

For immediate release

January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011



CHENG RAN 程然  
*Ghost of Tundra 冻土幽灵#1*, 2010  
C-print 彩色照片  
20 7/8 x 31 1/2 inches; 53 x 80 cm  
Edition of 6

## INTERMISSION:

Films, videos and photographic works by Lucas and Jason Ajemian, Cheng Ran, Maya Deren, Jesper Just, Alex Prager, Hiraki Sawa, Yinka Shonibare MBE.

Feb. 19 through Mar. 9, 2011

Venue: James Cohan Gallery Shanghai

Address: 1F, Building 1, No.170 Yue Yang Road, Shanghai

James Cohan Gallery Shanghai is pleased to present *Intermission*, a three-week program of international films and videos from February 19 to March 9, 2011. Featuring both emerging and established artists, the films and videos will be shown daily as continuous, rotating screenings during gallery hours.

The exhibition is grounded in ideas about music, performance, and the experience of cinema. American artist **Lucas Ajemian**, along with his brother **Jason**, a jazz musician and composer, assembled a ten-piece classical orchestra for their performance of the legendary rock song, “Into the Void” by the heavy metal band Black Sabbath. *Untitled (From Beyond)*, 2006 is filmed inside a church in Chicago. The performance is a musical experiment that references spirituality and the occult. Vocals are performed by Lucas Ajemian and Jason Ajemian conducts. **Maya Deren’s** *Meshes of the Afternoon* (1943) is long considered a groundbreaking classic of experimental films. Symbolic and psychologically suggestive images—a flower, a falling key, an unlocked door, a telephone, a vast ocean view, and a mysterious death figure—appear throughout the film. In the spirit of surrealist films of the 1930s, Deren’s plot dwells into the subconscious experience of an individual. The films by Danish artist **Jesper Just** probe intimate relationships, sexuality, and can surprise viewers with unexpected twists on conventional notions of masculinity. *A Vicious Undertow* (2007) tells the story of a love-triangle between a middle-aged woman, a younger woman, and a man. **Alex Prager’s** film *Despair* (2010), along with her photographs, was recently exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Prager’s work is informed by fashion photography,



LUCAS and JASON AJEMIAN  
*Untitled (From Beyond) 无题 (来自远方)*, 2006  
Video with sound 有声录像  
12 min  
Edition of 5

## JAMES COHAN GALLERY SHANGHAI

pulp fiction, and the melodramatic genre films of Hollywood. *Despair*, inspired by a 1948 film, *The Red Shoes*, is about a ballerina whose obsession with dance conflicts with her need for love, ultimately leading to her suicide.



YINKA SHONIBARE MBE  
*Un Ballo in Maschera (A Masked Ball)* 假面舞会, 2004  
High Definition Digital Video 高清录像  
32 min  
Edition of 6

London-based Nigerian artist **Yinka Shonibare**'s *Un Ballo in Maschera (A Masked Ball)* was nominated for the Tate Britain Museum's Turner Prize in 2004. Based on the classic Italian opera by Giuseppe Verdi, Shonibare's *Un Ballo in Maschera* was a co-production by Swedish Television and the Moderna Museet in Stockholm. The film presents the assassination of King Gustav III of Sweden through the medium of dance and features thirty performers dressed in Shonibare's colorful trademark batik costumes. Central to all of Shonibare's work, which includes sculpture, painting, photography, and film-

making, is the debate about social, cultural, and political issues that shape history and constructs identity. Challenging conventions of narrative, gender and identity, the desire for power—and the desire to destroy it—Shonibare conceived of the film as “a constant, dreamlike movement between reality and depiction of fantasy.”

The exhibition also includes photographic works by **Cheng Ran** and **Hiraki Sawa**. Already widely acclaimed for their video works, Cheng Ran will present two new photographs, *Ghost of Tundra 1* and *Ghost of Tundra 2* (2010) in which the iconic Hollywood billboard-landmark and its surrounding landscape is turned into a prehistoric monument. Hiraki Sawa's, *Going Places Sitting Down*, a suite of five photographs (from Sawa's 2004 three-channel video) calls to mind film stills where a child's rocking horse inhabits the interior of an English house, becoming a visual lullaby and elegy to an imaginary world.



HIRAKI SAWA  
*Going Places Sitting Down* 信步闲坐, 2007  
Digital C-type print on AGFA archival paper 数码打印  
彩色照片  
20 x 26 inches; 50.8 x 66 cm (a set of 5)  
Edition of 8

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