

Decade of the Rabbit

SYDNEY: 2011, the Year of the Rabbit, also marks the **tenth anniversary of the White Rabbit Collection**, set up to share with Australians the best Chinese contemporary art of the 21st century. **Decade of the Rabbit**, opening soon in the Collection's three-storey White Rabbit Gallery, reflects on a decade of thrilling change—for China, its artists, and White Rabbit.

According to the Chinese zodiac, people born in Rabbit years are intelligent, friendly and artistic. Clearly, the White Rabbit Collection hopped into being at just the right time. It was certainly the right time for Chinese contemporary art. The country's 2001 entry to the global economy triggered a creative boom that has made China a major power in the world of art.

The White Rabbit Collection started in late 2000 with a handful of works. Ten years on, it includes the works of more than 160 artists, the youngest aged in their early twenties, the oldest in their 70s. It covers media from calligraphy and embroidery to interactive video and mechanical installations, with works ranging in size from 24-cm-square paintings to towering 15-metre sculptures. Together they document a decade in which, having fast-forwarded eagerly through the history of modern Western art, Chinese artists leaped toward the future with works both technically masterful and boldly original.

Decade of the Rabbit traces this light-speed development through the work of 30 artists. Among the highlights: **He An's** illuminated-sign installations, which reflect on multiple meanings of the city; a startlingly realistic apartment entranceway, made by **Gao Rong** with nothing but fabric, sponge and thread; **Bingyi's** moving *I Watch Myself Dying*, painted after the artist was badly burned in a house fire; the exquisite seascapes of **Shi Zhinying**; and the woven-wire "shadow" of a Jeep chassis, painstakingly (de)constructed by **Shi Jindian**.

The exhibition opens on **Friday, February 25**. The White Rabbit Gallery, 30 Balfour Street, Chippendale NSW, is open Thursday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free. Tel. (02) 8399 2867; www.whiterabbitcollection.org.



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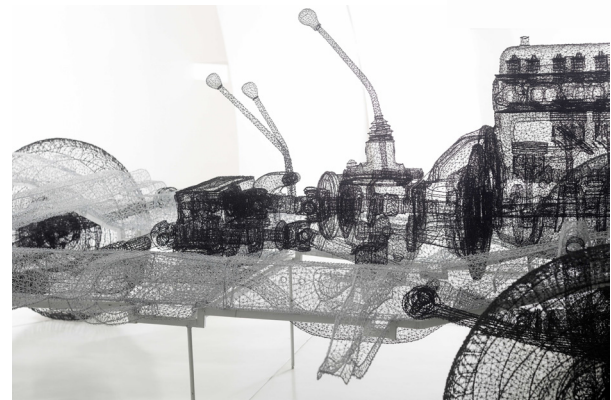
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Digital images available on request

1 Zhu Peihong, *My Space*, 2010, acrylic on canvas, 140 x 170 cm

2 Bingyi, *I Watch Myself Dying*, 2009 (detail), oil on canvas, 300 x 500 cm

3 He An, *What Makes Me Understand What I Know*, 2009 (detail), illuminated signs, variable

4 Gao Rong, *Unit 8, Building 5, Hua Jiadi, North Village*, 2010, cloth, cotton, sponge, variable

5 Shi Zhiying, *High Seas*, 2008 (detail), oil on canvas, 200 cm x 800 cm

6 Shi Jindian, *Beijing Jeep's Shadow* (detail), 2009, coloured wire, 420 x 180 x 130 cm

7 Wang Lei, *Fabrication No. 3*, 2010, paper, two dresses each 170 x 130 cm