

Time Out

Beijing

in English

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BEIJING'S ESSENTIAL LISTINGS MONTHLY
NOVEMBER 2006
No.26 FREE

WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

Beijing

VS

Shanghai

VS

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in English

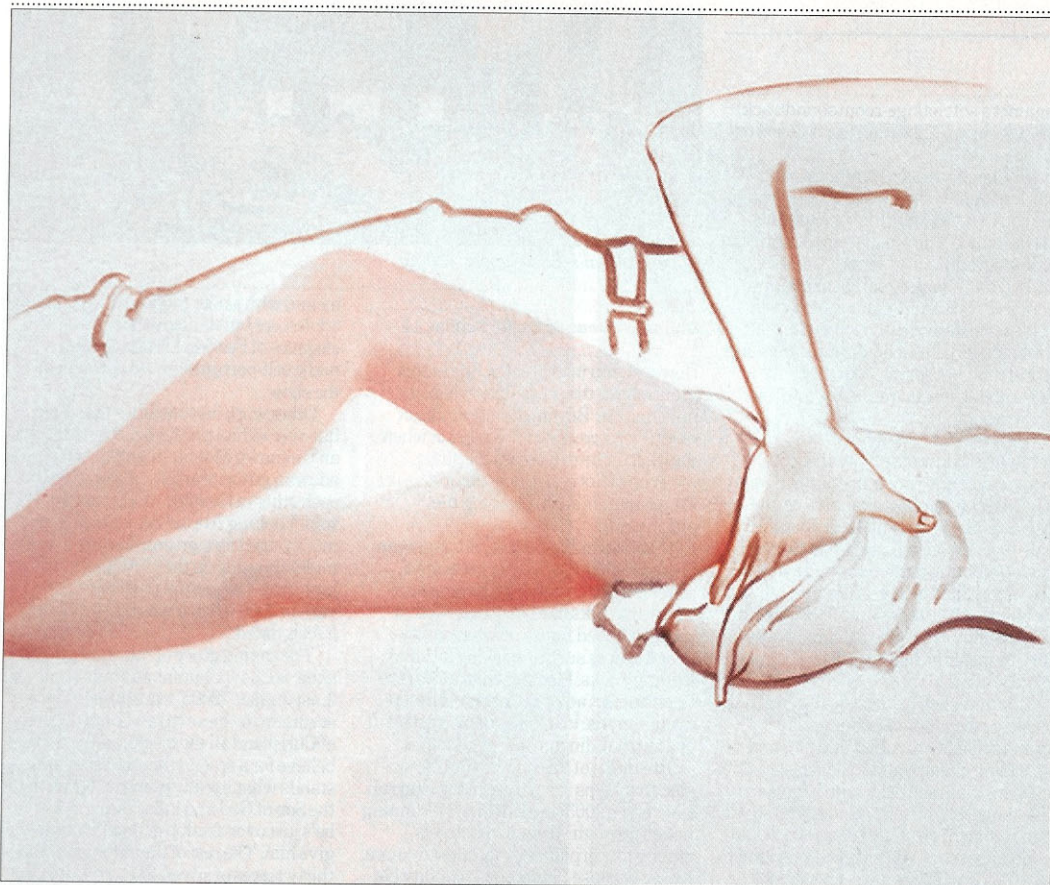
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Song Kun



The right touch: Song Kun's 'diary'

★★★★★

Universal Studios-Beijing

Until Friday 17

Her debut solo show is out in the sticks, but Song Kun is no country bumpkin with a bucket of dime-store paint. She is the latest voice of China's urban young – a voice where adolescent fantasy makes love to hell-bent-for-leather desire. In Song's world, dream and reality spring naked from the gutter, plucking guitars on a frost-covered lawn.

Her new solo show is called '365: It's My Life'. To complete the project, the artist painted one small canvas per day for one year in what she calls 'a diary'. Song explains, 'Painting a diary like this

becomes my line of communication with the world... and I hope my friends and the people I love see in these pictures what their lives mean to me.'

The title for each canvas is the date of composition. If the artist did not paint on a certain day, she didn't go back to catch up – she simply left a blank canvas. Some compositions are left uncompleted, as if she got bored, distracted or lazy and decided to down tools and start afresh the next day. Elsewhere, she keeps the composition unfinished on purpose, leaving a seductive cushion of white space.

Speaking of seduction, we have bedroom portraits of young couples making love, naked poses before an oval mirror, hands at the piano (one donning a white



fishnet glove). She is fascinated with Barbie dolls and like her colleague, Yang Jing, such portraits seem to combine a concern for small worlds with a lust for bright colours and beautiful flesh – think Joseph Cornell meets Pierre & Gilles meets Chinese punk rock and you're getting warm.

Pills from the medicine chest, a cute bum clad in tight Popeye panties, a group of friends on a cycle ride, landscapes from a trip out of town, boyfriends in cowboy hats, home interiors and small toy monsters that dance around a pot of flowers. This is not big, weighty, epic work, but rather a sustained barrage of rapid-fire images – personal, urban and deeply poetic. *SD*

Exhibitions

Advice for readers

► Before a day denotes the closing date; after a day denotes a starting date.

REC denotes an opening reception or other happening – including art films, performance pieces, lectures launches and all things art and live.

Advice for Contributors

Please submit exhibition information by mail, email (Tolistings@cimgchina.com). Information must include dates, times, address of venue, telephone number and admission price, if any. Deadline for submission is the 15th of each month.

The Brewery & Feijiacun

Arario Beijing

Chaoyang Brewery, Beihuqu Lu, Anwai Beiyuanjie, Chaoyang district (5202 3800; www.arario.beijing.com). Open 10am-6pm daily.

朝阳区安外北苑街北湖渠路朝阳酒厂.
Contemporary German Art Group Exhibition: Artists from Leipzig You might remember Leipzig as the little German town that produced JS Bach – now the city's inhabitants have another claim to fame in a startling group of artists called the New Leipzig School. Earlier this year *The New York Times* called them 'the young lions of the international art scene.'

Participating artists include Christoph Ruckhaberle, Martin Kobe, Uwe Kowski, Axel Krause, Tobias Lehner, Rosa Loy, Maix Mayer, Neo Rauch, Klasse Rautert, Matthias Weischer, Julia Schmidt and David Schnell. ► Jan 21, 2007.

Imagine Gallery

Feijiacun Dong Lu, Laiguangying Dong Lu, Chaoyang district (6438 5747/139 1091 7965; www.imagine-gallery.com). Open 10.30am-7pm Tue-Sun.

想象画廊, 朝阳区莱广营东路崔各庄费家村同达饭店对面.

'Transparency': Paintings on Plexiglass from Fortunee Noel The artist uses plexiglass to express the rapid changes that Chinese society is enduring as the architectural landscape here moves from opaque materials to transparent ones. ► Dec 20.

Caochangdi & East End

Art Channel

East End Art Zone B, Caochangdi Village No 249-3 Chaoyang district (6433 5080/135 2171 4691). Open 1-6pm Wed-Sun or by appointment. 艺术通道, 朝阳区草场地村艺术东区B区249-3.

'Utopia': Works of Photography from Felix Tian ► Nov 19.

Currents Art and Music

2 Xiaoqu, Dongbajianfang Shuanbao, Chaoyang district (www.currents.cc for map), (5205 3805). Open Tue-Sun 11am-6pm.

REC 'Happiness': Zhang Peili Video Installation The forefather of Chinese video art comes to Beijing for the first time in 10 years. Zhang Peili's new work