

Eurekaaaa! Contemporary Art Exhibition
T1 Project room - Tong Yuanju Art Education Project
Group exhibition: Malaise dans l'esthétique

Bernard Langerock

Cut Out Figures

16 January 2014, Tong Yuanju, Chongqing, China

Concept and Documentation



T1 Project room - Tong Yuanju Art Education Project

The project was initiated by Wang Haichan and Yang Shu in 2008. Within its framework a large number of exhibitions and performances have taken place.

On 19th December 2013 a symposium with the title of "Media, Method and Action" was organized in Organhaus, Chongqing.

The project is funded by:

Organhaus, Studio ONE, Transnational Dialogues and Triangle Network

Tong Yuanju – a former workers' housing estate

Tong Yuanju was one of the areas of Chongqing with a lot of heavy industry. Its huge copper mill and the adjacent factories for the production of weapons were shut down some years ago. About 40,000 people used to live in the nearby settlement of company flats, which had been built in the style of Russian workers' housing quarters. As the area is close to Yangtze River and directly linked to the city centre of Chongqing via a bridge with an express highway and a metro line, here in the form of an elevated railway, it is considered to have a high potential for development.

Some time ago an investor bought the area to build multi-storey buildings with flats, office spaces and shopping malls. He paid compensation to the municipality of Chongqing, in order to motivate the inhabitants to move out. But according to the inhabitants the administration of the city kept part of the compensation. At present about 1,000 people are still living in the quarter, a large part of which has already been demolished. These inhabitants are holding out hoping on the one hand for more compensation money and on the other hand to be able to stay as long as possible in their familiar surroundings.

The rows of houses of the settlement were built in red brick. The houses have two storeys, the toilets are in separate buildings at the end of the rows. In each kitchen there is a sink with a cold water tap. The flats consist of 2 or 3 rooms: the kitchen and one or two bedrooms. There is a street market very close by.

Documentation of Tong Yuanju, November 2013 to January 2014

Photos by Bernard Langerock



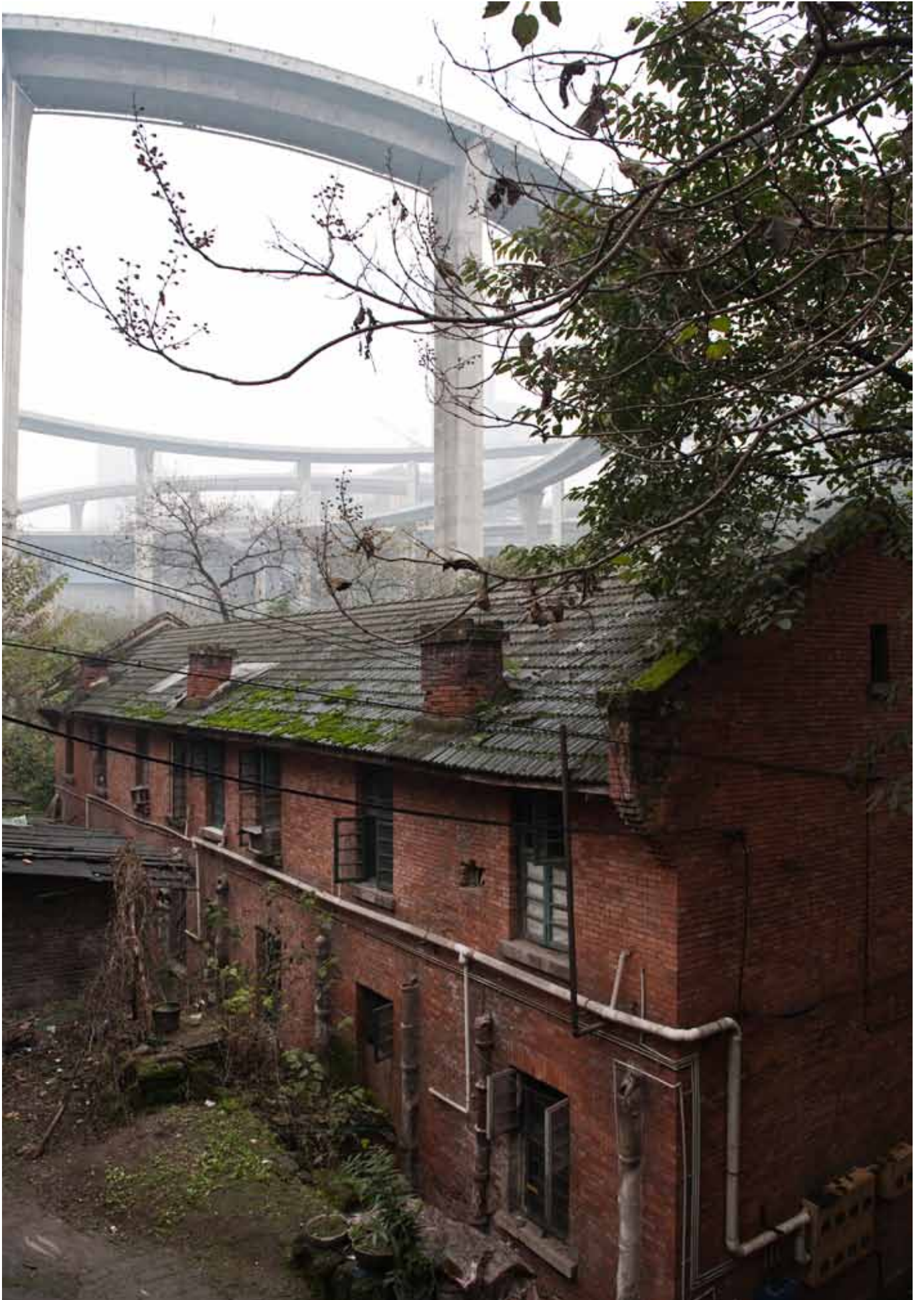






Photo installation:

“Cut Out Figures” by Bernard Langerock

33 photos, 59 cut out figures put on barbecue sticks,
5 plastic baskets and 1 table

The photo installation is meant to make clear that people who are torn out of their natural context and shifted to a different place feel like being reduced to some kind of commodity or merchandise. People’s relatedness to the place where they live and their ties to the people around them are an important part of their identity and cannot easily be taken away. If a need for change emerges, agreements and solutions should be carefully sought after so that people will not get hurt.

