

Far Beyond the Firewall

featuring the artists of the island6 collective

In *Far beyond the Firewall*, island6's 58th exhibition, we explore cultural discrepancies that form out of communication barriers, perplexing foreigners and locals alike. Whether on the street or in the virtual world, how we access and exchange information is susceptible to any number of blockages or incoherencies. These delirious moments, derived from the experiences of the collective members of Liu Dao 六島 and conjured in these new media installations, reflect the paradox that is modern China.

Through LED animations shining through high-resolution photos and rice paper collages, Liu Dao seeks to transport viewers far beyond what only the eye can see. For example, *The Long Gone Fou Foong Flour Mill* creates a tale of a young women balancing precariously between two worlds—one, yearning to embrace newness, the other fearful and hesitant of change.

The exhibition also features interactive pieces that portray the artist's aspiration to break through barriers we unconsciously surround ourselves with and, at times, crash into. A consistent deluge of images, advertisements and spam, overwhelm our ability to filter what's important and decipher meaningful relationships. Despite all these distractions Liu Dao 六島 invites viewers focus their attention and rediscover the simplicity of an event, whether it be a game, a movie or conversation.

These artworks begin to question how barriers in communication form and to what extent we deliberately limit our own views. Indeed, no matter if in China or anywhere else in the world, it takes more than two eyes to see.

Dates: September 27th – December 1st 2011

Venue: island6 Arts Center (2/F, Bldg 6, 50 Moganshan Rd, Shanghai)

Artists: island6 art collective (Liu Dao 六島)

Curators: Jack Mur, Genine Loo Ching Ling 吕晶琳

Curatorial Support: Katharina Droste, Pete Bradt

Art Direction: Thomas Charvériat

Coordination: Yeung Sin Ching 杨倩菁, Gaelle Cohen