



**EASTERN PROMISES:  
ULLENS CENTRE FOR  
CONTEMPORARY ART**

In spite of its recent prominence at art fairs and in big survey shows such as *Made in China* (2007) at Denmark's Louisiana museum, Chinese art remains something of a mystery to those beyond the People's Republic, both in terms of cultural milieu and artistic intent. Collectors Guy and Myriam Ullens, however, have been in it for the long haul. Their 20-year commitment to the Chinese artworld went into a new phase when they opened the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) in Beijing last year, with Jérôme Sans, late of Palais de Tokyo, Paris, recently joining them as director.

This summer they'll be showing the fruits of their investment in the local scene with a group show titled *Our Future*. Timed to coincide with the

Olympics, its international visitors will get to check out what has been happening art-wise at ground level, immersed in the context in which the work was created. Featuring 61 artists, including Wang Du, Huang Yongping, Chen Zhen and Zhang Xiaogang, with further new commissions by Cao Fei and several others, the exhibition will range from the historic to the most contemporary, tracking cultural developments and changing attitudes. Curated by the UCCA's Guo Xiaoyan and Kate Fowle, the exhibition will consist of work displayed in traditional gallery spaces and more physically interactive installations involving platforms and tunnels. *SS*

*OUR FUTURE: THE GUY & MYRIAM ULLENS FOUNDATION COLLECTION, JULY 19 - OCTOBER 12, UCCA, BEIJING*  
[WWW.UCCA.ORG.CN](http://WWW.UCCA.ORG.CN)

**VOTE OF CONFIDENCE:  
HALF OF THE PEOPLE  
ARE STONED...**

It is undoubtedly appropriate that the week that sees the celebration of US independence would also play host to *Half of the People Are Stoned and the Other Half Are Waiting for the Next Election*, a show of art and politics that takes the presidential election cycle as its unit of historical scrutiny. Forget the decade, the generation, the binomial designation - American history is increasingly marked off by 'administrations' and the spectacular competitions that mint them.

With work by Cory Arcangel and Jonah Peretti, Carbon Defense League, Institute for Applied Autonomy, Ryan Junell, Saul Levine, Jen Liu, Laura Parnes, Pink Bloque, Wynne Greenwood, Seth Price, Suicide, Aaron Valdez and the Yes Men, *Half of the People...* promises to return us to the electoral urgencies of four years ago - the irrelevancies, the disappointments and the genuine displays of promise - not in an effort to be didactic (one hopes) but as a means of reviving just a bit of the rage that seeds any real political change.

What one needs to keep in mind, however, is that this Nick Hallett-curated endeavour is a Light Industry production, which means it will be gone nearly as quickly as it appears. Founded by Thomas Beard and Ed Halter, Light Industry took up residence in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, this past spring and is quickly developing one of the more interesting programmes for alternative media, film and electronic art and discourse. The artist Marisa Olsen takes over with a multimedia performance on July 8, and she is followed by game designer Mark Essen (15 July), Ben Cooley and Michael Smith (22 July), eteam (29 July) and Cory Arcangel (5 August).  
*Jonathan T.D. Neil*

*HALF OF THE PEOPLE ARE STONED AND THE OTHER HALF ARE WAITING FOR THE NEXT ELECTION, 1-7 JULY, LIGHT INDUSTRY, NEW YORK*  
[WWW.LIGHTINDUSTRY.ORG](http://WWW.LIGHTINDUSTRY.ORG)



from left: Wang Jianwei, *Symptom*, 2006, video, 32 min, courtesy Guy and Myriam Ullens Foundation, Antwerp; Saul Levine, *By The Waters of Babylon: Jamming*, 2004, 16mm film, courtesy the artist, the Film-Maker's Cooperative, New York, and Canyon Cinema, San Francisco