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bāc-tā-gon presents the August Edition of A.M. Brainstorm

Creative Pastures: The Influence of Cultural Milieu on Artistic Development

Beijing, China. bāc-tā-gon is proud to present **A.M. Brainstorm's** fifth conversation on **Saturday, August 23rd** at **11am** at **The Other Place**.

Join us for the August edition of A.M. Brainstorm, as multimedia artist, animator, and writer **Chen Xi** will be in conversation with illustrator, animator, and comic book author **Zejian Shen** to discuss questions surrounding artists of the same generation and similar media growing up in different creative cultures.

How does one's broader cultural environment serve to promote or inhibit the development of a young artist? Are there any problems in coming from a culture with a history of supporting the arts? Are there potential benefits in coming from an environment that doesn't promote the arts as actively? What underlying opportunities, challenges, trends, and themes do today's multimedia artists and animators face? What issues are specific to cultural and/or national boundaries? How do rising artists strike a balance between learning from their peers and gaining knowledge from practitioners of other generations? What are these two artists' positions on working within and exploring the narratives of their native cultures or crossing boundaries (into other philosophies, iconographies, methodologies, traditions, etc.)?

With special thanks to Opera Bombana for providing freshly baked pastries and The Other Place for their beautiful courtyard space.

A.M. Brainstorm is a series of casual, monthly conversations inviting distinguished speakers to discuss the research and skills-set utilized within their practice, and the influences over their creative process. The brainstorms serve as a platform for multidisciplinary dialogues between the local Beijing and transient creative communities, exploring the ways in which methodologies of one discipline can vastly differ, despite from a distanced vantage point seem indistinguishable. The conversations will be self-moderated between two individuals of similar discipline on a given topic, with a new topic each month. Speakers will include practicing artists, curators, designers, architects, chefs, poets, authors, publishers, filmmakers, musicians + composers, amongst others. All talks are recorded and posted as audio podcasts available for free download on the bāc-tā-gon website. Coffee and light refreshments are provided by Opera Bombana. The conversations are free and open to the public.

About

Chen Xi 陈熹 (b. 1985, Wuhan) is a multimedia artist, animator, and arts writer based in Beijing. His work, which includes painting, photography, video, and interactive/performance pieces, interrogates a limited physical reality and environments he sees beyond human control through the use of humor,

quirkiness, self-deprecation, and metaphor. He received an M.A. from East China Normal University in 2012, and his work has since been exhibited in a number of group shows in China, Russia, and Finland.

Zejian Shen 沈泽健 is an American born, Beijing-based artist and the Art and Design Content Director at Zihua(自化). She obtained BFAs in Illustration and Film/Animation/Video from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2010, and a MFA in Production Design from The Beijing Film Academy in 2014. Her work has been featured in international publications such as *Vice*, *The Lifted Brow*, and *Bitch Magazine*, as well as numerous anthologies, including *Kus*, *Thickness*, and *Happiness*. She also recently published a bilingual graphic novella titled "Keep Fresh(保鲜)" with Retrofit Comics and Big Planet Comics.

bāc-tā-gon is a curatorial platform that cultivates research-driven projects to explore cultural engagement in China via the hybridity of disciplinary practice across visual art, design, architecture, performing art, music, literature, moving image and cuisine. Implementing strategic partnerships to sustain its projects, **bāc-tā-gon** and its collaborators collectively identify and (re)define alternative research methodologies, funding channels and content distribution pathways.

Conversation Details

Date: Saturday, August 23, 2014

Time: 11am

Location: The Other Place

Beijing, Dongcheng District, Langjia Hutong #1 (At the corner with Beilouguxiang) | 北京, 东城区, 郎家胡同1号(北锣鼓巷北口)

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