



China

"The Other Side"

Skulpturen von Christiane Haase und Malereien von by Hu Xingyi (胡行易)

Ausstellung

13.12.2008 - 24.01.2009

Stir Gallery, 1 Mao Ming South Road, 2nd Floor (at the corner of Yan'an Zhong Road) Shanghai

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Eröffnung: Samstag, 13.12.2008, 16.00-20.00 Uhr

The Other Side is a collaboration of two talented artists, **Christiane Haase** and **Hu Xing Yi**, whose works deal with the complexity of human emotions by employing mysterious human figures and faces that resemble both ghostly images from the other world and the living human being.

German artist **Christiane Haase's** large ceramic sculptures "Geister" (Ghosts) in the exhibition were recently created for a Rococo palace in southern Germany, built around 1770 - a time when porcelain manufacturing in Europe was in full swing and dancing ballerinas were one of the favorite motives. In this "Ghosts" series, the faceless dancers resemble the whirling Dervishes who dance themselves into trance as well as the "undead" returning to haunt the living. Haase's images of these supernatural beings evoke beauty and uncanniness at the same time. With no faces showing, they hide themselves under blankets or skirts -not allowing us to recognize their true nature and identity. The German word for ghost, "Geist" stands not only for the returning ancestors but is also used in the sense of mind and spirit.

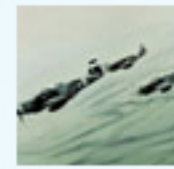
Most of Haase's works, including drawings, sculptures and installation, deal with human emotions that are like parasites, shifting our mode of functioning and aggressively hang on to us. Her art reveals the hidden uncontrollable feelings of fear, desire, unease and discomfort. She examines the vulnerable part of a person - the stranger within.

Christiane Haase, born in Berlin, Germany, has exhibited her work in various galleries and museums in Germany and abroad. She has been awarded with several renowned art prizes and grants for emerging artists in Germany. Raised in a suburb of East-Berlin as a daughter of a sailor who mainly traveled to Asia, she was inspired to travel around the world. After the fall of Berlin Wall, she finally made her way to China. Thanks to a scholarship from German Academic Exchange Center (DAAD), Haase was able to work in Jing De zhen and produced a group of ceramic sculptures to be exhibited in *The Other Side*.

Paintings of **Hu Xing Yi**, titled "Unidentified", portrayed barely recognizable human faces that seem to fade away as of ghosts. They are like the faint image of Jesus on the Shroud of Turin. They are faces of those who speak to us from the other world behind the veil, dead or still alive. They are faces of ones among us, soullessly dwelling in the crowded cities, countless, unnoticeable and desolate. Silently they speak of loss. The depth of his work is revealed in his emotional outpour in his unpretending way of art making. In the quest to defining himself in art, Hu gave lives to the ghostly images by brushstrokes that carries human spirit and emotion. He painted the last images of a person on the ferry on his way to Hades (Hades, Greek: the invisible), the place on the other side of the river that separates the world of the living from the world of the dead. He painted life.

Hu Xing Yi, born in Shanghai, China, has exhibited in many galleries and museums in Shanghai.

Gerhard Richter in China



Mini-Dossier

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