



For immediate release
to Arts and Features Editors

Stefanie Schweiger Chicken Are Not Naked

Exhibition Period | 20 April – 26 May, 2018
Opening Reception | Friday, 20 April 2018, 6–8 pm
Address | ZZHK Gallery
3 Wa Lane, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong
(between 227-229 Hollywood Road)



Stefanie Schweiger, *Li Binyuan, Heiqiaocun III*, 2014
Fine art print, 73 x 110 cm

ZZHK Gallery is pleased to present *Chicken Are Not Naked*, the first solo exhibition in Hong Kong of photographs by German documentary and portrait photographer, Stefanie Schweiger. The exhibition will feature a selection of photographs included in Schweiger's first book of the same title.

Since January 2014, Schweiger had accompanied and photographed nine Chinese artists for more than two years. She documented the journey in her book *Chicken Are Not Naked*, printed and published in Germany by Distanz. The artists she portrayed work across the fields of performance art, installation art, visual art, music, dance, theatre, and creative writing, including Li Binyuan, Tong Kunniao, Bian Yuan, Dong Dong, Gao Ping, Liu Donghong, Boer, Zhai Yongming, and Gao Yanjinzi. Through her photographic images and writings, Schweiger's project offers viewers a nuanced perspective on Chinese contemporary artistic scene, particularly those not necessarily well known or understood by the "mainstream".

Schweiger was born in Gross-Gerau, Germany in 1979. She studied photography under Roger Melis and graduated in 2002 in Berlin. Her work has been published in various magazines in Europe and Asia. First came to China in 2012 and lived in Beijing as a foreigner, Schweiger experienced mixed and ambivalent feelings toward cultural differences in the restricted political atmosphere. As a photographer, Schweiger has always been most interested in people. At the time in Beijing, she became particularly drawn to those with a free spirit, who do what they do with great passion and independence, despite certain constraints. The search eventually led her to the nine artists based in Beijing. Through her direct, concise and respectful documentary and photographs, Schweiger sought to capture and convey the individuality of each artist, revealed glimpses and moments of their lives as artists in pursuing their passion.

Highlighted in the exhibition will be a group of photographs taken by Schweiger capturing the impromptu moments of performance artist Li Binyuan. If Li's actions and performances embodied his personal feelings and experiences while responding to his philosophical questions to society and to everyday life in China, Li was definitely driven by the need to express whenever it took him. His acts were spontaneous, impromptu and hilarious, even when Schweiger ran out of space on her camera, Li still couldn't stop. This very essence of him Schweiger managed to capture in her work.

In addition to the photographs in the exhibition, Schweiger's project will be broken down into groups of stories that happened during her journey with the artists, which will visually map out the moments

and contexts by combining clippings, texts and printed materials. For instance, when Schweiger followed Li Binyuan to his home village, she witnessed Li's accident while he was filming his art project; While making dumplings with Gao Ping during Chinese New Year, she accidentally sat on the dumplings out of surprise. There were times Schweiger and the artists laughed and cried together, and times they were at odds. Although she and the artists were from different cultures and with some of them shared little mutual language, yet with compassion and humanity, this journey had been an enlightening and uplifting experience to meet and encounter people.

As Esther Gallodoro, editor of *Lette international*, writes in her essay for the book, *"There are moments when life is mystifying. So our photographer treads cautiously, bridging the gaps of difference with sensitivity, taking time to find common ground, ready to accept the unfamiliar in every encounter, to find stories that can be shared. Consciously transgressing boundaries to create an open space (...). With every person she meets, Stefanie Schweiger seeks to balance proximity and distance, the familiar and the foreign, knowledge and ignorance, interpretation and documentation."* And the viewer *"Not as a voyeur but as the photographer's companion on her journey, able to witness a moment captured by her keen, yet serene and delicate powers of perception."*

About Stefanie Schweiger

Born in Gross-Gerau, Germany in 1979. Stefanie Schweiger studied photography under Roger Melis and graduated from Lette Verein Berlin in 2002. She has been working and publishing continuously in Europe and Asia for several magazines and newspapers, such as *Zeit magazin*, *Die Zeit*, *NZZ*, *NZZ magazin*, *Das Magazin*, *Vision Magazine*, *SixthTone*, etc. In addition to her work for international media, Stefanie Schweiger continues to pursue her own projects. Selected exhibitions include *Group Exhibition Umspannwerk Berlin (2002)*, *"123 Dimensionale"*, *Istanbul Gallery Fotini* and *Berlin Gallery Border Liner (2003)*, *"Young Photography Germany"*, *Berlin GTZ Germany Group Exhibition (2004)*. In 2015, she won the Robert Bosch Stiftung Scholarship for project *"Chicken Are Not Naked"*. Afterwards, the project exhibition in Beijing Goethe Institute, and Tianjin German Chinese Culture Exchange Art Exhibition (2017).

About ZZHK Gallery

Established since 1976, first in London and now in Hong Kong. For forty year history of working in the art field, ZZHK Gallery specializes in 20th Century and contemporary art, fine prints and rare works on paper by modern and contemporary masters like Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Joan Miro, Henry Moore, David Hockney, etc. The gallery offers consulting and advisory services for collectors worldwide and for the last 40 years has helped build important private and public collections. There remains an inner core of smart collectors, those with a discerning eye who buy for pleasure, and whose collections in turn often become investments. In addition, ZZHK Gallery also showcases both established and emerging artists with the intention of promoting public awareness of the works represented.

zzhkgallery.com

For further press information, images, and artist interview requests, please contact

Pascale Ng
info@zzhkgallery.com | +852-3116-5595



Stefanie Schweiger
Li Binyuan - Mao, Lanshan, Hunan, 2015
Fine Art Print
100 x 150 cm



Stefanie Schweiger
Tong Kunniao - Roman Romance, Beijing, 2016
Fine Art Print
80 x 120 cm



Stefanie Schweiger
Bian Yuan - Beyond Green, 2015
Fine Art Print
73 x 110 cm