

**Constant Stream: CHINA08 at the RCA**  
**O Zhang and Associated Artists**



**Constant Stream: CHINA08** at the RCA led by Dr Yanki Lee will feature the works of artists, curators and designers from the Royal College of Art as part of CHINA NOW, the UK's largest ever festival of Chinese culture. The exhibition will take place from 10 to 15 May 2008 at the Royal College of Art, London.

China today is undergoing massive change. On the one hand, **Constant Stream** references the current state of China, its centuries of tradition contrasting directly to the fast-changing modern society with a vast potential to impact on global affairs. It also offers a mediated discussion around the barrage of social, political, environmental and economic issues that come out of this vast country. **Constant Stream** aims to stimulate not only much needed dialogue between China and other cultures but also between diverse disciplines, such as architecture, art and design, in order to provoke debate, raise social awareness, formulate encounters and facilitate understanding.

Artists representing all facets of the creative spectrum – from photography and moving image work, design and architecture through to fine art and the applied arts – will be a part of **Constant Stream**. The Royal College of Art envisages the series of interventions as an opportunity to engage with China as a concept rather than as a fixed entity, as it is so often portrayed today.

Primarily in digital format, **Constant Stream** will open at the RCA and hopes later to travel to other locations. While part of its assignment is to build a digital archive of its journey, the main focus of **Constant Stream** is on the processes of intellectual engagement generated by the diverse practices of the various exhibitors, providing a dynamic platform for meaningful exchange. These processes not only reveal the unfolding of insight, but also offering an arena in which to consider contradicting views. **Constant Stream** will act to highlight these areas of contrast, transformation and reinvention.

As it travels to other venues **Constant Stream** will act as a tempo-physical platform, creating on-going dialogues. Primarily based on works in progress, the exhibition offers a new way of connecting with China, with the process of making and intellectual investigation identified as the dynamic locus of meaningful engagement. Not only because process manifests the

unfolding of insight, but also because it is also open to the nurturance of contradictive views. **Constant Stream**, like our relation to China, is an arena of conflict, transformation and reinvention.

Highlights of the exhibition will include Hong Kong artist 'anothermountainman', whose 'redwhiteblue' exhibit was one of the highlights of the 2005 Venice Biennale. For **Constant Stream** the artist is showing his latest project, the 'Lanwei' series. This involves images of buildings that subvert our expectations of how people can interact with architecture.

O Zhang, who graduated from the RCA in 2004, is one of China's most lauded photographers. Her work can be found in many of the world's leading collections, including the Guggenheim. With her critically acclaimed series of family portraits 'Daddy and I', O Zhang forces viewers to confront their biases and stereotypes.

Dutch ceramic artist Judith van den Boom spent a six month residency at the studio of Caroline Cheng in China. The project 'Light up' has its roots in a relationship that began at that time, in the cultural exchange between ideas and mind, abilities and people coming together in a exhilarating design project that marries innovation and technique, tradition and style.

Other artists and designers being exhibited include students from the RCA Department of Architecture whose studio trip to Hong Kong was used as a testing ground for research into binary conditions as paradigms of the global city. The results in the form of four videos are currently being exhibited at the Honk Kong Architecture Biennale.



Images:

*Daddy & I* © O Zhang

*Lanwei 01* © Anothermountainman