

MEDIA RELEASE

The Cast and Crew

GUO JIAN

Exhibition dates: 12 February – 20 March 2010
Opening: Thursday 11 February 2010, 6 – 8pm
Free admission



4A presents

4A is pleased to present a major exhibition of new paintings by Guo Jian, one of the leading Chinese-Australian artists.

Based on Guo Jian's experience of living between the cultures of Australia and China, 'The Cast and Crew' confronts the difficulty the migrant faces in telling 'us' apart from 'them'. For Guo, the movie set is an allegory for the migrant's experience in the 21st Century. The feeling of confronting an entirely new society is likened to the experience of being on set in-between 'takes'. The distinction between 'us' and 'them', 'good' and 'evil', is obscured once the cameras are switched off and the actors cast off their roles.

Guo Jian's satirical paintings draw upon his training as a poster artist in the People's Liberation army. Melding kitsch and erotic imagery in a display both dazzling and disconcerting, his representations of contemporary scenes draw out the latent violence lurking beneath the surface of popular culture. His paintings employ soldier motifs to subvert the frames through which we view other cultures. In doing so, they expose the politics of seeing that underpins contemporary life, bringing its absurdities and its contradictory tendencies into sharp relief.

Guo Jian's grotesque and playful imagery emphasises the scrambled cultural referents that make up our contemporary landscape. It is by offering us an ambivalent vision of the contemporary world that Guo Jian's paintings create a space for questioning and reflection.

Guo Jian migrated to Australia in 1992. He currently lives in Beijing.

Image details:
On Set – Self-Portrait, 1979 (2010)
Acrylic on Canvas
250 x 200 cm
Courtesy of the Artist

Contact Aaron Seeto on (02) 9212 0380 or email info@4a.com.au for more information, hi-res images, or media interview