



For his first solo show in Shanghai, Phil Akashi presented the Chocolate Beauty series

For his first solo show in Shanghai, Phil Akashi presented the Chocolate Beauty series where he lets himself be inspired and questioned by the popular notion of the Chinese Dream. To escape his comfort zone, the artist selected emblematic locations in Shanghai, symbolizing the impressive pace of change taking place in present-day China.

Without any prior authorization, the artist set up "surprise & street" exhibitions at the historic Bund, the Yuyuan Garden, the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), the China Art Museum, the Jing'an Sculpture Park and in several traditional shikumen/neighborhoods in the course of being demolished. During the all month of October 2013, the artist presented his work to the local people and to the public who do not necessarily visit private or public exhibitions.

"I wanted to offer a different way of viewing and to add significance to my message. It was also a way to show my love for this fantastic city but also to respectfully tease a country where censorship and control are still sovereign." Phil Akashi

The Chocolate Beauty series (Shanghai 2011-12) illustrates the artist's feelings as he was taking pictures of an anonymous Chongqing child greedily eating chocolate - a product his parents could not afford or did not even know ten years ago. By

revisiting the traditional use of Chinese seals with his sensitivity, arranging 100.000+ seal imprints as if it was pixels and by mixing them with one of the most contemporary medium (aerosol spray), the artist both witnesses the impressive pace of change in nowadays China and creates his own and personal language to link East and West, tradition and modernity.

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