

VS - the temporary home
of the Museum Villa Stuck,
Goethestraße 54, 80336
Munich, Germany



01.11
to 03.11

V INSTAR
Film
Festival

fest
ival 5

November 1st, 2024

18H15

Welcome address: Roland Wenninger.
Presentation of the 5th INSTAR Cuba
Film Festival by Cuban filmmaker José
Luis Aparicio. Speech by Professor
Sabrina Qiong Yu (Newcastle University) on
films on exhibition, state censorship of films
in China and the work of the Chinese
Independent Film Archive (CIFA).

Chinese Independent Cinema Retrospective

V INSTAR Film Festival
in collaboration with
the Chinese Independent
Film Archive (CIFA)

November 1st, 2024

18H30

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“The Cold Winter” by Zheng Kuo.
(2011/ China / 103 min)

Synopsis:

From the end of 2009 to early 2010, some of the art districts near the 798 Art Zone in Beijing suffered violent evictions. The artists’ resistance, struggle, hesitation, and infighting are placed centre stage in this extremely cold winter.

Zheng Kuo is a Chinese independent producer and director, graduated from the Li Xianting Film School in 2009. He planned the independent film section of the 2008 Beijing 798 Art Festival at the UCCA Center for Contemporary Art. He was also the curator of the independent film section of the 2009 Beijing 798 Biennial. In 2010, he directed his first independent feature documentary, 798 Station, and a short fiction film, Sound of Silence. His renowned feature documentary, The Cold Winter, documents the Beijing artists rallies of 2011. Burned Wings is his debut fiction feature film.

November 1st, 2024

20H30

“The Second Interrogation” by Wang Tuo (2022 / China / 65 min)

Synopsis:

After an event about a seminal 1989 Chinese exhibition, an artist and a censor discuss the purpose of art in an authoritarian society.

Wang Tuo is an artist born in 1984 in Changchun, China. His work interweaves Chinese historical facts, cultural archives, fiction and mythology into speculative narratives. Equating his practice to novel writing, he stages an intervention in historical literary texts and cultural archives to formulate stories that blur the boundaries of time and space, facts and imagination. Through film, performance, painting, and drawing, his work is a powerful examination of modern Chinese and East Asian history.

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November 2nd, 2024

14H

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“An Asian Ghost Story” by Bo Wang
(2023 / Hong Kong, Netherlands / 37 min)

Synopsis:

A cinematic and conceptually inventive film that explores the haunting memories of Asia’s late 20th-century modernization through the large-scale export of wigs during the Cold War. Yet, in every wig resides a ghost from the imperial past.

Bo Wang is a Chinese artist, filmmaker and researcher based in Amsterdam. His works have been exhibited internationally, including venues like Guggenheim Museum and Museum of Modern Art (New York), Garage Museum (Moscow), International Film Festival Rotterdam, CPH:DOX (Copenhagen), Image Forum Festival (Tokyo), Visions du Réel (Nyon), LUX & Open City Documentary Festival (London), DMZ Docs (South Korea), and Para Site (Hong Kong), among many others. He received a fellowship from the Robert Flaherty Film Seminar in 2013, and was an artist-in-residency at ACC-Rijksakademie from 2017 to 2018 as well as at NTU CCA in 2016.

November 2nd, 2024

15H

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“The Memo” by Badlands Film Group
(2023 / China / 30 min)

Synopsis:

This is a video diary of the surreal lockdown made by the filmmaker couple who were trapped in a small, rented apartment in Shanghai. In the face of endless madness, the camera gradually breaks free from the window and observes a vast social isolation unprecedented in China’s history.

Badlands Film Group is an experimental documentary group founded by Yang Xiao and Chen Sisi in 2020. Their latest film, The Memo, won the Best Documentary Short Film at the 60th Taipei Golden Horse Awards.

November 2nd, 2024

16H

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“Republic” by Jin Jiang
(2023 / China, Singapore / 107 min)

Synopsis:

Eryang and his friends who come and go at Republic live a carefree life. Day in and day out, they smoke, drink, play music, and talk about their ideals under the psychedelic lights. They waste their days with passion, like moths flying straight into flames. In them we see the epitome of youth. Republic also takes in homeless “Cosmos Brothers” who tend to stay for weeks. There seems to be no concept of time or real-life worries. But here comes a disturbing finding: their reckless revelries are mainly supported by Eryang's heavy online loans. It becomes a vicious circle that the debts are repaid by more loans. A change in himself must be taken against the realities, and meanwhile what will Republic's future be... Filmed at a secret place in the center of Beijing, Republic reveals an unexplored facet of contemporary China.

Jin Jiang was born in Luoyang, Henan Province (China) in 1989. In 2010, he was introduced to contemporary arts, and in 2013, his first solo exhibition “In the Field of Hope” was held. In 2015, he was hired to participate in the shooting and editing of a film, and in 2016, he began to make a film on his own. His film “Shang’ajia” earned the Grand Jury Prize at the 14th Beijing Independent Film Festival.

November 3rd, 2024

11H

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“Bing'ai” by Feng Yan
(2007 / China / 118 min)

Synopsis:

Bing'ai and her family harvest oranges on the banks of the Yangtze River. Their misfortune is to be located in the flood basin of the Three Gorges Dam Project. Bing'ai refuses to move on the government's terms and thus begins a decade-long struggle with local officials and the land.

Feng Yan is a Chinese independent documentary filmmaker born in 1962. She was raised in Tianjin and attended Tianjin Foreign Studies University, graduating in 1984 with a degree in Japanese literature. Yan moved to Japan in 1988 where she studied for a PhD in economics at Kyoto University. In 1992, she worked as a translator in Tokyo where she had the opportunity to learn about documentary film. Most notably, her film “Bing'ai”, which documents the struggles of a Chinese woman farmer against relocation to make way for the Three Gorges Dam, won the Ogawa Shinsuke Prize at the 2007 Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival. The film also won first prize at the 2008 Punto de Vista International Documentary Film Festival in Spain.

November 3rd, 2024

14H

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“Disorder” by Huang Weikai
(2009 / China / 55 min)

Synopsis:

Huang Weikai’s one-of-a-kind news documentary captures, with remarkable freedom, the anarchy, violence, and seething anxiety animating China’s major cities today. As urbanization in China advances at a breakneck pace, its cities teeter on the brink of mayhem.

Huang Weikai was born in 1972 in Guangdong Province, China. He studied Chinese landscape painting for fifteen years since he was 10. In 1995 he graduated from the Chinese Art Department of the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts. He has worked as a cinema promoter, art editor, graphic designer, movie script writer and cinematographer before becoming a director in 2002.