

Wednesday, 21st December 2011

Beijing's Red Gate Gallery to shine in Sydney's Chinese New Year Festival

The City of Sydney is proud to announce that it will partner with Beijing's iconic Red Gate Gallery for the Australian premiere of its exhibition *Two Generations* – which will launch during the City's Chinese New Year Festival next month.

This large-scale exhibition of internationally recognised and emerging contemporary artists from China will be on display in Sydney Town Hall from 17 – 28 January. This exhibition, which has shown in Beijing and Shanghai, will be the first stop on Red Gate Gallery's Australian tour, which marks the gallery's 20th anniversary.

"We're thrilled to be partnering with the Red Gate Gallery for the Australian debut of *Two Generations* during our 2012 Chinese New Year Festival," Lord Mayor Clover Moore MP said.

"With over 50 per cent of Australia's Chinese population living in Sydney, it is only fitting that this extraordinary new art exhibition will make its debut in Sydney."

Red Gate Gallery was the first contemporary art gallery to be established in China, and the City is delighted to bring this large-scale exhibition – featuring some of China's best known contemporary artists – to the people of Sydney, for free.

Two Generations is a celebration of contemporary Chinese art, but it is also a celebration of the relationship between China and Australia – thanks to the groundbreaking work of Australian curator Brian Wallace.

Established in 1991 by Taree-born Brian Wallace, Red Gate Gallery is China's most respected contemporary art gallery. Since opening its doors at Dongbianmen Ming Dynasty Watchtower, Red Gate has been recognised as a pioneer, engaged in the promotion of the Chinese contemporary art scene internationally, and for developing artistic exchanges between Australia and China through its residency program.

"We are so pleased to exhibit the works of these contemporary Chinese artists during the City of Sydney's Chinese New Year Festival. The show has depth and freshness and will appeal to festival visitors, and the broader public interested in art and China," said Brian Wallace, Director, Red Gate Gallery.

Two Generations features the work of 11 senior Red Gate Gallery artists who have each nominated a young emerging artist they admire for inclusion in the exhibition.

The works of the two generations of artists will be shown side by side to celebrate the achievement of one generation and to herald the promise of the next. This will be the first time the emerging artists have had their work displayed in Australia.

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One of the key senior artists featured in the exhibition is Guan Wei, an Australian citizen who resided in Sydney for many years before recently returning to live in Beijing. Guan has a long history with the City of Sydney, having been a Banner Gallery artist for Art & About Sydney 2003 and an Ambassador for the City's 2007 Chinese New Year Festival.

The works of eight artists from regional China who have participated in artist residencies at Red Gate Gallery will also be exhibited in *Two Generations*. One such artist is Han Qing from Chengdu in Sichuan Province who – with the assistance of the Australian Embassy in Beijing – will be the Artist in Residence for the exhibition period. Chengdu is the City's official partner city for the 2012 Chinese New Year Festival.

"Over the past 20 years, Red Gate Gallery has been a trailblazer in the development of contemporary art in China, delivering a dynamic program of artist residencies and exhibitions involving both Chinese and international artists," said Gill Minervini, Creative Director/Producer Events, City of Sydney.

"This exciting new exhibition will showcase a diverse range of works reflecting the vibrant and ever-evolving Chinese art scene to include sculpture, installation and new media."

Two Generations artists

Senior exhibition artists:

Chen Qingqing, Guan Wei, Li Gang, Liu Qinghe, Lu Peng, Su Xinping, Tan Ping, Wang Lifeng, Wang Yuping, Zheng Xuewu and Zhou Jirong.

Nominated emerging artists:

Song Ying, Zhu Yu, He Zubin, Hang Chunhui, Zhu Peihong, Chen Chen, Xie Fujin, Chen Ke, Li Xiang, Kong Liang.

Regional artists:

Chen Yufei, Han Qing, Jiang Weitao, Liu Dao, Shi Zhongying, Xie Guoping and Zhou Jun.

Red Gate Gallery Two Generations exhibition

WHERE: Centennial Hall, Sydney Town Hall
WHEN: 17 – 28 January
TIME: 12pm – 8pm
COST: FREE

For the full program, visit www.sydneychinesenewyear.com.au

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