



Picture from art.china.cn

**Zhang Dali** 张大力 was China's first graffiti artist in the early 1990s, and the first Chinese artist given the cover of *Time* magazine. His work crosses mediums such as painting and sculpture, but one of his most famous works was when he portrayed over 2,000 images of his own head on buildings in Beijing in the 1990s. Recently his work *Chinese Offspring* brought him much attention, as he hung 15 life-size cast resin migrant workers upside down, implying that with China's fast change, many are left feeling uprooted.



Picture from lywb.lyd.com.cn

**Zeng Fanzhi's** 曾梵志 paintings are very popular in China,

and his diverse art has been in the mainstream for the past twenty years. In his early career, he did a series of hospitals and masked portraits of people, striking a deep chord with the inner fears of the public. In recent years, he has paid more attention to abstract paintings, especially in his series titled *Grass*. These abstract works are more spiritual and powerful, although much of his work still taps into the feelings of a society in flux.



Picture from 114xw.org

**Zhang Huan** 张洹 is a performance artist whose work has a wide influence on Chinese contemporary art. He makes use of bodies, many of them naked, to orchestrate performance pieces that express various conditions, including suffering and trauma. Besides performance art, he also uses painting, photography and sculpture. One of his recent works, *Donkey*, placed sculpted donkey hinds in the wooden model of the tallest building in China to

reflect upon rapid urban development in Shanghai. Many of his works also carry strong Buddhist themes, such as *Long Ear Ash Head*, in which he makes use of ash that he collected from temples to represent happiness as seen in Buddhism.



Picture from artintern.net

**Zhang Xiaogang** 张晓刚 is most famous for his *Big Family* series of paintings. Inspired by the photographs taken during the Cultural Revolution period, he painted the "Bloodline" series. These paintings usually focus on portraits, with dark and glazed eyes, bloodless skin and expressionless faces. Through these paintings, he engaged the collectivism of China in 1960s-1970s. All of his portraits appear the same and have little individuality, which reflect the artist's investigation of the psychological and historical reality of China. Last year, his *Forever Lasting Love* broke the auction record of Chinese contemporary art with USD 10.1 million in Hong Kong.