



# ***VISIONS & DESIRES***

## **Independent Filmmaking in Post-Socialist China**

**MAY 19TH, 2022**

**9:45AM-1:00PM EDT**

Presentations/discussions in English and Chinese Mandarin.

Pre-registration required at <https://bit.ly/3xN1EN8>

Selected films available for online viewing between May 16~21, 2022. Links distributed after registration.

Co-presented by  
East Asian Studies Graduate Student Union (EASGSU)  
& the Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library  
University of Toronto

Department of East Asian Studies | Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library  
Women & Gender Studies Institute | Department of Art History

# PANEL ONE:

## SHI QING / 石青

**10:00–10:55AM (in Mandarin)**

- Director's Presentation
- Dialogue led by Professor Yue Meng
- Q&A Session



Shi Qing is an artist currently based in Shanghai, China. His work involves a variety of media including installation, video, and performance, emphasizing subject practice and media writing based on field work. He touches upon the fields of body and site, nomadic geography, spatial production, media archaeology, and socialist technology history. He is also an active organizer of various social projects, acting as a co-founder of institutions such as Radical Space, Chongqing Work Institution, and Jiangnan Stack.

### Split Up

25'26" (2013)

*Split Up* is the author's visual response to the famous "Anting Incident" in the history of China's Cultural Revolution and to some of the ideas of French philosopher Alain Badiou. The film draws on some of the aesthetic features of the "Cultural Revolution films" of the time, as well as on a number of historical events in Shanghai during the Cultural Revolution.

### Qian Xuesen and the Yangtze River Computer

61'23" (2021)

*Qian Xuesen and the Yangtze River Computer* is a "past tense" historical science fiction story based on the history of computing in new China and Qian Xuesen and his systems theory ideas, an alternative video writing on the history of the development of socialist electronics, borrowing from the reportage form that was widely used in the 1980s.

# PANEL TWO

## FAN POPO / 范坡坡

**11:00–11:55AM**

- Director's Presentation
- Dialogue led by Professor Shana Ye
- Q&A Session



Popo Fan is a Berlin-based filmmaker, writer, and activist from China, where his queer documentary films have made a notable impact. Since 2016, he has concentrated on writing and directing scripted, sex-positive shorts. He is the founder of the Queer University Video Training Camp and has been an organizer of the Beijing Queer Film Festival for more than a decade. Popo was invited to sit on the jury of the Teddy Award of the Berlinale in 2019.

### **Beer! Beer!**

17'00", Germany (2019)

*Beer! Beer!* is an "anti-romantic comedy" set in the early morning following a wild party in Berlin. When Tao, a Chinese guy, meets Sebastian, a local German. As they seem to get more and more intimate with each other, suddenly a mattress changes everything...

### **The Drum Tower**

18'00", China (2018)

An introverted senior school student and a transgender vintage shop-owner: two lonely souls swimming in the ever-changing pool of the city. Can they break through wall of communication? This is the first film in China with all transgender leading cast.

### **The VaChina Monologues**

228'00", China (2018)

The short documentary explores how *The Vagina Monologues* (1996), the iconic yet controversial play by Eve Ensler, has become an empowering tool for feminist and women's groups all over China.



# PANEL THREE

## ZHU RIKUN / 朱日坤

**12:00–12:55PM**

- Director's Presentation
- Dialogue led by Professor Yi Gu
- Q&A Session



Zhu Rikun is an independent film director and producer, as well as a curator from China. He is the founder of Fanhall Films and chief editor of cinema website fanhall.com. Zhu founded Documentary Film Festival China in 2003, which is one of the earliest independent film festivals in China. As a director, Zhu's has made the following film: *The Questioning*, *The Dossier*, *Welcome, Dust*, *Anni*, and *No Desire to Hide* (also named *Siren* in original title).

### **No Desire to Hide**

91'00", China (2021)

*No Desire to Hide* (海妖) is the latest documentary film directed by Zhu Rikun.

The film delves into ordinary lives of young people in China, zooming in on their romantic problems, unfulfilled dreams and existential crises that are interwoven into their dialogues and

conversations with the director.

While the two central protagonists try to function in an open relationship, their relationship is rife with potential conflicts as the two of them have very different views on marriage and family life. The possibility of emigration to America might offer an opportunity for the couple, but the hope it brings along is gradually receding due to worsening political situation.

# INVITED PROFESSORS



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## PROFESSOR YUE MENG

DEPARTMENT OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Dr. Yue Meng is a professor in the East Asian Studies Department. Her research interests include: environmental humanities, Chinese cultural history and literature, history of science, and modern Chinese cities.



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## PROFESSOR SHANA YE

WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Dr. Shana Ye is a professor of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Toronto. Her research lies at the intersection of transnational feminism, queer social reproduction, queer cinema, post/socialist studies and theories of affect and trauma.



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## PROFESSOR YI GU

DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Dr. Yi Gu is a professor in the Art History Department at the University of Toronto. Her research focuses on the art and visual culture of China's long 20th century. She is interested in Cold War visual culture and Post-Socialist art, comparative media studies, Chinese photography history and contemporary photography in Asia, and mass art and amateurism.