

P.2 (colonne de gauche)

PRESS

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Belgium-China Association

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Visual content

Pictures are available on our website :

www.belchin.be/ecransdechine

Feel free to contact us if you don't find the visual you need

Accreditation

For specific information regarding Ecrans de Chine, requests for filming, interviews and press passes, please send an email to maude@belchin.be. The press pass will be available at the cinéma Vendôme desk from Thursday 12th October.

P.2 (colonne de droite)

PRACTICAL

Venue

L_e__V_e_n_d_ôm_e__

Chaussée de Wavre 18

B - 1050 Ixelles

www.cinema-vendome.be

www.facebook.com/cinemavendome/

Contacts

Festival Ecrans de Chine Bruxelles

maude@belchin.be

+32 2 803 80 33

www.belchin.be/ecransdechine

<https://www.facebook.com/ecransdechinebruxelles/>

Ticket PRICES

Opening night + movie : 10 €

Single screening ticket : 8 €

Discount : 6 € (-25, +60, unemployed)

3 days pass : 30 €

Presales available online on www.belchin.be/ecransdechine

EDITO

Ecran de Chine is an annual film festival dedicated to independent Chinese documentaries.

Founded in Paris in 2010, it quickly established itself as the most reliable source of creative documentaries realized by independent Chinese filmmakers to become an inescapable window on Chinese reality, all the while bringing to the fore the evolution of Chinese documentary filmmakers skills.

Initially focussed on Paris, *Ecrans de Chine* has branched out to Italy, Germany and to Finland. This year, in 2017, it will also be present in Belgium !

For this first Brussels edition, 6 very different movies have been selected according to their subjects and method of approach, all however offering a very close look into the Chinese society of today.

FILMS

Iron Moon

China /2015 / 84' by QIN Xiaoyu & WU Feiyue

An assembly line worker in an Apple factory who commits suicide at the young age of 24, leaving behind 200 poems of despair—"I swallowed an iron moon....."; a guileless lathe operator who is rebuffed at every turn, living in the world of his poetry; a female clothing factory worker who lives in poverty but writes poetry rich in dignity and love; a coalminer who works deep in the earth year round, trying to contact and make peace with the spirits of his dead coworkers through his poetry; and a goldmine demolitions worker who blasts rocks several kilometers into mountainsides to support his family, while writing poetry to carry the weight of his fury and affections—"My body carries three tons of dynamite...." They could be any of the 350 million workers in China, and yet these five are also poets. Using poetry as a tool to chip away at the ice of silence, they express the hidden life stories and experiences of people living at the bottom of the society. This is one story behind the sudden rise of China, and a mournful song of global capitalism.

My Land

China /2015 / 81' by FAN Jian

Vegetable farmer Chen Jun moved from the countryside of Hebei province to a suburb of Beijing 15 years ago. He rents a land from the municipality for farming, and runs a telephone hotline for Beijing's migrant workers, helping them fight for their rights. As a result of largescale urban expansion, the municipality now wants to earn money by taking the land back and building tower blocks for China's burgeoning new middle class. But Chen and his wife refuse to be fobbed off without compensation; instead they take up the fight against all kinds of intimidation, even if that means years of living in the midst of a building site without electricity or water. With no land left in their hometown and no place to go in the city, where is the destination of Chen Jun's family?

China's Van Gogh

China / 2016 / 80' by YU Haibo & YU Tianqi Kiki

China's van Goghs tells the stories of peasant turned painters who are carving out different paths for themselves after years of hand copying Western masterpieces, which are sold to high street retailers around the world. While van Gogh only sold one painting in his life-time, these production line painters have sold van Goghs in the thousands.

Our focus is one of the peasant-turned painter transitioning from making copies of iconic Western paintings to creating his own authentic works of art. For him, van Gogh represents more than just his livelihood; his art, life and legend motivates him to fulfill his own dream. His journey is emblematic of China's Dream for the 21st Century: to go from 'Made in China' to 'Created in China'.

The Other Half of the Sky **Swiss / 2016 / 80' by Patrick SOERGEL**

The film explores the huge transformation taking place in China today, from the perspectives of four of the country's most powerful businesswomen. They experienced the austerity of China's cultural revolution, followed by the subsequent economic boom. Though growing up in a patriarchal society, they have risen from nothing and have become symbols of change. How they created their empires, what is the social and economic context in which they operate and what is the price they had to pay in terms of their private lives: these are the questions which the film sets out to tackle through a series of first-hand accounts given by the subjects.

My Father and my Mother **China / 2016 / 88' by JIAO Bo**

This film is drawn from a selection of photos and videos that Jiao has shot since the 1980s, during his trips to his parents' house in rural China. It's an unvarnished and affectionate portrayal of the everyday life of a simple Chinese family in a remote mountain village. The aging couple works on the land and looks after the photographer's disabled elder brother. They bicker constantly, but are clearly devoted to each other.

For Jiao, photographing his mom and dad has been his way to keep his family close by. Over the years, as we see his parents change, the intimacy within the family changes, too - until, inevitably, death approaches. Out of more than 600 hours of

raw video material, Jiao filtered a moving and intimate love story that provides insight into the lives of two elderly people in the Chinese countryside.

L_a__R_o_u_t_e__d_u__T_h_é__ France / 2017 / 100' by Michel NOLL

For the first time ever, the most ancient caravan trail in the world offers a glimpse into its past. More than 4000 km long, passing by oases at 200 m below sea level, crossing three climate zones, numerous rainforests and more than twenty mountain chains with eternally snow covered peaks at the top of the world at altitudes of more than 6000 m, this is definitely the most extraordinary route of commerce that our civilization has ever known. As a setting to so many human adventures, the tea trail is undoubtedly China's most beautiful present to the World.

The directors

QIN Xiaoyu

Apart from writing his own poetry Qin Xiaoyu has, for many years, written about the poetry of others. Together with Yang Lian he compiled an anthology of present-day Chinese poetry that has been translated into English by W.N. Herbert and Brian Holton and which was published under the following title *Jade Ladder: Contemporary Chinese Poetry* (2012). « Iron moon » is his first movie.

FAN Jian

FAN Jian is a Beijing-based documentary director with a focus on Chinese social issues and human interest. After graduation from Beijing Film Academy, he has made more than 5 feature documentary films, which has been selected into Berlinale, IDFA, BIFF, HKIFF and other film festivals. His previous film *The Next Life*, a co-production with NHK & Al Jazeera, had won many awards in China. *My Land* has been selected into Panorama of *Berlinale 2016*. His latest work "*Still Tomorrow*" won IDFA 2016 *Special Jury Award for Feature Length Competition*.

Yu Haibo

Haibo Yu is an internationally-recognized designer for dramatic performance and wide range of visual arts. He has designed over 200 projects worldwide. His collaborators and clients include *Warner Brothers*, *Media Asia Films* (Hong Kong), *Sky TV* (UK), *TVB* (London), *China Central TV*, *Xie-Jin-Heng-Tong Films* (China), *South Coast Repertory* (CA), *the East and West Players* (LA), *the National Theatre Studio* (UK), etc. He is a member of *United Scenic Artists Local 829* and regularly serves as professional consultant on design projects internationally.

Patrik SOERGEL

Patrik Soergel is an award-winning director and editor whose work has been shown on Arte and Swiss TV, in dozens of film festivals and distributed internationally.

Born in 1977 in Locarno, Switzerland, Soergel graduated in directing and editing at the *European Film College*, Denmark and at *Famu Academy of Performing Arts for Film*, Czech Republic. Since 2010 he collaborates regularly for the public swiss broadcaster RSI, directing prime time tv documentaries. Among his awards, the 2009 prize for best documentary at the Zurich film festival ("The Sound After The Storm").

JIAO Bo

Bo JIAO is a prominent Chinese photographer and documentary filmmaker whose camera always focused on the common people. In 1998, his photo series titled 'My Parents' won the "Contribution to Human Beings" award at the 1st World Folkways Photo Competition. Jiao Bo, Lead Artist of *China Foto Press*, guest professor of Nankai University, member of China Photographers Association. He had won many medals in international and national photography contests.

Michel NOLL

After reading Economics and Sociology at Cologne University in Germany, Michel Noll became a Producer/Director of television programmes when, in 1977, he joined TELECIP in Paris. In 1987, he launched his own production house *Quartier Latin* specialising in Children's programs and Documentaries. In 1995, he acquired the well established distribution company ICTV, specialising in Documentary Films covering Current affairs and Social issues.

He is the curator of three documentary Film Festivals: *Ecrans de Chine*, *Focus Corée* et *Docs d'Afrique*.

The program

Friday 13th October

19h00 – Opening ceremony at the Mundo-B

21h00 - «China' s Van Gogh» (80') by YU Haibo

22h30 – Encounter

Samedi 14th October

19h00 - «My Father and My Mother» (88') by JIAO Bo

20h40 - Encounter

21h20 - «Iron Moon» (84') by QIN Xiaoyu

Sunday 15th October

17h00 - «Sur la route du thé» (100') de Michel NOLL

19h00 - Encounter

19h35 - «My Land», (81') de FAN Jian

21h35 - «The Other Half of the Sky» (80') de Patrick
SOERGEL

23h00 - Encounter

3 Days , 6 Films, 4 Encounters

