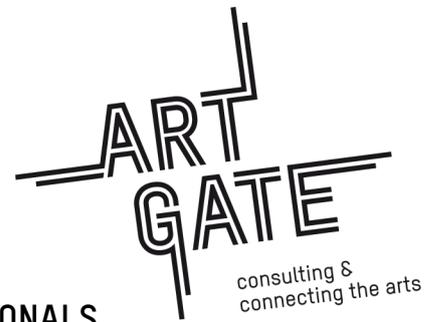


Press release, 29th October 2014



EAST-WESTERN NETWORKING: CHINESE ART PROFESSIONALS DISCOVER THE GERMAN ART SCENE

In the scope of an intensified exchange: Chinese art professionals from museums and renowned collectors visit the art scene of Düsseldorf and Berlin. Numerous German collectors (Deutsche Bank, Bayer AG, Insel Hombroich Foundation, me Collectors room, Hoffmann Collection, Droege Collection) and museums like Hamburger Bahnhof, Kunstsammlung Northrhine-Westphalia and Museum Morsbroich participate in the programme.

Since January 2013, art agency ARTGATE from Düsseldorf connects the Chinese art landscape with the German art scene. It creates a platform for a professional mediation programme where Chinese art professionals gain experiences in Western art activities through personal acquaintances by means of presentations and workshops in Berlin and in the Rhineland. Topics of the 12-day advanced training involve: treatment of art under certain criteria such as sustainability, curating museum exhibitions, art management concerning art institutions and targeted establishment of company collections for Chinese entrepreneurs.

In November 2014, for the third time running, is yet to be another first-rate exchange. To the groups involved are curators from the National Art Museum China as well as the reputed Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA). This convention with curators and professionals from the local art scene enables an efficient network across a wide exchange between art professionals from Mainland China and Germany and naturally vice versa. It is therefore not surprising that Chinese museums and curators – academics from the State Museums Berlin (e.g. Hamburger Bahnhof) and from the art scene in Northrhine-Westphalia (e.g. Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen Foundation) make co-operations with agency ARTGATE.

No later than 2011, China has advanced to become one of the most important art hubs in the world and has partly overtaken the USA in rank of importance. Only last September artnet wrote that many of the current top-100 artists come from China itself. "At the same time many Chinese collectors are nowadays interested in alternative investments in contemporary Western art. This is also due to the over proportional prices for artworks at Chinese auction houses like Beijing Poly International Auction or China Guardian Auctions", says Leoni Spiekermann, founder of ARTGATE and China-expert. Furthermore, a wide number of museums and art halls have been built in China during the past 10 years, according to "Wirtschaftswoche" 390 alone in the year 2011. There are 3.400 museums in China but there is however a lack of educated historical art specialists who

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live up to the museum premise "collection, preservation and research" on an optimum level which has led to an interest to gain training at German museums.

In November this year ARTGATE will execute a two-week advanced training for ten internationally operating entrepreneurs and art collectors from China in Berlin and Düsseldorf based on the establishment of a private and/or corporate art collection with Western art. The list of cooperating institutions is long and stretches on the German side from the directorate of art collections of Deutsche Bank, Bayer AG, the consultancy firm Droege to important German private collections, such as, Thomas Olbricht (me Collectors room), Hoffmann Collection, Boros Collection, Insel Hombroich Foundation in Neuss and numerous reputed galleries (e.g. Alexander Ochs). The academic course covers advanced training on topics such as, understanding the most relevant art movements of the 20th and 21st century including the way in which we approach the provenance of old masters from Europe or the USA. Further developments to cultivate the courses are strongly expected.

The cooperation partners in China

Since the year of 2013 art agency ARTGATE has cooperated with the reputed art consultancy firm "Chinese Modern & Contemporary Art Document (CCAD)" from Beijing, who have close ties with the Central Academy of Fine Arts. Whilst ARTGATE gains local representatives from the German art scene to participate in the particular programmes, the Chinese partner acquires not only participants from Mainland China but also from Hong Kong. Chinese participants within the programme and in cooperation with German museums are curators of the National Art Museum China, the Organ House Art Space Chongqing and professors and academic staff of the Central Academy of Fine Arts not forgetting the scholars of Chinese art. The goal of this academically drafted schooling programme is to conciliate a profound knowledge on German methods of curating art exhibitions with focus on contemporary fine arts. During the training, participants obtain an idea on key responsibilities for creating an exhibition, conception, the role of an owned art institution, legitimate understanding of subjects within an exhibition as well as project management and finance.

The agency ARTGATE

Behind the agency ARTGATE stands the young entrepreneur Leoni Spiekermann (34).

Her agency not only connects China with the German art scene but mediates also other Eastern art markets. This year, for the second time running, Spiekermann was responsible for the VIP-Relations Europe for the art fair ArtInternational in Istanbul, which brought 18 German art collectors closer to the Turkish art scene during a VIP art trip. Furthermore, the agency produces every two months an innovative News Bulletin for free, in cooperation with some of the most important art magazines from new art

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markets such as LEAP (China), CANVAS (Middle East), BLOUIN artinfo (Russia), exhibist (Turkey) and Germany (Monopol). For her commitment Spiekermann's agency has been elected Start-Up of the month by the city of Düsseldorf. For more information please click www.artgateconsulting.com.

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