

## About Xu Tan:



Xu Tan was born in Wuhan, Hubei Province in 1957 and currently lives in Guangzhou. Since the early 1990s he has been part of “Big Tail Elephant Group”, an experimental art team in Guangzhou. Xu Tan has insisted on his lifestyle as “outcast”, maintaining sensitivity to the changes in social life and culture, and questioning the boundary of contemporary art. Over the years this has led his working style to appear more like that of a social theorist than a purely visual artist. His work has been shown around the world, including at the 50th Biennale di Venezia, the Berlin Biennial, the Gongdong Triennial etc.

[www.xutan-keywords.com](http://www.xutan-keywords.com)

## **Xu Tan**

1979-1983 Bachelor degree, Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts

1986-1989 Master degree, Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts

1993 Join Big Tailed Elephant Group

Present lives in Shenzhen, Guangzhou and New York

2002, Fellowship of Asia Culture Council (Rockefeller Foundation), New York, .

2004, Artist in residence of DAAD, Berlin,

### **Solo Exhibitions**

**2010** *Keywords School at University of Toronto, Canada.*

2009 *Keywords School at COWIN Company, Qingdao China*

*Keywords School at YBCA, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, California*

*Whose Exhibition Is This? Taipei Fine Art Museum, Taipei China.*

*Keywords School, Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong*

*Keywords School at Venice, the participant project of 53rd Venice Biennial, Italy*

2008 *Keywords School, Vitamin Creative Space, Guangzhou*

*Keywords School, Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden*

*Keywords: Life, Existence, Survival, Frieze Art Fair, London*

2007 *Searching for Keywords, Location 1 Art Center, New York*

2005 *Loose, Vitamin Creative Space, Guangzhou*

*Air is Good, DAAD Gallery, Berlin*

2002 *Location 1 Art Center, New York*

1996 *Vermont Art center, U.S.A*

### **Group Exhibitions**

2009 *China China China! Sainsbury Centre For Visual Arts, UK*

*Keywords School, Venice Biennale 53rd International Art Exhibition, Venice*

*Whose Exhibition Is This ? The 2009 Asian Forum, Taipei Fine Arts Museum.*

*Territoria – Art from Holland in Prato and the Val Bisenzio, Prato, Italy*

2008 *Yes, No & Other Options, Art Sheffield, Sheffield Contemporary Art Forum, UK*

*China!China!China!!!-Chinese contemporary art beyond the global market.*

*Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi, Italy*

*Transmediale 08, Berlin, Germany*

*Kunstfest Weimar, Weimar, Germany*

*MUSEION, Bolzano, Italy*

- 2007 *Hyper City*, Berlin  
*Transit city*, Luxemburg  
*Suzhou River is open again*, Suhe Art, Shanghai  
*China Welcomes You ...Desires, Struggles, New Identities*, Kunsthaus Graz, Graz  
*Mahjong*, Salzburg Festival, Salzburg  
*Video Art in internet time*, Chelsea Museum, New York
- 2006 *Through Popular Expression*, Of the University of Central England in Birmingham (UCE), UK  
*Popular Expression*, Het Domein Museum, Sittard, Holland  
*Guangzhou – Cantones Artists in the Sigg Collection*, Kunstmuseum Bern, Switzerland  
*Great Expectations*, OCT Contemporary Art Terminal, Shenzhen  
*International Ink Biennale of Shenzhen :Ink, Life, Taste-To Sugar Add Some Salt*, He Xiangning Museum of Art, Shenzhen  
*Take down*, Universal Studios-beijing, Beijing  
*Asian Video Art Selection*, **Moma New York** and Asia Society, **New York**
- 2005 *The Second Guangzhou Triennial - BEYOND: an extraordinary space of experimentation for modernization*, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Chinese contemporary Art Triennial*, Nanjing  
*Out of Sight*, Amsterdam
- 2004 *Object System:Doing Nothing*, ARCO2004, Madrid  
*In South, East of West*, Nise, Sete, France
- 2003 *Z.O.U.*, 50<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennial  
*Alors La Chine*, Center Pompidou, Paris  
*Babylon*, Mainz Art Festival, German
- 2002 *4<sup>th</sup> Kwangju Art Biennial I*, Kwangju, Korea
- 2001 *2<sup>nd</sup> Berlin Biennial*, Berlin  
*Polypolis—Art from Asian Pacific Megacities*, Hamburg, Germany  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Chendu Biennial*, Chendu  
*Transportation in the place—Contemporary Sculpture Exhibition of Artist from China and France*, Shenzhen, China  
*Virtual future—Chinese contemporary art exhibition*, Guangzhou. China
- 2000 *The Bridge Under Bridge*, 2000 Piscara Biennial, Piscara, Italy  
*Our Chinese Friend*, Bauhaus University and ACC Art Center, Weimmar, Germany  
*Inside Out*, Chinese New Art Exhibition, Hong Kong  
*2000 Chinese Video festival in Hong Kong*, Hong Kong  
*Fuck off*, Shanghai, China
- 1999 *The 3rd Triennial of Asian and Pacifica Contemporary Art*, Queensland, Australia  
*Unveiled Reality: Chinese Contemporary Photography*, Vancouver; Bangkok; Chicago.  
*Unusual Way of writing*, Nanjing, China  
*Food of Thought—Chinese Contemporary Art Festival*, Amsterdam

- Cities on the Move 4,5,6 Copenhagen, London; Bangkok, Thailand*  
Chinese, Korean and Japanese Artists Joint Exhibition, Pusan, Korea
- 1998 *The First Taipei Biennial, Taipei*  
*Inside Out, Chinese New Art Exhibition, New York, U.S.A*  
*Cities on the Move, 2,3, Bordeaux, France, New York, U.S.A*  
*Traffic Jam, Berlin*  
*Big Tailed Elephant Bern, Switzerland*  
*Four Sides—Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou and Shenzhen Contemporary Art Exhibition, Hong Kong*
- 1997 *Another Long March—Chinese Conceptual Art 97*  
*Cities on the Move 1 Vienna, Austria*  
*New City, New Art, New Asia—Chinese, Korean New Art Shanghai, China*
- 1996 *Big Tailed Elephant 96, Guangzhou, China*  
*Container 96—European Cultural festival 96, Copenhagen, Denmark*  
*Munich Chinese Contemporary Art Festival, Munich, Germany*  
*Ha,ch,ch—Chinese and German Joint Contemporary Art Show, Cologne, Germany*
- 1992 *Big Tailed Elephant 1992, Guangzhou, China*