

Cecilia Ho

Cecilia Ho, a Macao born artist, became the first Chinese artist to exhibit her work at the annual 'Summer Exhibition' at the Royal Academy of Arts in London 1996. Her works were chosen in the next three consecutive years where her works were exhibited alongside masters including David Hockney, Roy Lichtenstein, Jasper Johns and Norman Foster. She also collaborated with French architect Robert Mazaud in the architectural project "The Ring of Unity" for the 'World Trade Centre Memorial competition' in America.

In 1995, Cecilia founded the 'Cecilia Art Studio' in Hong Kong and has been a prominent figure in the Hong Kong arts scene throughout the years, showcasing her works at various galleries as well giving talks as a guest lecturer at Hong Kong universities.

Her latest project 'Transporting Qi' started in Macau in which participants would blow their 'qi' (energy) into red balloons. The balloons were then transported 2,000km through various cities, each having unique representations of China. The cities included Hong Kong (commercial), Zhenjiang (industrial), Baise (minority), Luoping (agricultural), Jianshui (ancient) and reached its final destination in Yunan. During the journey, Cecilia documented peoples' reactions on video, photographs and writings which incited occasions, conversations and participation. In Yunan, the village children received the 'qi' and gave a performance symbolizing the release of the energy from the balloons.

'Transporting Qi' signified the connection of people of various races, locations, lifestyles and cultures through the movement of qi while still giving a sense of individuality and independence through their reactions and memories of their participation.

'Transporting Qi' debuted at the Macau Museum of Art and was shortlisted for the 54th Venice Biennial. In March 2012, the project was exhibited in Australia together with Magnum Photographers Martin Parr and Raghu Rai. Curated by Alvin Yip, the project also made an appearance at the 2012 Le French May arts festival at the Wanchai Visual Archive.

Cecilia will be a guest speaker at the DNA House Photography Workshop at the Wanchai Visual Archive on July 21st 2012 (Saturday) in which she will talk more about her experiences and process of creating 'Transporting Qi'.