

BIRDHEAD

Est. 2004, based in Shanghai

The artist duo Birdhead was established in 2004 by Song Tao (b. 1979, Shanghai) and Ji Weiyu (b. 1980, Shanghai). The name “Birdhead” came from a mistaken option from a pinyin Input Method Editor.

Both of them graduated from the Shanghai School of Arts and Crafts in 2000. Using the medium of photography to capture and make sense of their experience of daily life in the metropolis of modern cities, they create large volumes of snapshot-style images and installations showing their existence within the contemporary urban environment.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025** Art Basel Hong Kong 2025, *Birdhead World - Clorionline City*, Insights Sector, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong
- 2024** *Birdhead: Yun Yun*, UCCA Dune, Qinhuangdao, China
Birdhead: Hybird-Arasmus, DREAM xiàn chǎng, West Bund Art & Design, Shanghai
Summer Flame, Flowers Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2019** *Welcome to Birdhead World Again - Tokyo 2019*, Kudan House, Tokyo, Japan
Welcome to Birdhead World Again - Lianzhou 2019, Lianzhou Museum of Photography, Lianzhou, China
- 2018** *Welcome to Birdhead World Again - Beijing 2018*, ShanghART Beijing, Beijing
- 2017** *Welcome to Birdhead World Again - Italy 2017*, Gluck 50, Milan, Italy
Welcome to Birdhead World Again - Singapore 2017, Art Stage Singapore 2017, Marina Bay Sands Exhibition and Convention Centre, Singapore
- 2016** *Welcome to Birdhead World Again - Singapore 2016*, ShanghART Singapore, Singapore
Welcome to Birdhead World Again - Shanghai 2016, FAB-UNION SPACE on the West Bund, Shanghai
Birdhead-Art Unlimited Art Basel 2016, Basel, Switzerland
Welcome to Birdhead World Again, Shanghai Meets Sils Maria, Andrea Robbi Museum, Sils Maria, Switzerland
Birdhead - Welcome to Birdhead World Again - Zurich 2016, Zurich Switzerland
- 2015** *Welcome to Birdhead World Again*, ShanghART H-Space, Shanghai
- 2014** *Birdhead Solo Exhibition*, Yifeng Galleria (Bottega Veneta), Shanghai
- 2012** *Welcome to Birdhead World Again - Beijing 2012*, ShanghART Beijing, Beijing
Welcome to the World of Bird Head Again-London, Paradise Row Gallery, London, U.K.
- 2011** *Birdhead: New Village*, EX3 Centro per l'arte Contemporanea Firenze, Florence, Italy
- 2010** *Welcome to the World of Bird Head Again-2010*, Guangzhou; Lianzhou
- 2009** *Birdhead: Ji Weiyu & Song Tao*, Chinese Arts Centre, Manchester, U.K.
- 2008** *Landscape*, ShanghART F-Space, Shanghai
- 2007** *Birdhead 2006+2007*, BizArt, Shanghai
- 2005** *Welcome to Birdhead World 2004-2005*, ShanghART H-Space, Shanghai

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024** KYOTOGRAPHIE 2024, Kyoto, Japan
- 2022** *Emotional Asia - Miyatsu Daisuke Collection*, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan
- 2021** *Diriyah Biennale: Feeling the Stones*, JAX District, Diriyah, Saudi Arabia
City on the Edge: Art and Shanghai at the Turn of the Millennium, UCCA Edge, Shanghai
- 2020** *Muses, Yu Gong and Compasses*, Pingshan Art Museum, Shenzhen
Shanghai Waves: Historical Archives and Works of Shanghai Biennale, PSA, Shanghai
- 2019** *Third Realm*, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, U.S.A.
The Avant-Garde is Not Afraid of a Long March, ShanghART Singapore 2019, Singapore
- 2017** The 7th Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism \ Architecture, Cities, Grow in Difference, Shenzhen
Shanghai Galaxy II, Yuz Museum, Shanghai
40 Years of Chinese Contemporary Photography (1976-2017), The 10th Anniversary Special Exhibition of Three Shadows, Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, Beijing

- When the Other Meets the Other Other*, Cultural Center of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
Living Cities, Tate Modern, London, U.K.
Mass Energy 1862 HBC Contemporary Art Exhibition, Shipyard 1862, Shanghai
- 2016** *The Crocodile in the Pond, 11 artists from ShanghART Gallery* – Curated by Alexandra Grimmer, Museum Art St. Urban and Abbey St. Urban, Luzern, Switzerland
- 2015** The 6th Moscow Biennale, *How to gather? Acting in a city in the heart of the island of Eurasia*, Moscow, Russia
Shanghai Ever, MOCA, Shanghai
Jing Shen, The Act of Painting in Contemporary China, PAC - Milan Museum of Contemporary Art, Italy
New China/New Art, Djanogly Gallery, University of Nottingham, U.K.
- 2014** *Performance and Imaginations: Photography from China 1911-2014*, Museum Stavanger, Stavanger, Norway
My Generation: Young Chinese Artists, Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, FL. and Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, Florida, U.S.A.
- 2013** The 1st Beijing Photo Biennale, *Aura and Post-Aura*, The China Millennium Monument, Beijing
Hugo Boss Asia Art Award, Exhibition of Finalist Artists, Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai
Clutch, ShanghART H-Space, Shanghai
Portrait of the Times, 30 Years of Chinese Contemporary Art, Power Station of Art, Shanghai
Shanghai Surprise, A Group Show of Contemporary Art in Shanghai, K11 Art Mall, Shanghai
Revel, Celebrating MoCA's 8 Years in Shanghai, MoCA, Shanghai
ON|OFF, China's Young Artists in Concept and Practice, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), Beijing
- 2012** New Photography 2012, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, U.S.A.
9th Shanghai Biennale, *Reactivation*, Power Station of Art, Shanghai
Architectural Photography - Made in China, Guest Exhibition of the International Photography Scene in Koeln Museum of Applied Arts, MAKK, Cologne, Germany
- 2011** The 54th Venice Biennale, *ILLUMInations*, Venice, Italy
Artist File 2011, The NACT Annual Show of Contemporary Art, National Art Center, Tokyo, Japan
- 2010** *Focus Shanghai, Lu Chunsheng and Birdhead*, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, U.S.A.
China Power Station: Part IV, Pinacoteca Agnelli, Torino, Italy
- 2009** *Emporium: A New Common Sense of Space*, The National Museum of Science and Technology "Leonardo da Vinci", Milano, Italy
Reversed Image, Representations of Shanghai and its Contemporary Material Culture, Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, U.S.A.
Shanghai History in Making from 1979 till 2009, 436 Jumen Rd., Shanghai
Warm Up, Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai
Up Close, Far Away, Kunstverein, Heidelberg, Germany
- 2008** *The World of Other's, A Contemporary Art Exhibition*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai
New Photography in China, One of the Largest Surveys of Emerging Photography Talent from China, Hong Kong Fringe Club; Hong Kong Art Center, Hong Kong
Insomnia, Photographs Exhibition, BizART, Shanghai
- 2007** *China Power Station: Part II*, Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, Oslo, Norway
- 2005** The 1st Lianzhou International Photo Festival, *Double Vision*, Culture Square Lianzhou, Lianzhou, Guangdong

PROJECTS & RESIDENCIES

- 2018** Condo Shanghai 2018, ShanghART, Shanghai
- 2016** Southeast Asia Residency Program, Project ShanghART Singapore, Singapore
Welcome to Birdhead World Again, Gluck50 Residency Project, Gluck50, Milano
- 2013** Art on the Way, Hugo Boss Asia Art Award, Subway Stations, Shanghai
- 2012** Xin Cun, The Swatch Art Peace Hotel, Shanghai
- 2011** Prevent 2012 - Doomsday Party, TOP Contemporary Art Center, Shanghai
- 2009** B.A.G. Art Project, ShanghART Main Space, Shanghai
- 2008** Pre-order Birdhead 2006 Album, Shanghai

COLLECTIONS

UCCA Foundation, Beijing
Guy & Myriam Ullens Foundation, Switzerland
The Margulies Collection, Miami, U.S.A
Tate, London, U.K.
Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, Oslo, Norway
Wemhöner Collection, Herford, Germany
Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), New York, U.S.A
Power Station of Art (PSA), Shanghai, China
Pingshan Art Museum, Shenzhen, China

MONOGRAPHS

2024 Yunyun. Birdhead. Imageless
2019 Birdhead: Kuang. Birdhead. Imageless
2013 Birdhead: The Light of Eternity. Birdhead. Shanghai, China, 310 Publishing
2010 Birdhead: The End of Mainland. Birdhead. Shanghai, China, 310 Publishing
Birdhead: Xincun. Birdhead. 2nd ed., Shanghai, China, 310 Publishing
2007 Birdhead: Xincun. Birdhead. 1st ed., Shanghai, China, 310 Publishing

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

2023 40 Years of Chinese Photography. Art Museum of Sichuan Fine Art Institute
2022 Focus China. Bettina Ruhrberg. Moncler Museum
Rebirth and Resonance: Pingshan Art Museum Yearbook 2019-2020. Liu Xiaodu, Zhong Gang. Pingshan Art Museum
2021 Do It China 2021. Hans Ulrich Obrist, Cao Dan. Citic Press Group
About Us: Young Photography in China. Eva-Maria Fahrner-Tutsek, Petra Giloy-Hirtz. Hirmer Verlag GmbH
2018 Art Shenzhen 2018. ART Shenzhen Organization
2017 When the Other Meets the Other. Biljana Ciric, Katarina Kostandinovic, Art Gallery, Artget Gallery, Podroom Gallery
Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture: Citys Grow in Difference. UABB (Shenzhen) Organizing Committee
ART STAGE SINGAPORE: FAIR GUIDE. Art Stage Singapore
2016 The Crocodile in the Pond: 11 artists from ShanghART Gallery. Gertrud & Heinz Aeschlimann. Kerber Verlag, Germany
Art|Basel|Unlimited|2016. Ursula Diehr, Holger Steinemann. Hatje Cantz Verlag, Germany
Living in Screens: A Dimension of Chinese Contemporary Photography Since 2000. Hai Jie. China National Photographic Art Publishing House
2015 Grain to Pixel: A Story of Photography in China. Shanghai Center of Photography, Shanghai
As Seen 3. Karen Smith. Beijing World Publishing Cooperation
Shanghai Ever. Sun Wenqing. Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai
2014 Ten Years of Contemporary Photography in China.
Forestillinger: Fotografi fra Kina 1911-2014. Arthub Publisher
2013 HUGO BOSS ASIA ART Award for Emerging Chinese Artists.
Art Basel Hong Kong 2013.
ON|OFF Collective Practice in China. Post Wave Publishing Consulting (Beijing) Co., Ltd.
ON|OFF: China's Young Artists in Concept & Practice. Post Wave Publishing Consulting (Beijing) Co., Ltd.
Aura & Post Aura - 1st Beijing Photo Biennial. CAFA. China Photographic Publishing House
Portrait of the Times: 30 Years of Chinese Contemporary Art. Li Xu. Power Station of Art & Shanghai Literature and Art Publishing House
2012 Astrup Fearnley Museet (Exhibition/To be with Art is All We Ask). Gunnar B. Kvaran. Astrup Fearnley Museet
Reactivation-9th Shanghai Biennale
2xHelbling in Shanghai. IG Halle
Architekturfotografie-Made in China. Hannes Wandere, Ana Druga, Norbert Moos.

- Internationale Photoszene Koln, IPK
Man in Mirror. Hai Jie. China Youth Publishing House
- 2011** *Artist File 2011 The NACT Annual Show of Contemporary Art File 026: BIRDHEAD*. National Art Center, Tokyo
ILLUMInations: 54th International Art Exhibition La Biennale Di Venezia. Bice Curiger. Marsilio
Contemporary Art in Shanghai: Conversation with Seven Chinese Artists. Paul Gladston. Blue Kingfisher Limited
- 2010** *Steppin' China Birdhead*. Hideki Ohmori
China Power Station. Gunnar B. Kvaran, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Julia Peyton-Jones. MCL Officine Poligrafiche, Torino, Italy
History in Making 1979-2009: Artists Interviews & Works Archives. Biljana Ciric. Shanghai People's Fine Arts Publishing House
- 2009** *2009 German Week: Every Human Being is an Artist*. Times Square, Shanghai
Art Economies Beyond Pattern Recognition. Khim Ong. Osage Gallery
- 2008** *Insomnia*. BizArt, Shanghai
The World of Other: Contemporary Art Exhibition. Gong Mingguang. Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai
Art Multiple 2008. Ke Center for the Contemporary Arts
Young Chinese Artists: The Next Generation. Christoph Noe, Xenia Piech, Cordelia Steiner. Prestel Verlag
- 2006** *New Photography in China*. John Millichap. 3030 press

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