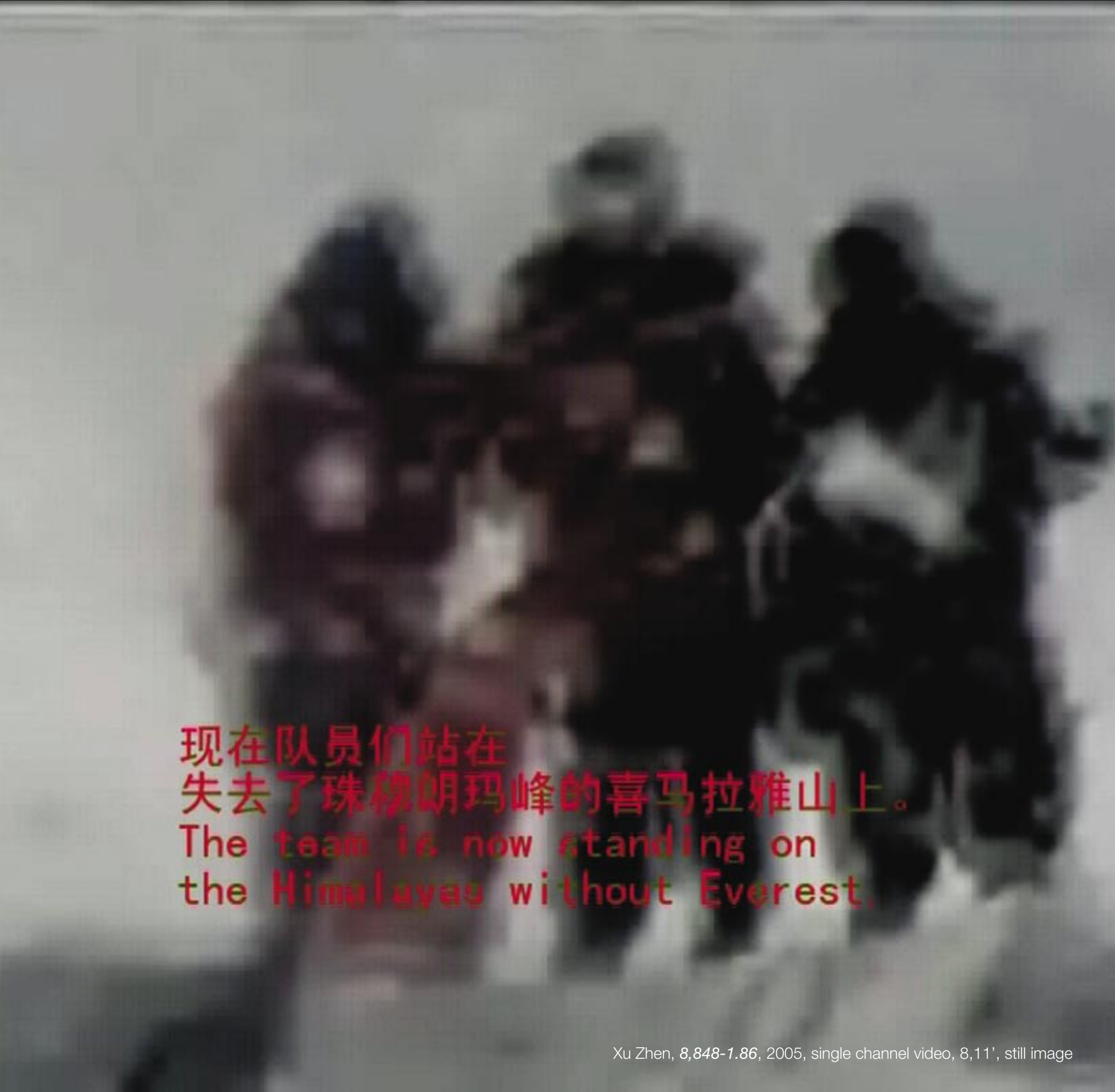




Xu Zhen, 8,848-1.86, 2005, c-print, 89 x 63 cm



Xu Zhen, *8,848-1.86*, 2005, single channel video, 8,11', still image



现在队员们站在
失去了珠穆朗玛峰的喜马拉雅山上。
The team is now standing on
the Himalayas without Everest.

Hello, I am Xu Zhen

Transcription of the video 8848-1.86 (2005), 8,11'

Hello, I am Xuzhen, I am Chinese.

This is a documentary. It is a documentary about something that my friends and I did in August 2005.

You can watch us now climbing the highest mountain in the world - Mt. Everest. it is located in Tibet, China.

It is 8848 meters above sea level.

Look! We finally reached the top!

I am the one waving the national flag - the two others are my friends.

The small hilltop at the back is Everest.

When I decided to reach the highest pick of the world, it wasn't only for climbing purposes

But it was to saw off the peak of the mountain, and to show it to everyone.

186cm

I decided to saw off a piece 186cm high, because it is my height.

To accomplish this my friends and I did a lot of preparations.

Including producing tools for sawing.

What people are carrying in the video are those tools.

One of my friends was in charge of filming the sawing process.

As the temperature on the hilltop was -30 C, it greatly affected the quality of the images, the wind was also very strong.

We are starting to install the equipment, and surveying the spot.

This is during the measuring of the height and the width of the hilltop, determining the spot.

The weather is terribly bad.

My team is completely exhausted.

Ok

Equipment is completely installed.

We are about to saw.

This is a historical moment.

We are filling the engine with fuel... the technical director, engineer Shen, is starting the engine... the temperature is really low.

It is difficult to start the engine.

Ok, the engine is finally working... the steel chain connected with the engine starts to move slowly.

Look!

The thing moving in the video is the steel chain for sawing.

We are displaying the steel chain at the desired height.

The steel chain moves as the engine works.

The steel chain slowly surrounds the mountain, deeper and deeper, until the hilltop is sawed.

This technology comes from the navy concept of sawing submarines.

This is engineer Shen.

After two hours, the hilltop is finally cut off.

The team is dead tired.

Still, the effects of deep altitude don't obstruct the strong will of taking the hilltop away.

We are now talking about the next step of the project. We want to push the 186 cm high hilltop down the mountain.

As designed, we carved the top at an angle. Because of the ice and the snow, it has less frictional force. So, by using simple tools, we are able to move the small hilltop away.

On this shot, It has already moved about 1 meter.

It just has to be moved 6-7 meters to the right for us to push it down.

It moved to the right another meter.

This is engineer Shen displaying the equipment and the pulley on the right, in the front of the hilltop.

We are planning to pull away the hilltop instantly.

Engineer Shen is using the pulley. Under the force of the pulley, the hilltop is slowly moving.

The hilltop is close to the desired spot.

This is me giving the signal to the photographer, to prepare himself for the dissociation between the hilltop and the mountain.

Do you see?

The hilltop is moving.

Wind and snow are blowing too strongly.

Ok, this is the key point, the team is gathering to-

gether.

The hilltop is already at the decided place for its descent.

At that moment, we just have to push the hilltop a little bit, it will slide down the mountain.

Look! look!

The hilltop slid down. let's see that again...

Did you see clearly?

A gigantic object has slid down.

We finally took Everest down.

The team is hailing, forgetting the effects of the altitude and the horrible weather.

The team is now standing on the Himalayas without Everest. Under their feet is the flat hilltop.

186cm

We can now see in the exhibition space the 186cm high Everest.

Thank you for watching!

2005年8月, 徐霞及其队友登上海拔8848米的珠穆朗玛峰, 并成功把珠峰上的石头带下山。

这里陈列着这个特殊山峰, 据说这是世界上唯一一座被人类所有和这次行动有关的物品。

徐霞 男, 1971年生于中国
沈超超 男, 1972年生于中国
俞峰 男, 1977年生于中国
金峰 男, 1987年生于中国

In August 2005, Xu Xia together with his teammates climbed the 8848 meters high Everest. They brought some stones from the mountain.

We just display here some stones from the mountain, including the stones that the climbing people brought down.

Xu Xia, male, born in 1971 in China
Shen Chaochao, male, born in 1972 in China
Yu Feng, male, born in 1977 in China
Jin Feng, male, born in 1987 in China



Xu Zhen, *8,848-1.86*, 2005, installation view



Xu Zhen, *8,848-1.86*, 2005, installation view







Xu Zhen, 8,848-1.86, 2005, installation view



Xu Zhen, *8,848-1.86*, 2005, installation view







Xu Zhen, *8,848-1.86*, 2005, installation view

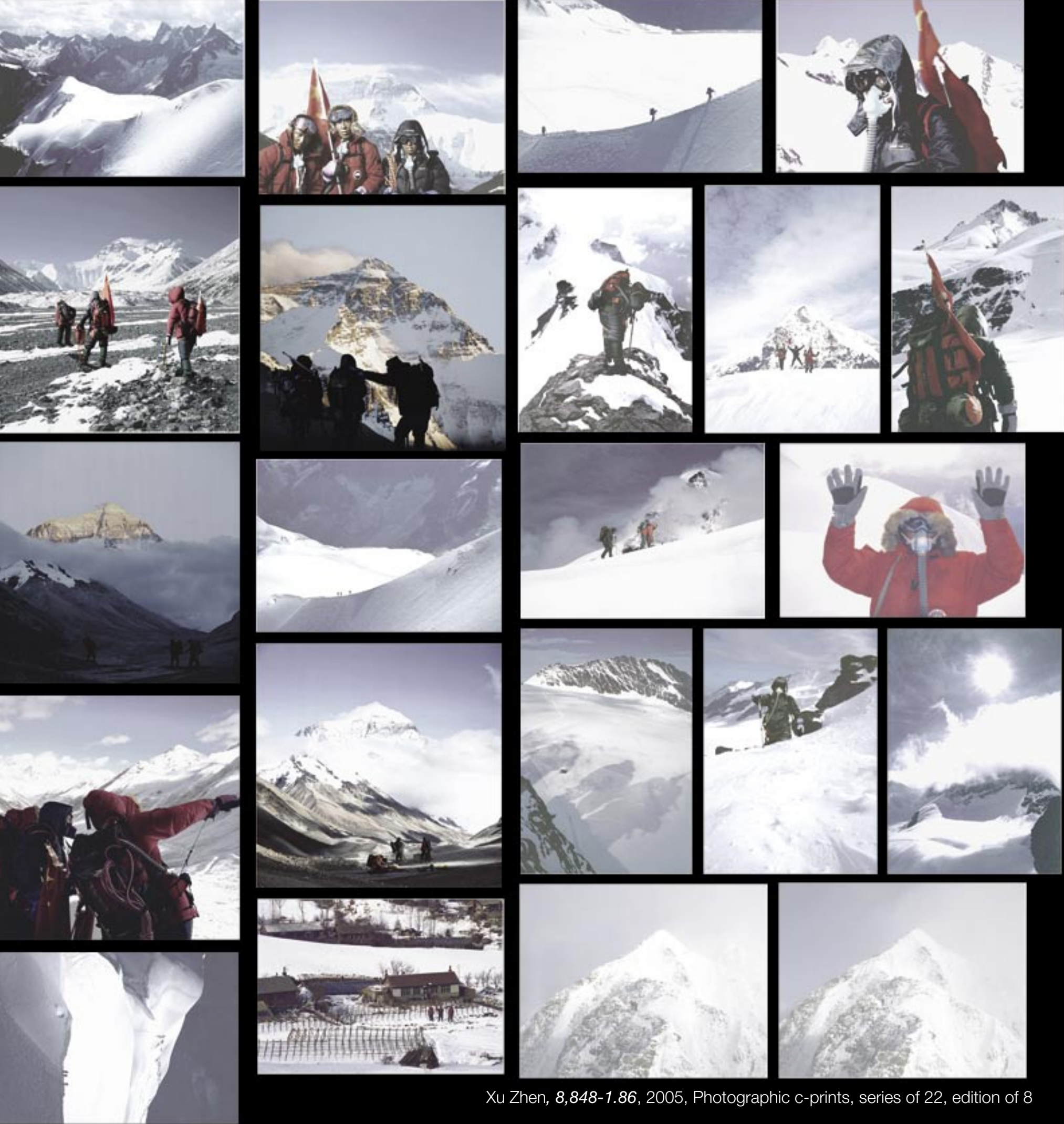
List of documentary objects included in the installation 8848-1.86 (2005)

Model of hill leftx1 (3750X1740X1820mm, 300kg)
Model of hill right x1 (3750X1980X1770mm,450kg)
Repair tool box x1 (605X425X405mm, 57kg)
Black bag of trip x1 (clothes and pants of down)
(530X440X880mm,8kg)
No1 box x1 (800X600X505mm, 20kg)
No2 length box x1 (1400X605X605mm, 50kg)
No3 x1 (805X570X460mm, 40kg)
No4 box x1 (805X600X500mm, 25kg)
NO5 box x1 (bubble) (700X780X490mm, 20kg)
No6 box x1 (shore up post x29 radix, light x10 calix, rubber
bar) (4410X655X535mm, 200kg)
No7 box x1 (2310X840X365mm, 80kg)
No8 glass shelf glass x 16piece x1 (2100x1130x500, 500kg)
No9 glass shelf glass x 14 piecex1 995X1090X500 200kg
Air condition x2 (1620X720X600mm, 65kg)
Square pipeline made of plank x4 (1060X1100X600, 25kg)
Frame make up steel x 6 piece
Load and unload x1 2000X740X1300 150KG
Box of plastics x8 535X420X235 contain stone and cement
25kg
Go-cart x2 810X600X130 10kg
Aluminum alloy ladder
No10 box x1 (cable conductor, rubber bar, 801 gluewater x3
bottle, cable, screw) 700X480X660 50kg
Plastics paper bucket x 1 (photo and paper) (1300x220,
15kg)
Account
No1 box:
Length bag for equipment
Equipment bag x2
Puttee x2x2

Fluorescence stick x14
Insurance cincture x4
Empty gas jar x10
Egg box x4
Battery X20
Pot X2
The hand electricity X2
Combine tool
Compress biscuit X10
Socks X6 pair
Cooking utensil X4
Canteen X4
Watch X4
Telescope X1
Mariner's compass X2
Camera X2
The national flag X small 4, big 3, small X8
Headlamp X4
To talk machine x 4
GPSX2
Elevation form X1
Decompression form X4
Defend goggles X4
Down gloves x2 x2
Knitting wool gloves X4
Ice claw X2
Ice boot X4
Set head hat X5
No2 length box:
Sleep mat X3
Clip X1 pack
Ladder X3

Medicine box X1-medicine and surgical operation device
Heat preservation mat X1
Sleeping bag X4
Tent light X4
The mountain climbing wraps X2
Link X30
Tent X4
No3 box:
Climb mountain a shoe X4 pair
Oil bucket X1
Spade son X1
Flagpole X3
The gasoline launches machine X1
The rope for Climb mountain 100 ms, 100 ms
Snow crutch x4
Length ice pickaxe x1x2
Oxygen steel bottle X2
Breather X4 root
The steel wire rope saws X1 root
No.4 box:
Get empty an oxygen bottle X4
Heat preservation mat X3
The mountain climbing wraps X2
Sleep mat X1
Repair tool box:
Acrylic verditer X4 bottle (black, blue, white)
Chinese brush-pen X10
Watering can X2
Spade knife
Small wash basin X10
Accept tight hook X10
Glass sucker X2
Wrench X3
Tiger pliers X2
Hot gum gun X1, hot gum good X10

Pipe line
Drag along line plank
Convert plug
The black PVC sticks noodles
I am firm to take
7 words criticize knife
Auger
Rubber hammer
Carry on the back gum heat preservation cotton
Varnish X1 bottle
Resin
Silica gel gum transparent color X5
Lead a filter net
The dynamoelectric revolver drills
Spray the paint X4
Battery X30
Map X2 piece
Decals
Gloves
The black trip bag
Feather down trousers X4
Feather down clothing X4
The air condition machine X2: the transformer X1,
the sink X1, switch
No.7 box: steel plate X8 slice
No.6 box: the framework X28 root of steel plate cre-
ation, aluminum metal alloy X10



Xu Zhen, 8,848-1.86, 2005, Photographic c-prints, series of 22, edition of 8

Himalaya, 8848-1.86 - A Chronology

The Himalaya is a mountain range in Asia, on the border of China and Nepal. The Himalayan mountain system is the planet's highest and home to all 14 of the world's highest peaks, the Eight-thousanders, including Mount Everest.

In Tibetan the mountain is called Chomolangma or Qomolangma ("Mother of the Universe"). Chomo means "Goddess", while Langma means "Female elephant" (in Tibetan, Langma has two meanings: willow and female elephant). The legend says that the Chomolangma is the palace where live five long-life divinities tshe-ring mched Inga .

The mountain was given its English name by Sir Andrew Waugh, the British surveyor-general of India, who named it after his predecessor, Sir George Everest.

Measurement

The 1999 American Everest Expedition installed a GPS unit on the highest bedrock, computing the elevation of the summit as 8,850 meters. The PRC considers the official height of Everest to be 8,848, 13 m since 1975. However, there is some variation in the measurements as: 8848 m, 8840 m, 8850 m, 8882 m, etc. Lately, on the 22nd of May, year 2005, a Chinese team ascended the Everest and decided to measure its height again; the result will be published in August.

The mount Everest always had a local and even a worldwide strong influence. It is represented at the back of the fourth edition of the 10 Rmb note.

1921 The first British expedition explores the access over the Rongbuk glacier.

1922 Seven Sherpa climbers are killed in an avalanche, becoming the first reported deaths on Everest.

1922 The second British expedition reaches 8321 meters.

1924 The third British expedition reaches 8500 meters. On June 6, George Mallory and Andrew Irvine ascend to attempt to reach the summit but are lost after cloud closes in. An eyewitness claims seeing them near the summit.

1933 Lady Houston funds formation of aeroplanes to fly over summit to deploy the British Union Jack flag.

1934 Maurice Wilson (British) dies on attempting to climb alone.

1938 Mountaineering explorer Bill Tilman (British) leads an expedition via the north west ridge, reaching over 27,000 ft without oxygen before being forced down by foul weather.

1950 Nepal opens its borders to foreigners. Bill Tilman and Charles Houston undertake a reconnaissance expedition to Everest.

1952 A Swiss expedition, including Sherpa Tenzing Norgay gives up from exhaustion, 200 metres short of the summit.

1953 The summit was first reached at 11:30 am on May 29 by the New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay from Nepal climbing the South Col Route.

1956 Swiss expedition climbed for the second time in the history of the Everest.

1960 On May 25, a Chinese team consisting of Wang Fuzhou, Gongbu and Qu Yinhua makes the first summit via the North Ridge.

1963 First crossing by a United States expedition, starting from the west and descending over the south-west.

1965 On May 20, Nawang Gombu Sherpa becomes the first person to reach the summit of Everest twice.

1975 On May 16, Junko Tabei of Japan is the first woman on the crest.

1975 The British SW face expedition led by Chris Bonnington. Summit reached by 2 teams made up with Doug Scott, Dougal Haston, Pete Boardman, and Sirdar Pertemba. BBC camera-man Michael Burke failed to return from a solo summit bid.

1978 Reinhold Messner (So thout oxygen tanks.uth Tyrol, Italy) and Peter Habeler (Austria) reach the summit wi

1980 First winter expedition by a team from Poland.

1980 Reinhold Messner, first man to climb Everest alone and without oxygen tanks.

1982 On October 5, Laurie Skreslet becomes the first Canadian to reach the summit.

1984 First Australian expedition scales Everest. Expedition comprised of Tim Macartney-Snape , Greg Mortimer, Andy Henderson and Lincoln Hall, two of which (Macartney Snape and Mortimer) made it to the summit. It is known that had Hall attempted the summit, all members would have perished on the summit.

1988 Jean-Marc Boivin of France starts with a paraglider from the mountaintop.

1988 A team with members from China, Japan and Nepal climbed for the first time through the North and the South cols.

1990 Bertrand “Zebulon” Roche of France becomes the youngest westerner to climb Everest, age 17.

1993 90 alpinists in the autumn alone, the commercial “Everest-climbing” starts.

1993 Ramon Blanco of Spain became the oldest person to reach the summit aged 60 years, 160 days (record beat in 2001).

1996 Hans Kammerlander of South Tyrol climbs the mountain from the north side in 16 hours and 45 minutes and returns on skis.

1996 Goran Kropp of Sweden becomes first person to ride his bicycle all the way from his home in Sweden to the mountain, scale it alone without the use of oxygen tanks, and bicycle all the way back.

1996 15 alpinists perished on the top of the mountain. One of the biggest sacrifice in the history of Everest ascent.

1998 Tom Whittaker is the first disabled climber to make it to the summit.

1998 Bear Grylls becomes the youngest Briton to climb Everest and return alive.

1999 Sherpa Babu Chiri Sherpa of Nepal stays for 21 hours on the mountaintop.

2000 On October 7 Davor Karnicar from Slovenia accomplishes

an uninterrupted ski descent from the top to the base camp in five hours.

2000 A famous Nepalese alpinist climbs the mountain within 16 hours and 56 minutes. The world's fastest ascent.

2001 On May 24 15 year old Sherpa Temba Tsheri becomes the youngest person to climb Everest..

2001 On May 25, 32 year old Erik Weihenmayer, of Boulder, Colorado, becomes the first blind person to reach the summit.

2001 On the same day 64 year old Sherman Bull, of New Canaan, Connecticut, becomes the oldest person to reach the summit.

2001 Also on the same day, 19 people made it to the summit, surpassing the previous record of 10 people, everyone survived.

2003 On May 21, 21 year old Jess Roskelley, of Spokane, Washington, becomes the youngest American to summit Everest, via the South Col Route.

2003 On May 22, 23 year old Ben Clark, of Clarksville, Tennessee, becomes the second youngest American to summit Everest, via the North-Northeast Ridge Route.

2003 Yuichiro Miura becomes the oldest person to reach the summit of Everest. He was aged 70 years and 222 days when he got to the summit (on May 22).

2003 25 year old Nepalese Sherpa, Pemba Dorjie, makes the world's fastest ascent in 12 hours 45 minutes on May 23.

2003 Only three days later, Sherpa Lakpa Gelu breaks this record with 10 hours 56 minutes. After a short dispute with Dorjie, the tourism ministry confirms Gelu's record in July [3].

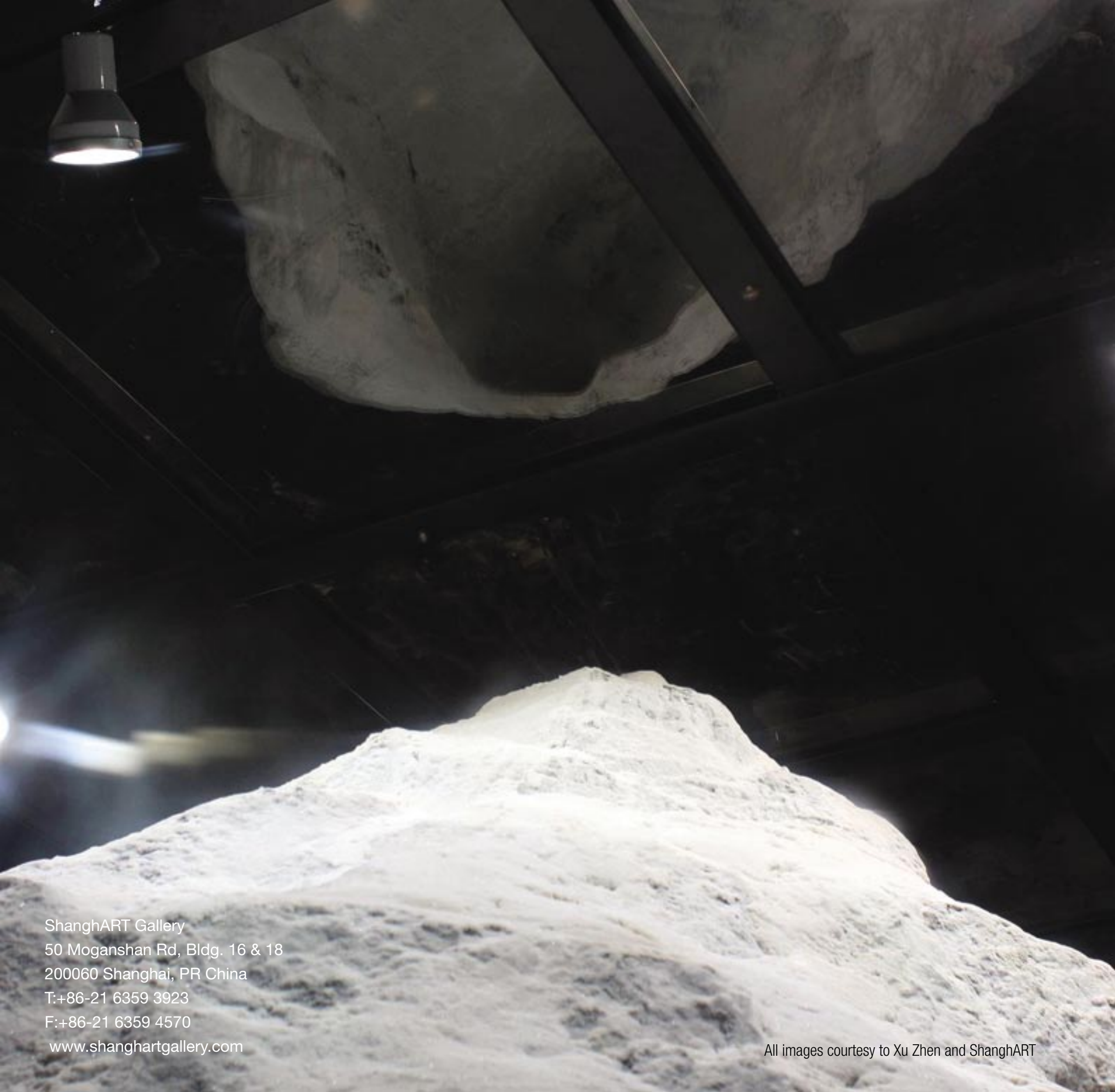
2004 Pemba Dorjie breaks his own record, this time ascending the mountain in 8 hours 10 minutes on May 21 [4].

2005 Chinese government-sponsored survey team with 24 members reaches the peak on May 22 to anchor surveying equipment for the remeasurement of summit height. GPS, ground radar equipment, as well as traditional surveying methods were used to assess snow and ice thickness for the new measurement, and to compare it with historical data [5].

2005. On May 14, a Eurocopter helicopter flew to the peak for the first time. It was reported to have landed but this was later disputed, with the pilot telling Nepalese authorities that the landing was actually 3300 feet (1000 m) below the summit [6].

2005 Moni Mule Pati and Pemba Dorjie get married on top of the mountain.

2005 August, the Chinese citizen, Xu Zhen, and his team climbed the mount Everest, and cut of its top: a 186 cm high piece. Reducing its height of 186 cm.



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All images courtesy to Xu Zhen and ShanghART