Press Release | Hong Kong

Media Enquiry: Harriet Yeung Contact: +852 3571 8200 Email: harriet@cbal.com.hk

**title – Cang Xin Solo Exhibition 2017**

Opening Reception: 6 – 9 pm, Thur 11 May 2017

Exhibition Duration: 12 May – 15 July 2017

**Contemporary by Angela Li** G/F, 248 Hollywood Road, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

**Leo Gallery** SOHO 189 Art Lane, 189 Queen’s Road West, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

*Image*

Curator: Dr. Tong Pui Yin

[Hong Kong, Apr 2017] Contemporary by Angela Li and Leo Gallery are proud to jointly present, title, featuring the works of renowned Chinese performance artist Cang Xin. The exhibition, curated by Dr Tong Pui Yin, presents Cang Xin’s pursuit of performance art and photography over the years through display of images categorised under *Communication Series*, *Identity Exchange Series*, *Hotpot Series* and *Introject Series*. Cang Xin (b. 1967, Inner Mongolia, China) studied at Tianjin Academy of Music and Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts. He is one of China’s most celebrated performance and multimedia artists.

*“Performance has been a way of appealing directly to a large public, to shock audiences into reassessing their own notions of art and its relation to culture.”*

- RoseLee Goldberg

The artist conveys his message and manifests his inner identity through “Action” and “Body”. The Body, in this process a medium of artistic creation, is no longer merely an object for aesthetic appreciation, but has transformed into a “Site” where new forms are bred and concepts are expressed and completed. The amalgamation of the Site of the Body and the Site of Artwork Execution transcends physical interaction and engenders communication with the world on the metaphysical level.

Artist Cang Xin queries his sensual experience and self-identity while putting forward his own solution; deriving from the framework of ordinary life, his works share a common form embracing both presumption and spontaneity. This forms a thread connecting all the four series. Presumption here refers to the fact that the Sites involved in Cang Xin’s works are mostly national landmarks or prominent architecture with clear implications. Within such context, the spontaneous “daily-life actions” sublimate to art and are freshly endowed a new spirt evincing the inner identity of the artist, thus illustrate the progression from “Action” to “Perception”.

Encountering Cang Xin’s works, the audience would perceive a certain connection with the artist, allowing them to reflect and question their own identity or the physical body void of which, eventually be immersed in the search of meaning of the self within the social fabric.

**About the Artist**

**Cang Xin** (b. 1967, Inner Mongolia, China) studied at Tianjin Academy of Music and Tianjin Academy of Fine Arts. He has become an active international Chinese artist and curator since taking residency at Beijing East Village in the 90s. Cang Xin believes that his works adhere to the “shaman” spirit, focusing on using his body as a means to connect and build relationship with the nature and society. He has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions around the world, including: “El Cuerpo en La Naturaleza” (Santander Art Center, Spain, 2016), “Beijing 798 Genesis (2002-2006)” (Songzhuang Art Museum, China, 2016), “China 8 - Chinese Contemporary Art Exhibition” (Osthaus Museusm Hagen, Germany, 2015), “Voice of the Unseen” (55th Venice Biennale collateral event, Venice, 2013) and “Cang Xin’s Mythology” (Today Art Museum, Beijing, 2008). He currently lives and works in Beijing.

**About Curator**

Pui Yin Tong has a PhD in Art and Design and holds a Master Degree in Scenography from the Central St Martin and a Bachelor degree in Contemporary Media practice. Her PhD thesis was focusing on Performance Art development in China containing influential performance art works from 1979-2010. Pui Yin has currently founded China’s first Performance Art Research Center in Beijing and she is also working as an independent curator and has been working with domestic and international artists. Pui Yin has organized live art festivals held in Hong Kong, Macau, Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu and around China. She has also been advising art groups performing in China.

In addition as curator, Pui Yin has also been invited to lecture at Fudan University in Shanghai and Chengdu A4 Contemporary Art Centre.

**Selected works in the exhibition**