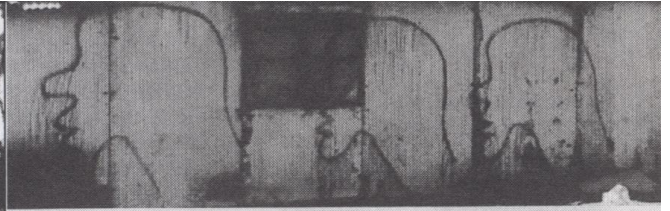


Zhang Dali draws these silhouettes in buildings throughout Beijing



Corruptionists

Reviewed by Zhang Zhaohui

On the afternoon of November 11 in the basement of a dormitory belonging to the Chinese Literature and Art Association, Xu Yihui, Xu Ruotao, and several other artists held an exhibition called *Corruptionists*.

The artists each made ingenious use of the exhibition space, which was like an underground maze but nevertheless had adequate lighting. Wu Xiaojun and Xu Ruotao did video installations with slide projection. Altogether, 28 Chinese and foreign artists participated, with the youngest being a 22-year-old French artist named Nadine and the oldest 43-year-old Chen Zhuangzhuang. Many of the artists were exhibiting for the first time, and pieces included including Zhao Qin and Liu Jian's "I Love McDonalds," Wu Xiaojun's "The Mysterious Asylum," and Lu Hao's "Flower and Bird Series."

"The Mysterious Asylum" is a dreamlike work, using slides of complicated architectural structures as backdrops to grotesque figures modeled from clay that might be aliens just emerging from UFOs. Without the bicycle and the red flag, it would be hard to remember that this is a Chinese work. In "Chinese Story, 2000," Zhao Bandi uses a traditional Chinese aesthetic to imagine a future scene. He uses a photography style typical of lifestyles magazines to bring Chinese traditional customs into a natural landscape. Lu Hao's plexiglass model of Tiananmen Gate looks as if it could be made of ice. Within the transparent gatehouse, the viewer can see long-eared goldfish swimming at different angles. The gate is a symbol of power, but, as the descendant of a famous Beijing family of artists, Lu Hao has invested it with the style of Chinese traditional art. He makes this political icon into a game for people to enjoy. Xu Yihui's "Utopian Cash Machine"

The pieces reflect the fast changes of our times, but energy and humor were common to them all. The artists seemed to look at recent social changes through a child's eyes, finding unusual and amusing aspects of urban life.