

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Tully Arnot, Sarah Contos and Jensen Tjhung *Haze*

22 August – 25 October 2014



Presented by 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art



Tully Arnot, *Alternate Great Wall* (2014), digital image. Courtesy the artist.

4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art (4A) is pleased to present ***Haze***, an exhibition of recent works by dynamic young Australian artists **Tully Arnot, Sarah Contos, and Jensen Tjhung**.

*Haze* is the exhibition outcome of a period of artistic collaboration that began when the three artists undertook **4A's inaugural Beijing Studio Program** at the studios of Chinese-Australian artist Shen Shaomin in 2013 in Hairou (怀柔区) on the northern outskirts of Beijing.

Says 4A Director Aaron Seeto, '*This is the first group we've sent to participate in this studio program, which is aimed at developing extended networks between Australian and Chinese artists. The artists have responded to their experience and collaborated on a number of works which emphasise a particular narrative of place, which is not easily translatable across cultures.*'

During their time in Beijing, Arnot, Contos and Tjhung began to consider their position within an unfamiliar landscape, considering the ways in which objects and materials they encountered could be used as a means to express the complexities of a place like Huairou. From mass-produced concrete buildings and the ubiquitous neon lighting, to camouflage clothing, discarded shopping bags and karaoke nightclubs, the artists all drew from the natural and man-made landscapes surrounding them.



Immediately struck by the scale of the built landscape, **Tully Arnot** will present an immersive lighting installation that incorporates mass-produced rope lighting to create architectural shapes that undermine structural form. Also included is a series of kinetic sculpture works, which address our collective perception of familiar objects through re-contextualising their form and function.

**Sarah Contos** has created a series of sculptures that reflect on the connections between physical and cultural experiences of disembodiment and dislocation. Contos will also re-purpose a series of screen-prints produced during the Beijing Studio Program into a three-dimensional domestic structure, paying homage to the makeshift and temporary shelters surrounding Huairou.

**Jensen Tjhung** will present a new installation as well as photographic prints and banners that investigate the symbolic and aesthetic value of contemporary art within the context of Huairou. In these works there is a violent and hysterical collision between human and structural forms that evoke the sometimes uneasy intersection between representation and lived reality, the legible and illegible, and social identification and obfuscation. Within this context, Tjhung asks, 'what does contemporary art mean when contemporary art means nothing?'

**Haze will be officially opened on Thursday 21 August, 6.00pm-8.00pm by eminent Chinese-Australian artist Guan Wei.**

#### **4A Beijing Studio Program**

The Beijing Studio Program is an annual program of 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art that is supported by philanthropist **Vicki Olsson**. This initiative sees early-career Australian artists embark on a month-long residency at the studios of internationally renowned Chinese-Australian artist Shen Shaomin. The program provides a unique opportunity for artists to research new projects in rich cultural surroundings, build networks, and observe the changes taking place in one of the most important cities in the Asia region. The residency covers airfares and accommodation and a small stipend, as well as ongoing professional mentorship, cross-cultural exchange and access to 4A's networks across China. This year 4A's Visual Arts Advisory committee has selected **Claudia Nicholson** and **James Nguyen** to commence their month-long residency in September 2014.

The artists, and 4A's Studio Program Coordinator Toby Chapman are available for interview. Please direct media enquiries to: Hannah Skrzynski [hannah@creative-asia.net](mailto:hannah@creative-asia.net) / +61 412 825 586  
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#### **HAZE**

#### **TULLY ARNOT, SARAH CONTOS, JENSEN TJHUNG**

#### **EXHIBITION OPENING**

Thursday 21 August, 6.00pm-8.00pm  
by Chinese-Australian artist Guan Wei

#### **EXHIBITION DATES**

22 August – 25 October 2014

#### **ARTISTS' TALKS**

Saturday 23 August, 2.00pm-3.00pm

#### **VENUE DETAILS**

4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art  
181-187 Hay Street, Haymarket, Sydney

[WWW.4A.COM.AU](http://www.4a.com.au)

Open 11am-6pm, Tuesday – Saturday closed public holidays

**Tully Arnot** is a Sydney-based artist whose practice develops 'outsider' modes of invention, generating a non-teleological creative process with unanticipated outcomes. His work taps into a desire to experiment with objects in an attempt to understand what their functions might be and, by extension, what we really ask of physical forms. Arnot's works poetically interpret the intangible relationships we have with objects, illuminating ways of thinking and interacting with the world around us. His multidisciplinary practice spans sculpture, painting, installation, video, performance, participatory work, augmented spaces and object design. [tullyarnot.com](http://tullyarnot.com)

**Sarah Contos** was born in Perth and has a diploma in Fine Art, a Bachelors Degree in Stage and Costume and in 2010 completed her Master of Art at the College of Fine Arts, Sydney. Her practice embraces painting, assemblage, craft, soft sculpture and installation, and investigates themes of disillusionment and unfulfilled desire using wry humour with an erotic tongue in cheek charge. [sarahcontos.com.au](http://sarahcontos.com.au)

**Jensen Tjhung** is a Melbourne-based artist who has developed a practise based on immersive installations and large-scale objects combining narrative and abstraction. He is interested in organised religion and mixed-up beliefs from a sub-urban realm, where fragmented information can turn into hyper-zealous forms of worship. Heavy metal, cement and internal bliss forever. Pagan wives, wild dogs and acid mansions.

#### **Shen Shaomin**

Over the last twenty years Chinese Australian artist Shen Shaomin has forged an important international career with an emphasis on experimental conceptual and installation works. Based in Beijing and having spent over a decade in Australia, Shen's work has been presented in major exhibitions across China, Europe, North America and Australia.

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*Haze* is produced by 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art and has been assisted by Shen Shaomin Studios, Beijing; Concordia Galleries Artist in Residence program, Newington College, Sydney; Square One Studios, Sydney; and the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.

The Beijing Studio Program is an annual program of 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art that is supported by Vicki Olsson.

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