

PRESS RELEASE

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8th April, 2014

Mo Yi - Illusory Memories

Opening Reception: 6.00 – 10.30 pm, Tue 13 May 2014
Venue: CONTEMPORARY BY ANGELA LI
G/F, 248 Hollywood Road, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong
Exhibition Duration: 14 May – 14 Jun 2014
Website: www.cbal.com.hk

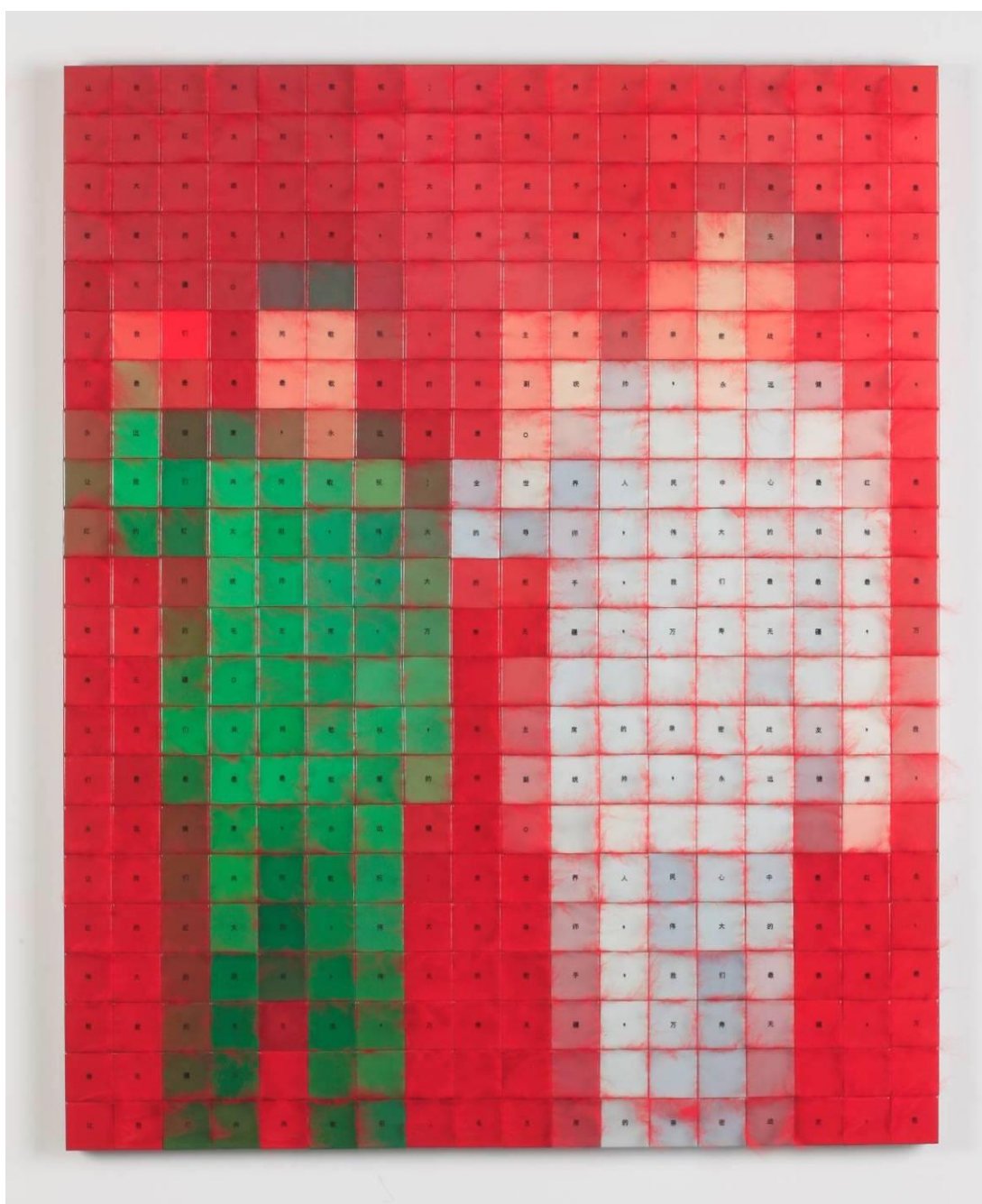
Mo Yi is a highly respected and recognized photographic artist. His new installation series, to be shown at his solo exhibition at Contemporary by Angela Li, is a continuation of his photography works. The trend of singing “red” songs in China a few years ago triggered him to dig out materials left behind from the Cultural Revolution. The background images of the works are pixilated – they are merely coloured tiles when viewed close to the works. However, when you take a step back, even those who are not familiar with Chinese political history will be able to recognize the images immediately, for example, Deng Xiaoping sitting on a sofa; Mao swimming, waving to the crowds or inspecting the guards; Mao and Lin Biao together, Mao standing side by side as Hua Guofeng, his “dearest comrade-in-arms”; Luo Feng’s portrait and other propaganda images from the Cultural Revolution period. All the coloured squares are made with specially ordered ceramic tiles, imitating the once most commonly used material for political propaganda posters in rural China. On the tiles are small words from different extracts and quotes complementing each image, such as Mao’s famous saying “With you in charge, I am at ease” and the artist’s different versions of this sentence, the congratulatory message to Mao and the Party that all students had to chant before each class when the artist was in primary school, and words on the first page of the Little Red Book. In between the tiles are red threads that creep out, a bit like grass growing in between floor tiles but stained in blood red, symbolizing the vitality of lives that try to survive in hard situations. The works have a “pop” look and are aesthetically pleasing, yet the stories behind are much deeper, more complicated and thought-provoking.

Mo Yi has been a true artist throughout his life. He was very radical when he was young. As early as the 1980s, he started doing street performances in Tianjin where he used to live. After the Tiananmen Square massacre, he wore a self-made costume to a protest and got pushed to the front, and was put in jail for a few days. In his early forties, he had only water and a mandarin in 41 days - he ended up damaging his health and has still not fully recovered to this day.

Mo Yi was born in Tibet in 1958. In 1998, he was featured in a documentary series produced by

Japan's NHK Broadcasting Corporation as one of the most important Chinese contemporary artists amongst Fang Lijun, Liu Wei and Zhang Yang (movie director). His works had been included in important exhibitions such as the Guangzhou International Photography Biennial, the Guangzhou Contemporary Art Triennial and the Daegu Photo Biennale, and in the collections of the Guangdong Art Museum, Guangzhou, China; the Sifang Art Museum, Nanjing, China; Houston Museum, USA; and the Chinese Image and Video Archive, Canada. He received the Gold Prize at the Pingyao International Photography Festival in 2008 and the Silver Prize at the Lianzhou International Photography Festival in 2006. He currently lives and works in Beijing.

Selected Works in the Exhibition



Mo Yi, **Dearest Comrade-in-Arms**, Coloured Ceramic Tiles, Wood, Thread, 107 x 87 cm, 2011–2013



Texts on ceramic tiles:

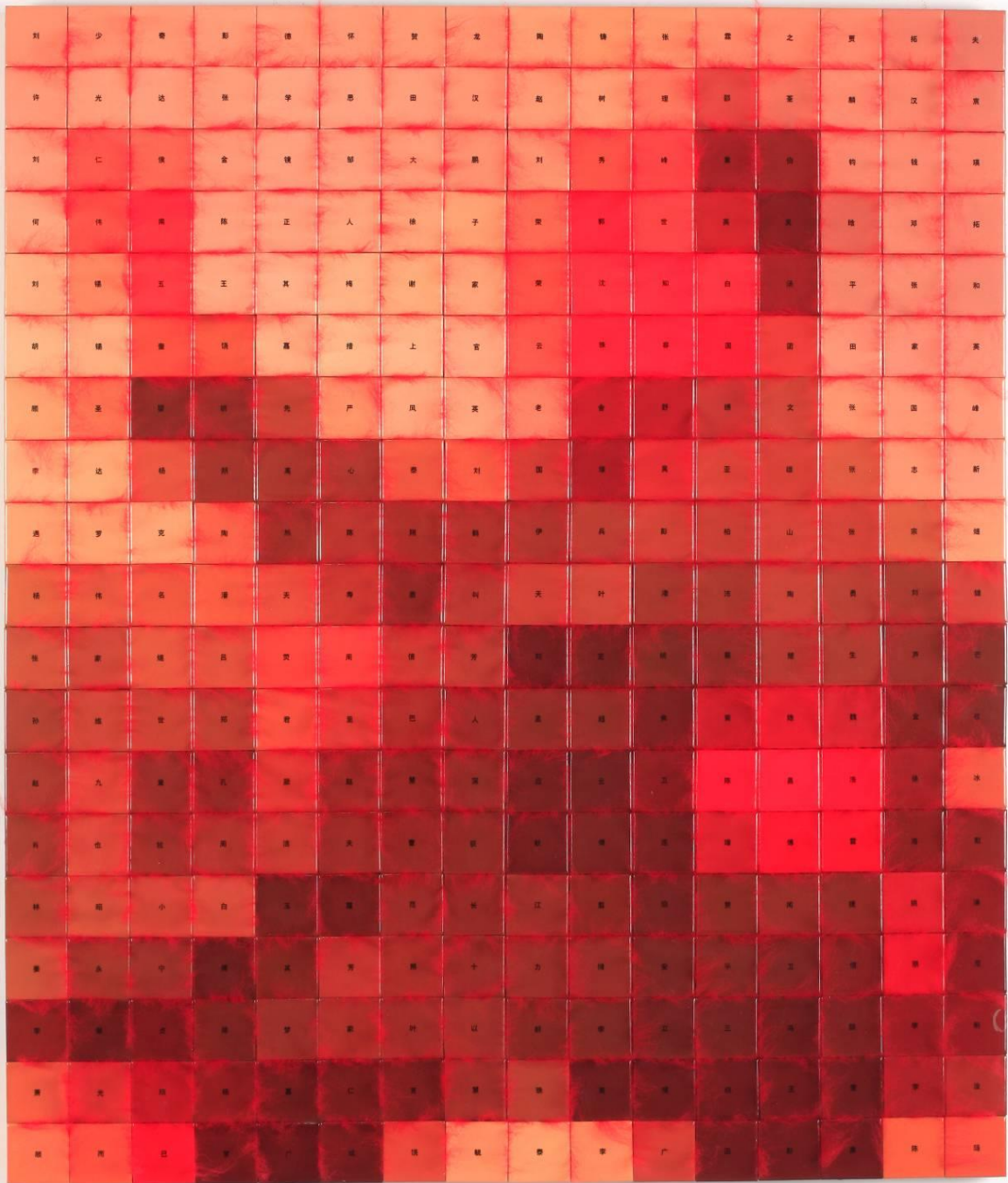
让	我	们	共	同	敬	祝	:	全	世	界	人	民	心	中	最	红	最
红	的	红	太	阳	,	伟	大	的	导	师	,	伟	大	的	领	袖	,
伟	大	的	统	帅	,	伟	大	的	舵	手	,	我	们	最	最	最	最
敬	爱	的	毛	主	席	,	万	寿	无	疆	,	万	寿	无	疆	,	万
寿	无	疆	。														
让	我	们	共	同	敬	祝	:	毛	主	席	的	亲	密	战	友	,	我
们	最	最	最	最	敬	爱	的	林	副	统	帅	,	永	远	健	康	,
永	远	健	康	,	永	远	健	康	。								
让	我	们	共	同	敬	祝	:	全	世	界	人	民	心	中	最	红	最
红	的	红	太	阳	,	伟	大	的	导	师	,	伟	大	的	领	袖	,
伟	大	的	统	帅	,	伟	大	的	舵	手	,	我	们	最	最	最	最
敬	爱	的	毛	主	席	,	万	寿	无	疆	,	万	寿	无	疆	,	万
寿	无	疆	。														
让	我	们	共	同	敬	祝	:	毛	主	席	的	亲	密	战	友	,	我
们	最	最	最	最	敬	爱	的	林	副	统	帅	,	永	远	健	康	,
永	远	健	康	,	永	远	健	康	。								
让	我	们	共	同	敬	祝	:	全	世	界	人	民	心	中	最	红	最
红	的	红	太	阳	,	伟	大	的	导	师	,	伟	大	的	领	袖	,
伟	大	的	统	帅	,	伟	大	的	舵	手	,	我	们	最	最	最	最
敬	爱	的	毛	主	席	,	万	寿	无	疆	,	万	寿	无	疆	,	万
寿	无	疆	。														
让	我	们	共	同	敬	祝	:	毛	主	席	的	亲	密	战	友	,	我

Let us wish eternal life for our most revered Chairman Mao, the reddest red sun in the hearts of the people of the world, the great mentor, the great leader, the great commander-in-chief, and the great helmsman.

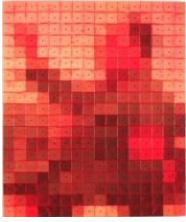
Let us wish perpetual health for our most revered Vice-Commander Lin, Mao's dearest comrade-in-arms.

The image shows Mao and Lin Biao together. Back then, it was widely thought that Lin and Mao were the closest allies, the only man who could represent Mao in China.

The text is the congratulatory message which the artist had to chant once before each of their classes, as for all students in China.



Mo Yi, **Waving**, Coloured Ceramic Tiles, Wood, Thread, 82 x 78 cm, 2011–2013



Texts on ceramic tiles:

刘	少	奇	彭	德	怀	贺	龙	陶	铸	张	霖	之	贾	拓	夫
许	光	达	张	学	思	田	汉	赵	树	理	邵	荃	麟	汉	宸
刘	仁	侯	金	镜	邹	大	鹏	刘	秀	峰	章	伯	钧	钱	瑛
何	伟	南	陈	正	人	徐	子	荣	郭	世	英	吴	晗	邓	拓
刘	锡	五	王	其	梅	谢	家	荣	沈	知	白	汤	平	张	和
胡	锡	奎	饶	嘉	措	上	官	云	珠	容	国	团	田	家	英
顾	圣	婴	胡	先	严	凤	英	老	舍	舒	绣	文	张	国	峰
李	达	杨	朔	高	心	泰	刘	国	璋	吴	亚	雄	张	志	新
遇	罗	克	陶	然	陈	翔	鹤	伊	兵	彭	柏	山	张	宗	燧
杨	伟	名	潘	天	寿	盖	叫	天	叶	渚	沛	陶	勇	刘	健
张	家	燧	吕	茨	周	信	芳	刘	芝	明	蔡	楚	生	杨	朔
孙	维	世	郑	君	里	巴	人	孟	超	焦	菊	隐	魏	金	枝
赵	九	章	孔	厥	赵	慧	深	应	云	卫	陈	昌	浩	徐	冰
肖	也	牧	周	洁	夫	曹	荻	秋	傅	连	璋	傅	雷	海	默
林	昭	小	白	玉	霜	范	长	江	翦	伯	赞	闻	捷	姚	溱
姜	永	宁	傅	其	芳	熊	十	力	储	安	平	卫	恒	丽	尼
李	翠	贞	陈	梦	家	叶	以	群	李	立	三	冯	喆	李	斛
萧	光	琰	杨	嘉	仁	言	慧	珠	周	瘦	鹃	王	莹	李	淦
顾	而	己	罗	广	斌	饶	毓	泰	李	广	田	彭	康	陈	琏

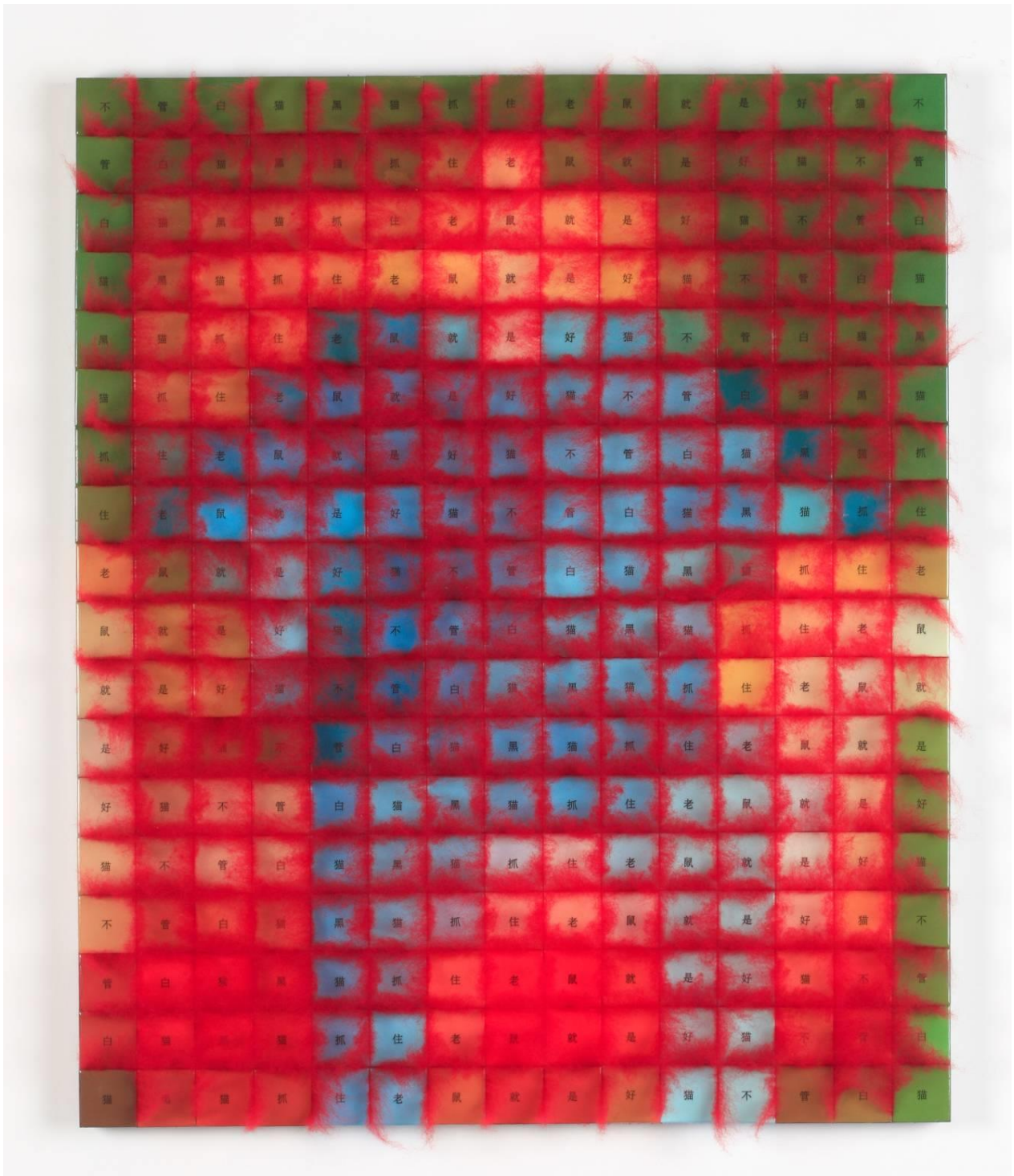
Liu Shaoqi, Peng Dehuai, he Long, Tao Zhu, Zhang Linzhi, Jia Tuofu, Xu Guangda, Zhang Xuesi, Tian Han, Zhao Shuli, Shao Quanlin, Han Chen, Liu Renhou, jin Jing, Zou Dapeng, Liu Xiufeng, Zhang Bojun, Qian Ying, He Weinan, Chen Zhengren, Xu Zirong, Guo Shiyong, Wu Han, Deng Tuo, liu Xiwu, Wang Qimei, Xie Jiarong, Shen Zhibai, Tang Ping, Zhang He, Hu Xikui, Rao Jiacom Shangguan Yunzhu, Rong Guotuan, Tian Jiaying, Gu Shengying, Hu Xian, Yan Fengying, Lao She, Shu Xiuwen, Zhang Guofeng, Li Da, Yang Shuom Gao Xintai, Liu Guozhang, Wu Yaxiong, Zhang Zhixin, Yu Luo,ke, Tao Ran, Cheng Xianghe, Yi Bing, Peng Baishan, Zhang Zongsui, Yang Weiming, Pan Tianshou, Gai Jiaotian, Ye Zhupei, Tao Yong, Liu Jian, Zhang Jiasui, Lu Ying, Zhou Xinfang, Liu Zhiming, Cai Chusheng, Yang Shuo, Sun Weishi, Zheng Junli, Ba Ren, Meng Zhou Jiefu, Cao Diqu, Fu Lianzhang, Fu Lei, Hai Mo, Lin Zhao, Xiaobai Yushuang, Fan Changjiang, Jian Bozan, Wen Jie, Yao Qin, Jiang Yongning, Fu Qifang, Xiong Shili, Chu Anping, Wei Heng, Li Ni, Li Cuizhen, Chen Mengjia, Ye iqun, Li Lisan, Feng Zhe, Li Hu, Xiao Guangyan, Yang Jiaren, Yan Huizhu, Zhou Shoujuan, Wang Ying, Li Gan, Gu Eryim Luo Guangbin, Rao Yutai, Li Guangtian, Peng Kang, Chen Lian

The image is of Mao reviewing millions of Red Guards at Tiananmen Square.
 The texts are names of those being persecuted to death during the Cultural Revolution.

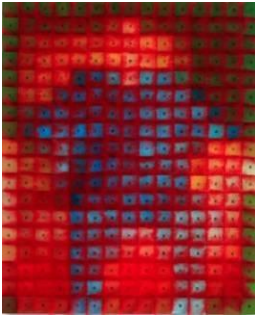
When you are in charge, I am at ease. When you are in charge, be loyal. When you are in charge, you understand me. When you are in charge, be compassionate. When you are in charge, do not be greedy. When you are in charge, be kind- hearted. When you are in charge, be loyal to the revolution. When you are in charge, be innocent. When you are in charge, be ambitious. When you are in charge, it is worrying. When you are in charge, do not worry. When you are in charge, be truly focused. When you are in charge, do not harbor evil thoughts. When you are in charge, be confident. When you are in charge, do not be irrational. When you are in charge, be selfless. When you are in charge, do not be unfaithful. When you are in charge, be carefree. When you are in charge, be careful. When you are in charge, be sincere. When you are in charge, you should worry. When you are in charge, I am sad. When you are in charge, be calm. When you are in charge, be meticulous. When you are in charge,, be serene. When you are in charge, do not be diligent. When you are in charge, you are careless. When you are in charge, do not waste your energy. When you are in charge, you are always absent-minded. When you are in charge, you worry me. When you are in charge, you disgust me. When you are in charge, do not be suspicious. When you are in charge, be selfish. When you are in charge, be cautious. When you are in charge, you do not have good intentions. When you are in charge, be sincere. When you are in charge, do not be compassionate. When you are in charge, do not be black- hearted. When you are in charge, you are annoying. When you are in charge, be painstaking. When you are in charge, you must clear your mind. When you are in charge, be introspective. When you are in charge, you must be cultivated. When you are in charge, you understand me. When you are in charge, you will need understanding. When you are in charge, you must first purify your heart. When you are in charge, be benevolent. When you are in charge, I become agitated. When you are in charge, do not get discouraged. When you are in charge, do not give in to worldly desires. When you are in charge, persevere. When you are in charge, do not be anxious. When you are in charge, rely on patience. When you are in charge, you must be careful. When you are in charge, I am frightened.

After Mao Zedong's death, Hua Guofeng was Mao's designated successor. The image was from one of the propaganda posters used in Hua's campaign, with Mao on the left and Hua on the right.

The first sentence "With You in Charge, I am at ease" are Mao's original words. This quote was propagated thousands of times that all people heard of it. However, Hua was overthrown shortly after his takeover. Apart from those six characters, the rest are in place for mockery.



Mo Yi, **Deng Xiaoping**, Coloured Ceramic Tiles, Wood, Thread, 87 x 73cm, 2011-2013



Texts on ceramic tiles:

不	管	白	猫	黑	猫	抓	住	老	鼠	就	是	好	猫	不
管	白	猫	黑	猫	抓	住	老	鼠	就	是	好	猫	不	管
白	猫	黑	猫	抓	住	老	鼠	就	是	好	猫	不	管	白
猫	黑	猫	抓	住	老	鼠	就	是	好	猫	不	管	白	猫
黑	猫	抓	住	老	鼠	就	是	好	猫	不	管	白	猫	黑
猫	抓	住	老	鼠	就	是	好	猫	不	管	白	猫	黑	猫
抓	住	老	鼠	就	是	好	猫	不	管	白	猫	黑	猫	抓
住	老	鼠	就	是	好	猫	不	管	白	猫	黑	猫	抓	住
老	鼠	就	是	好	猫	不	管	白	猫	黑	猫	抓	住	老
鼠	就	是	好	猫	不	管	白	猫	黑	猫	抓	住	老	鼠
就	是	好	猫	不	管	白	猫	黑	猫	抓	住	老	鼠	就
是	好	猫	不	管	白	猫	黑	猫	抓	住	老	鼠	就	是
好	猫	不	管	白	猫	黑	猫	抓	住	老	鼠	就	是	好
猫	不	管	白	猫	黑	猫	抓	住	老	鼠	就	是	好	猫
不	管	白	猫	黑	猫	抓	住	老	鼠	就	是	好	猫	不
管	白	猫	黑	猫	抓	住	老	鼠	就	是	好	猫	不	管
白	猫	黑	猫	抓	住	老	鼠	就	是	好	猫	不	管	白
猫	黑	猫	抓	住	老	鼠	就	是	好	猫	不	管	白	猫

It is a good cat whichever white or black who can catch rats.

This is an image of Deng Xiaoping sitting on a sofa.

The text is one of Deng's most famous quotations – the quotation caused him to be ousted from power during the Cultural Revolution, yet it became his most famous and well-known quotation afterwards when he was restored.

About *Contemporary by Angela Li* art gallery

Founded in 2008, **Contemporary by Angela Li** has been dedicated to the promotion of contemporary and avant-garde artists from China and around the world. The gallery has held successful exhibitions for Chen Jiagang, Chen Wenling, Tony Oursler, Shi Jindian, Peter Steinhauer and Nancy Chu Woo, to name but a few. In January 2013, the gallery moved to a bigger space at the trendiest part of Hollywood Road, with 2,000 sq. ft. of newly renovated exhibition space. The gallery shall continue to hold quality exhibitions for local and international audiences.



Contemporary by Angela Li

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Opening Hours : Mon – Sat 10.00 am – 6.30 pm
Sun & Public Holidays Closed