

CAROLINA NITSCH PROJECT ROOM

534 West 22nd Street New York NY 10011 Tel 212 645 2030 Tues–Sat 11 am–6 pm

PRESS RELEASE

NEW PHOTO – TEN YEARS:

16 PHOTOGRAPHS AND FACSIMILE REPRINT OF THE SEMINAL UNDERGROUND MAGAZINE AND FORERUNNER OF CONTEMPORARY CHINESE PHOTOGRAPHY
(FEB 9 – MAR 16, 2008)

Carolina Nitsch is pleased to present *NEW PHOTO – Ten Years*, a portfolio with 16 photographs and a complete facsimile reprint of *NEW PHOTO*, the seminal underground magazine and forerunner of contemporary Chinese photography. In addition the exhibition features a media display of all 200 photographs published in *NEW PHOTO*, a reading room with the magazine issues and a new volume with specially commissioned essays and interviews with all artists.

NEW PHOTO was published from 1996-1998 by Rong Rong and Liu Zheng in four issues with a print run of only 20-30 copies. The magazine featured photographs by WANG XU, GUAN CE, LIU ZHENG, JIANG ZHI, ZHAO LIANG, QIU ZHIJIE, RONG RONG, SAN MAO, YAN LEI, ZHUANG HUI, AN HONG, GAO BO, LIU ANPING, HONG LEI, ZHENG GUOGU, JIN YONGQUAN.

The journal contained cutting-edge work by burgeoning experimental photographers, many of whom subsequently became leading artists such as Qiu Zhijie, Zheng Guogu, Yan Lei, Rong Rong, Hong Lei, or others. The works featured in *NEW PHOTO* played an important role in the history of Chinese experimental photography. Some demonstrate the gradual transition from photojournalism to conceptual photography, others are more firmly planted in the realm of the staged experimental, with posed scenes, erotic material and darker social commentary.

A decade ago, when *NEW PHOTO* was published, the only means of producing it was black and white photocopying – Beijing's color photocopiers required unattainable permission to use. The erratic, limited edition publication schedule was dependent on its editors' ability to scrape up enough money.

"*NEW PHOTO – Ten Years* belongs to a new trend of rediscovering the early history of Chinese contemporary art", explains art historian and curator Wu Hung, who also wrote an essay for the accompanying publication. "China moves so fast – 10 years feels almost like a century, everything moves ..., so that the artists don't always think – they have instinct and ambition, but they need to think about what is Chinese contemporary photography."

"The process of looking back at *NEW PHOTO*", Karen Smith writes in her essay, "will be extremely instructive, ... guiding viewers towards a reflection upon how far photography has come since 1996 And in the light of the explosion in interest and production amongst the contemporary art community that emerged from the late 1990s, ... it may be suggested that these were inspired by the intriguing qualities the works featured in *NEW PHOTO* represented, and the possibilities they continue to imply."

NEW PHOTO – Ten Years comes with a complete facsimile reprint of the four magazine issues and a new fifth volume with interviews and statements by all 16 contributing artists and essays by Wu Hung, Karen Smith, Toshio Shimizu, Zhang Li and Christopher Phillips. Also included are artists' biographies and a chronology of major events in contemporary Chinese photography. This new volume is printed in a bilingual English and Chinese version.

NEW PHOTO – Ten Years is published by Carolina Nitsch Contemporary Art, New York, and Chambers Fine Art, New York, in association with Three Shadows Photography Art Center, Beijing.

The publication of *NEW PHOTO – Ten Years* coincided with the inaugural exhibition of the same title at the Three Shadows Photography Art Center, Beijing, last year which will now travel to the FotoFest 2008 in Houston, Texas, from March 7 – April 20, 2008.

NEW PHOTO – Ten Years is published in two versions:

"*NEW PHOTO – Ten Years*" – Deluxe Edition

Signed suite of 16 photographs by WANG XU, GUAN CE, LIU ZHENG, JIANG ZHI, ZHAO LIANG, QIU ZHIJIE, RONG RONG, SAN MAO, YAN LEI, ZHUANG HUI, AN HONG, GAO BO, LIU ANPING, HONG LEI, ZHENG GUOGU, JIN YONGQUAN.

With facsimile reprint of all four *NEW PHOTO* issues and new volume with interviews and statements by all participating artists and essays by Wu Hung, Karen Smith, Toshio Shimizu, Zhang Li and Christopher Phillips. Custom made hand-stitched leather box, 19 x 14 x 4 inches (46.5 x 34.5 x 10 cm). Edition of 40 copies.

"*NEW PHOTO – Ten Years*" – Limited Edition

Facsimile reprint of all four *NEW PHOTO* issues and new volume with interviews and statements by all participating artists and essays by Wu Hung, Karen Smith, Toshio Shimizu, Zhang Li and Christopher Phillips. In custom made cloth bound box, 17 x 12 x 3 inches (43 x 30.5 x 7.5 cm). Edition of 600 numbered copies.

NEW PHOTO – Ten Years is on view at Carolina Nitsch Project Room from Feb 9 – March 16, 2008. For more information please contact info@carolinanitsch.com

CAROLINA NITSCH

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