

ELI KLEIN

奕 来 画 廊

Zhang Dali was born in Harbin, China in 1963. He graduated from the painting department at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing with a BA in 1987. An influential figure in socio-political artistic movements in China, Zhang Dali has, for decades, challenged the conventional with his social documentation in graffiti, sculpture, photography, and painting.

Zhang was exiled after graduating from the Central Academy of Fine Arts and spent six years immersing himself in Western art and art history in Italy. Upon his return to Beijing, he developed a keen interest in portraiture (usually of himself), documentary and public urban art, often interrupting spaces with confrontational political statements. The photograph series 'A Second History' consists of propaganda and found images under the rule of Mao, which have been doctored or altered to the Chairman's artistic 'vision' of politics and appropriation. He is critically recognized as one of China's first graffiti and street artists.

In 2014, Zhang Dali presented a comprehensive solo show at Klein Sun Gallery titled *Square*, which featured his cyanotypes, fiberglass sculptures, and paintings. The renowned contemporary art journal *Yishu* reviewed the show, mentioning that "the points Zhang Dali is making exist beyond historical specificity; they attain a view of humanity that is startlingly real. In this way, he achieves the status of world citizen and world artist, one who helps open up the lines of communication with the rest of the world that China has at times denied during its recurring periods of inversion and mistrust."

Zhang's work has been exhibited extensively across the globe. His solo shows include *Zhang Dali per Fondantico*, Fondantico, Bologna, Italy (2019); *AK-47 di Zhang Dali*, Art City, S. Giorgio in Poggiale, Bologna, Italy (2018); *META-MORPHOSIS-ZHANG DALI*, Palazzo Fava, Bologna, Italy (2018); *Body and Soul*, Museum Beelden aan Zee, Den Hague, Netherlands (2017); *Permanence and Impermanence- New Works by Zhang Dali*, Beijing Minsheng Art Museum, China (2016); *A Second History*, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina (2015); *World's Shadow*, Kunstverein Ludwigsburg, Ludwigsburg, Germany (2015); *From Reality to Extreme Reality: Zhang Dali Retrospective*, United Art Museum, Wuhan, China (2015); *Square*, Klein Sun Gallery (2014); *Second History*, Luxun Academy of Fine Arts Museum, Shenyang, China (2013); *Il Sogno Proibito della Nuova*

Cina, Palazzo Inghilterra, Turin, Italy (2009); *Slogan*, Kiang Gallery, Atlanta, GA (2008); *Chinese Offspring*, Chinese Contemporary Gallery, New York, NY (2007); *New Works by Zhang Dali*, Chinese Contemporary Gallery, London, UK (2005). Zhang's group shows include *A Window Suddenly Opens: Contemporary Photography in China*, The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC (2022); *Among all Essence*, Shanghai Jiushi Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2021); *From China with love*, DANYSZ GALLERY, Paris, France (2019); *Anren Biennale*, Anren-Chengdu, China (2017); *Working on History. Contemporary Chinese Photography and the Cultural Revolution*, Satliche Museen zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany (2017); *All Matterings of Mind: Transcendent Imagery from the Contemporary Collection*, Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, NC (2017); *Street Generation(s) 40 years of urban art*, La Condition Publique, Roubaix, France (2017); *Portrait Hot: Taikang Photography Collection*, Taikang Space, Beijing, China (2017); *Chinaescape: From Rural to Urban*, Spazioborgogno, Milan, Italy (2016); *Art From the Streets*, CAFA Art Museum, Beijing, China (2016); *The Shadow Never Lies*, Shanghai 21st Century Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, China (2016); *Utopias and Heteropias - The First Wuzhen International Contemporary Art Exhibition*, North Silk Factory and West Scenic Zone, Wuzhen, China (2016); *Audacious: Contemporary Artists Speak Out*, Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO (2016); *Agitprop!*, The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY (2015-2016); *DECONSTRUCTING CHINA: Selections from the Asia Society Museum Collection*, Asia Society Museum, New York, NY (2015); *Faking it: Manipulating Photography Before Photoshop*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY (2012); *New Photography 2011*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York NY (2011); *Speech Matters, The 54th Venice Biennale*, Venice, Italy (2011); *The Original Copy: Photography of a Sculpture, 1839 to Today*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (2010); *Great Performance*, Pace Beijing, Beijing, China (2010); *The Revolution Continues: New Art from China*, Saatchi Museum, London, UK (2008); *Logan Collection*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA (2008); *Between Past and Future: New Photography and Video from China*, International Center of Photography, New York, NY, Asia Society New York, NY, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK (2004); and *Beijing in London*, ICA, London, UK (1999).

His work is in public collections including Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY; The Saatchi Gallery, London, UK; Smart Museum, Chicago, IL; and Asia Society, New York, NY.

Zhang Dali currently lives and works in Beijing, China.