

Publication:	Beijing Today Community
Date:	2010 No.469
Section/Page:	P10
Size:	1/2Page
City:	

April 30 2010

Community 10

Photo festival held for first time outside France



Caochangdi hosts the first Les Rencontres d'Arles photography festival outside France through June 30.

Photo provided by Chambers Fine Art Gallery

By Chu Meng

A portion of Les Rencontres d'Arles photography festival is being held outside France for the first time in its four-decade history. The honor of being its first overseas host goes to Caochangdi, the Beijing art village that festival organizers see eventually becoming an international art hub.

Les Rencontres, which has helped define the best and brightest figures in photography since 1969, has brought to Caochangdi "Photo Spring," a series of photography exhibitions, workshops and slide presentations featuring top international works. It also

includes forums, concerts and film screenings.

"As a grassroots art space, we are in bad need of fresh foreign-art influences to cultivate young Chinese artists," says Li Li, public relations director of Three Shadows Photography Art Center, co-organizer of Les Rencontres, along with Thinking Hands Culture Center in 798 Art District.

"We will further discuss with foreign counterparts about how an art zone can grow in a healthier and more harmonious way, and learn how to sustainably manage an art community," Liu Hongli, a member of the Caochangdi Art

Zone Committee, says.

Francois Hébel, director of Les Rencontres, sees in Caochangdi the Arles of 40 years ago. "Caochangdi was born on the outskirts of Beijing in 2000 and has since flourished into a vibrant artist's hub with numerous galleries, art institutions and artist studios. It is exactly the same as how the art county of Arles was founded 40 years ago. Later on, many world-famous photographers grew out of Arles. I see a promising future for young Chinese artists here," Hébel says.

Through major Chinese art events like the Pingyao photog-

raphy festival in 2000 and the Dashanzi Art Festival in 2003, Hébel says he has "witnessed a marked development in Chinese art photography." Photo Spring, going on through June 30, is the first in three photography events planned by French and Chinese organizers.

Caochangdi, one of the city's contemporary art hubs, differs from the more popular 798 Art District in that it is a suburban village that has attracted artists as opposed to a designated art district. It is also less commercialized, thus rent is more affordable to new or young artists.

Event

Qinhuangdao's sailing season begins

The Beijing Sailing Center (BSC), located in Qinhuangdao beach resort, starts its 2010 sailing season this weekend. BSC is one of the country's top sailing schools, with a team of instructors certified by the UK's Royal Yachting Association. Member benefits include free use of boats, anchoring of a boat at the center, free monthly races and discounts on sailing equipment and courses.

Where: Beijing Sailing Center, 22 Wentu Lu, Harbor District, Qinhuangdao, Hebei Province

When: May 1-3

Tel: 15001189580

Cost: Depends on course

Photography workshop

Peter Carney, an award-winning British photographer who has been based in Asia for five years, will discuss the fundamentals of photography and help participants find their own shooting style. The day-long workshop will include a shooting session in the surrounding hutong and historic areas and an editing lesson.

Where: Culture Yard, 10 Shique Hutong, Beixinqiao Lu, Dongcheng District

When: May 1-29, daily, 10 am - 6 pm

Tel: 8404 4166

Cost: 500 yuan

Workshop on electronic music and digital art

The INTR0 2010 Workshop Series is designed to help new DJs and VJs enhance their know-how of digital music and visual art. This year, lectures and demonstrations will be given by music event organizer Acupuncture Records and selected local artists.

Where: Lantern, B1, 3-3 Mall, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: May 2, 4-6 pm

Tel: 13501348785

Cost: Free

Laughter workshop

A researcher on the effects of laughter, William Fry Jr. found that one minute of belly laughing was equivalent to 10 minutes of rowing exercises and that laughter can be beneficial to people battling diabetes, heart disease, depression, stress, pain and excess weight. The workshop, led by "laughing yoga" teacher Bernadette McGree, is designed to elicit laughter from participants - even if they have to pretend at first.

Where: Fine Yoga, 16/F Tower 2, Blue Castle International Center, 3 Xidawang Lu, Chaoyang District

When: May 2, 6:30-8 pm

Tel: 13911767521

Cost: Free

(By Liang Meilan)

NGOs appeal for quake relief items

By Wang Yu

Expats as well as locals have been involved in the effort to collect relief items for the victims of the magnitude-7.1 earthquake that struck Yushu, Qinghai Province, April 14.

Leslie Simpson, owner of the charity store Roundabout in Shunyi District, is working with Yushu Earthquake Response Organization (YERO), a group of grassroots NGOs, to collect relief items like blankets, duvets, sleeping bags and thermal underwear.

"Our appeal has been heard, but we would love to receive a lot, lot more. Our store will be donating all its income from now until the end of the month. First, we will take care of the transport costs, and then if we have spare money, we will purchase more essentials or donate the money directly to YERO," Simpson said.

She said books and toys that Roundabout can sell are also welcome. People can also send donations to the shop's drop-off point in Dongzhimen.

YERO is composed of six NGOs that banded after the quake: Snowland Service Group, Tsongkha Charitable Association,

Sanchuan Development Association, Shem Women's Group, Qinghai Tibet Research Center and Friends of Rural Community Development. The group is supported by foreign aid by the Tibet Village Project, Columbia, Trace, Mercy Corps and Bridge.

The NGO coalition's first shipment of relief items has already reached Yushu: the 30 tons of goods included rice, noodles, generators, water filtration systems, a gas tank and water bottles. Distribution will be supervised by Snowland Service Group, which has set up a post at the Mani Wall just outside Yushu since the situation at the quake epicenter has become tense.

YERO coalition spent 120,000 yuan to move the first shipment and it is looking for people who can sponsor trucks for upcoming shipments. To rent each truck costs 4,000 yuan, and donations toward this can be given to Roundabout.

So far, YERO has received cash donations of \$13,000 (88,700 yuan) from the NGO Machik and another \$15,000 from Columbia. Donors can send money via PayPal on YERO's website, yushuearthquakeresponse.org.

"We're aware that there have



Relief items distributed in Yushu.

CFP Photo

been many natural disasters around us lately and that sometimes we can get a little exhausted of being constantly asked to give, so it is especially wonderful to see the community around us pulling together to help 'our' country," Simpson said.

Drop off points

Down town

Where: Room 9B, Oriental Kenzo, Tower D, 48 Dongzhimen

Wai Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: Monday - Friday, 9 am - 6 pm

Tel: 8447 7496

Shunyi

Where: Roundabout, Kaifa Jie (near Mrs. Shanne's Bagels), Xi Baixinzhuang, Houshayu, Shunyi

Tel: 1371877761

Open: Monday - Saturday, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm