

PRESS RELEASE

SECRET **秘密** LOVE

21 September 2012 to 31 March 2013

Featuring internationally renowned Chinese artists such as Ma Liuming, Gao Brothers, Chi Peng, and Zhang Yuan, the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities will be opening an exhibition this autumn on the theme of taboo love: Secret Love. This is the first ever major exhibition of contemporary art on this subject. The exhibition includes around 100 works by more than twenty Chinese artists, who are united in their desire to express subjects – such as identity, norms and sexuality – that are sensitive in China.

Chinese society is experiencing rapid changes, resulting in shifting views on sexuality and identity. This change is particularly evident when it comes to LGBTQ people. Homosexuality was decriminalised in 1997 and since 2000 has no longer been regarded as a mental illness, but many taboos remain. The internet and a more open society have brought greater awareness of individual rights. Discover modern China, where art and visual culture contribute towards increased consciousness and dialogue in the fight against prejudices.

With this exhibition, the museum aims to show the force behind the current changes within Chinese society, and what this means to the individual. Secret Love is a thrilling encounter with Chinese contemporary art, with an unprecedented scale and scope in terms of this theme.

“We have carried out extensive research in preparation for this exhibition,” says the Museums of World Culture’s Si Han, who is curator of the exhibition. “This is something that no-one has done before. You could say we’re writing a new chapter in China’s artistic history.”

The majority of the artists presented in Secret Love are from the younger Chinese generations, born after the introduction of the one-child policy around 1980. However, some of the artists are from older generations. Most of the works were created during the 21st century, with a few from the preceding decade – the earliest piece dates from 1990.

Secret Love introduces the Museums of World Culture’s thematic focus on love. This is the first in a series of three exhibitions that will be shown in both Stockholm and Gothenburg during 2012 and 2013. Each exhibition will be placed within a global historical context.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS: CHENG JUANZI, CHI PENG, CUI ZI, FAN POPO, GAO BROTHERS, GAO YUAN, DOLLAR HAN, JIANG QIGU, LI GUANGXIN, LI YONGFEI, LI XIAOFENG, LIN ZHIPENG, LIN JINFU, MA LIUMING, MU XI, QIU JIONGJIONG, REN HANG, SONG JIANING, SHI TOU, WANG ZI, WEI JIANGANG, XIYADIE, XIE QI, YANG GUOWEI, ZHANG YUAN, ZHENG BO

Press images can be downloaded from www.ostasiatiskamuseet.se.

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