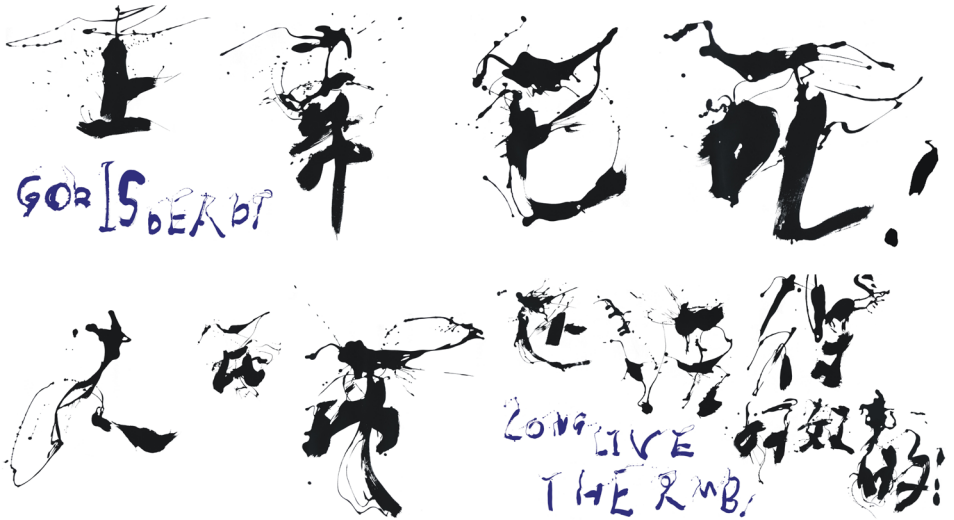


# ACTIONS FOR TOMORROW YANGJIANG GROUP

17 JANUARY - 7 MARCH 2015



Hailing from Yangjiang, a coastal city in Guangdong Province, Yangjiang Group was formed by the artist Zheng Guogu in 2002 with members Chen Zaiyan and Sun Qinglin. With a focus on social action, their work spans installation, painting, performance and calligraphy. Yangjiang Group has a belief that culture can be practiced by anyone, and possess a desire to break the hierarchies and social privileges that inform traditions like calligraphy. Yangjiang Group imbue its work with a sincere anti-authoritative streak.

In developing this exhibition 4A's invitation to Yangjiang Group was to engage with the gallery and administration areas of the organisation. Yangjiang Group has responded by devising a daily action for 4A staff called *Tea Office* (2015). Each morning staff will prepare and drink a cycle of Chinese teas for the duration of the exhibition. The artists have chosen these teas for their therapeutic qualities and the effects they have on the mind and body, which is a particular process valued by the artists. By encouraging a daily ritual, the artists offer an activity to observe shifts in sensory and spiritual perception and to consider the organisation's administrative and cultural functions.

In 4A's ground floor gallery Yangjiang Group present *FINAL DAYS* (2015), an installation which mimics a boutique retail space, complete with bespoke items of clothing produced in Yangjiang, customised with slogans used by local Chinese street vendors and encased in wax. The idiomatic expressions, printed on forms of global branded merchandise, conflate what is local and what has become internationally ubiquitous to highlight the peculiar conditions of global environments.

In 4A's first floor gallery the artists present *GOD IS DEAD! LONG LIVE THE RMB!* (2015), a newly commissioned calligraphic mural spanning 24 metres. This statement in its unadulterated form speaks to the transfer of sovereignty and power – in this arrangement, the artists' point to the omnipresence of money and the authority of cultural capital in the competition for global influence. This mural surrounds *Das Kapital Football* (2009-2015), an installation that amasses hundreds of metres of ink on rice paper in a matted island of written language. This carpet of calligraphy is made from the 'left-overs' of an unruly soccer match played in 2009, incorporating six teams in a game of football on a field, strewn with over 7000 pieces of rice paper. The calligraphy inscribed on the paper is a Chinese translation of Karl Marx's *Das Kapital*. In this work labour, exploitation, capital, value, property – terms intimately linked to this text which have shaped much political and economic theory – play out in a field of almost unintelligible competitive force.

Central to the work of Yangjiang Group is the transformation of everyday materials and a desire to blur the boundaries of everyday life and culture. The artists' approach to calligraphy, installation and sculpture is at times esoteric and based on traditional ideas of energy flow and medicine, but rooted within an awareness of social change and the effect of capital and wealth on the subtle appreciation of life.

## LIST OF WORKS

### GROUND FLOOR

Yangjiang Group  
*FINAL DAYS* (2015)  
wax and modified clothing installation  
dimensions variable  
commissioned by 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art  
courtesy the artists and Vitamin Creative Space, Guangzhou.

Yangjiang Group  
*Final Day, Final Fight* (2014/15)  
acrylic on canvas (8)  
approximately 1.5 m x 1.5 m each  
courtesy the artists and Vitamin Creative Space, Guangzhou.

### FIRST FLOOR

Yangjiang Group  
*GOD IS DEAD! LONG LIVE THE RMB!* (2015)  
Chinese ink and acrylic paint mural  
4 m x 21 m  
commissioned by 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art  
courtesy the artists and Vitamin Creative Space, Guangzhou.

Yangjiang Group  
*Das Kapital Football* (2009-2015)  
ink on xuan paper calligraphy, action, documentation, installation (two channel video, colour, stereo sound, ink on xuan paper carpet)  
4 m x 10 m  
courtesy the artists and Vitamin Creative Space, Guangzhou.

Yangjiang Group  
*Tea Office* (2015)  
tea  
daily activity

**Yangjiang Group** are Zheng Guogu (b. 1970, Yangjiang, China), Chen Zaiyan (b. 1971, Yangchun, China) and Sun Qinglin (b. 1974, Yangjiang, China). Founded in 2002 the group name themselves after their home town, a city in Guangdong province, where their principal studio is located. Their work is dedicated to reaching the widest possible audience, often through creating ephemeral works. Yangjiang Group have been widely exhibited at prestigious galleries and museums such as the San Diego Museum of Art, USA; Tate Liverpool, UK; Kunithaus Graz, Austria; Mori Art Museum, Japan; and Guangdong Museum of Art and He Xiangning Museum of Art, China. They also participated in Art Basel in 2008, 2010 and 2012; the Venice Biennale in 2003; and the Gwangju Biennale in 2002.

PRODUCED BY



FUNDING SUPPORT



EVENT PARTNER



TRAVEL PARTNER



*Yangjiang Group – Actions for Tomorrow* is produced by 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art; assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body; supported by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia-China Council of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; supported by the City of Sydney Cultural Grants Program; supported by Chinese Garden of Friendship – Darling Harbour; assisted by the generous supporters of 4A's *Actions for Tomorrow* Kickstarter campaign; and is an associated event of the Sydney Chinese New Year Festival.

4A thanks the following for their assistance with the production of *Actions for Tomorrow*: Art Basel Crowdfunding Initiative, Tully Arnot, Joanna Bayndrian, Yuting Chen, Lucinda Davison, Tracey Deep, Ashanti Fogden, Con Gerakaris, Jia Guo, Aaron Kiernan, Dom Kirkwood, Connie Lee, Peter Nelson, Claudia Nicholson, Jason Phu, Samuel Quinteros, Clayton Sochacki, Vitamin Creative Space, Zhang Yanping.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TWILIGHT GARDEN PARTY AT THE CHINESE GARDEN OF FRIENDSHIP

4A and Yangjiang Group are hosting a Twilight Garden Party at the Chinese Garden of Friendship, Darling Harbour, to celebrate Chinese New Year. This not to be missed one-night event includes food and bar by Grasshopper, and a series of performances by Yangjiang Group including the artists' trademark, *After Dinner Calligraphy*.

VENUE: Chinese Garden of Friendship, Pier St, Darling Harbour

DATE: Saturday 14 February 2015

TIME: 7PM - 11PM

TICKETS: \$45 per person

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: [WWW.4A.COM.AU](http://WWW.4A.COM.AU)

### CINEMA ALLEY AT GOLDEN AGE CINEMA & BAR

4A presents two films by acclaimed Thai artist and filmmaker Apichatpong Weerasethakul, *Tropical Malady* (2004), and *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives* (2010) in the Art Deco grandeur of the Paramount Pictures building in the old "Hollywood Quarter" of Surry Hills.

VENUE: Golden Age Cinema & Bar, 80 Commonwealth St, Surry Hills

DATE: Thursday 26 February 2015

TIME: 5PM - late

TICKETS: \$20 / \$15 + booking fee

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: [WWW.4A.COM.AU](http://WWW.4A.COM.AU)

#### GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



#### MEDIA PARTNER



#### EVENT PARTNERS



4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art is an initiative of the Asian Australian Artists Association Inc. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body; the NSW Government through Arts NSW and the City of Sydney. Champions: Kerr & Judith Neilson. Principal Patrons: Susan Acret & James Roth; Ah Xian and Ma Li. Patrons: Geoff Ainsworth AM; Daniel & Lyndell Droga; Richard Funston & Kiong Lee; Johnson Pilton Walker; The Keir Foundation; John Lam-Po-Tang; Vicki Olsson; The Sky Foundation; VisAsia; Adrian Williams. Benefactors: Brooke & Stephen Aitken; AMP Foundation; Andrew Cameron; Edmund Capon OBE, AM; Julia Champalou and Andrew Rothery; CHROFI; Rhonda McIver; Lisa Paulsen; Penelope Seidler AM; Lucy Hughes Turnbull AO; Dr Dick Quan; Dr John Yu AC. Friends: Michael Alvisse; Professor Ian Ang; Simon Chan Art Atrium; Michael Hobbs; Mabel Lee; Susan Nathan; Dr Gene R. Sherman AM; Becky Sparks & James Roland; Victoria Taylor; Rosie Wagstaff; Anna Waldmann; and Sean Woon.



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closed public holidays