Symposium

China and Revolution: History, Parody and Memory in Contemporary Art

Where: Building 9, Level 3, Room 10
   School of Media and Communication, RMIT University
When: 13th August 2010  2-5pm

This symposium aims to explore how the memories of the 1960s and 1970s are deliberately worked over in contemporary art praxis in China. Though the works of China pop art and subsequent versions of that genre are well known and highly prized by many collectors for their visual appropriation of Chinese history, here we are interested in different intersections between past and present — in particular those that have a strong pedagogic or activist impulse in their re-elaborations of the experience and aesthetics of the Cultural Revolution.

The symposium will include biographical conversations with senior collaborating artists, as well as contemporary responses in activism and fine arts to that period. It will also present contextual materials from the 1960s and 1970s, borrowed from artists who are still alive and who remember that time as formative to their working lives, and documentary material which charts 'Old Friends', a project on memory by students from the Shanghai Normal University Art Academy.

Speakers include artists Liu Dahong and Li Gongming, and Professor Stephanie Hemelryk Donald.

For further information, please contact Dr Kirsten Seale (kirsten.seale@rmit.edu.au) or Ms Ming Liang (ming.liang@rmit.edu.au).