

## THE POWER STATION OF ART RECHARGES THE SHANGHAI ART SCENE

### IN...ART FEATURES

The slideshow is best viewed in popout, second button from the right.



1 / 26 Wu Yu Yang

We arrived with the cranes and workers in scissor lifts assembling and redirecting the placement of some of the world's great artworks to be displayed for the 9<sup>th</sup> Shanghai Biennale. Artists were wandering about overseeing the installation of a variety of art pieces including Totemobile by Chico MacMurtrie, a Citroen DS automobile that converts into a 20 meter sculpture in a matter of minutes. The artist Miralda had video works depicting the gastronomic culture of both Barcelona and Shanghai. We were also treated to art on the tiniest scale as part of the Menora Archive created by Naiza H. Khan of Pakistan.

MacMurtrie, an American artist, was up for an interview on the spot with peanuts in hand. He discussed the way his work transforms and grows into various forms until it reaches its final height of abstraction. He explained modestly how he sees this piece as organic, rising into a totem eventually almost phallic in its manifestation. He explains in a modest way how he sees this piece as organic, rising into a totem eventually almost phallic in its manifestation. He says he has worked with machines for twenty-five years and that this represents a dialogue between geometric and organic, as well as a commentary on Latino and African American culture, where this car would have been a status symbol.

We ran into the artist couple, Lucy and Jorge Orta, whose Nexus Architecture piece focused on how infinitely connected we all are. The piece, which is about social networking, is represented by a series of workers jumpsuits zipped together forming a grid-like pattern and printed with hearts and country names.

Their Passport Village is another interesting piece and we were told that they would be handing out Antarctica world passports, which would be stamped at passport stations once the exhibit was open. They also talked about their Water Purification Factory piece, where water is actually being pumped in from the Huangpu River right in front of the museum and then will be purified to hand out to visitors.

Naiza H. Khan from Pakistan, was putting her work into place as part of a large series entitled 'The Manora Archive' about Manora Island. Her work has a poetry to it, which is also expressed through her careful descriptions of her ideas, concepts and inspirations. Khan explained that the land is in a constant flux being passed back and forth, a kind of architecture of

### FEATURED



SICK TIMES TALK PUNK



TICT ROOFTOP MIX SERIES #6 - MICHAEL CIGNARALE



NOUKILLA - JZ FESTIVAL 2012



SHANGHAI'S 9TH BIENNALE EXPLAINED



A CHINWAG WITH RST



THE POWER STATION OF ART

the metaphor. Khan explains that the land is in a constant state of being passed back and forth, a kind of architecture of the sea being built and rebuilt by its ebb and flow. She uses elements of the sea to both draw us in and give us a familiar context from which to view her poetic meanderings. Her work exists in multi-dimensions- film, paper, and metal all forming visual narratives. She explains that Manora Island has the influence of many religions and its architecture shows remnants of mosques and churches. She describes her works as constellations of different objects from different places all telling indefinite stories of life in the past and present on Manora Island.

Finally, speaking to the artist Miralda of Spain, showed a true connection of ideas between Barcelona and Shanghai. His work entitled 'Tween Taste and Tongues' is the result of spending a week in each city and gathering photos and film footage and then spending many hours editing and arranging his ideas. The product is an amazing display of everything from pigs on motorbikes in Shanghai to luscious cakes in Barcelona.

He uses the term 'food culture' to define this kind of documentation of food, lifestyle and influence of what we eat and produce for consumption in different areas of the globe. He aims to create awareness of the different location's heritage that he believes is slowly evaporating in modern culture.

Displayed on the fifth floor terrace of the museum, one can see a series of large wall pieces that are tongues with on one half images of food in Barcelona and the other in Shanghai. There is also a marvelous film shown on the panoramic screen alongside this display.

The museum will have these works on display for several months, so you will have time to look carefully and enjoy the many cities represented in this year's biennale. Keep an eye out for the upcoming article about the extension of the show at the city pavilions locations on the Bund, entitled, the Inter-city Pavilion Project.

Full venue listings [here](#)

WORDS: ANNE MURRAY  
PICTURES: ANNE MURRAY



POST A COMMENT

LOGIN or REGISTER to comment

RESOURCES  
REVIEWS  
EVENTS  
HEAVY ROTATION  
PODCASTS  
MIX SERIES  
VENUES

FEATURES  
EVENTS  
FILM SCREENINGS  
EXHIBITIONS  
STAGE  
REVIEWS  
SPACES

OPINIONS  
BLOGS  
PODCASTS

LOGIN/ROL  
CONTRIBUTE  
SUBMIT EVENT  
CONTACT

RECHARGES THE SHANGHAI ART SCENE



SHANGHAI 247 PODCASTS - WHAT'S GOING ON - 09/10/2012



COCO ZHAO - JZ FESTIVAL 2012



RABBIT'S FOOT REVIEW



HIGH WOLF