

Exhibition Guide

**Yang Zhenzhong *922 Grains of Rice*
27 September – 19 November 2006
Ikon Reception**

Yang Zhenzhong was born in Hangzhou in 1968. He graduated from the fashion design department of the Zhejiang Institute of Silk Textiles in 1990 and now lives in Shanghai, making photography, video, performance, sculpture and installation work. He exhibits widely and has previously shown at major international exhibitions such as the Venice Biennale in 2003 and Shanghai Biennale in 2002.

Yang's practice is informed by the desire to challenge conventional notions of social behaviour. He is pre-occupied with China's intrinsic disharmony and severe contrasts, often touching upon difficult subjects such as politics and death.

The artist's witty videos use the repetition and rhythmic coordination of sound, language and image. *922 Grains of Rice* (2000) plays with the interaction between a cockerel and a hen, pecking grains of rice and the sound of a male and female voiceover counting them in a humorous battle of sexes. As the artist explains, "the chickens were not teachable, sometimes they didn't finish eating the rice; sometimes they fought each other. I tried again and again to hurry them and it took more than a week to edit the video on my computer. In the end, I got the number: 922. Now I know I am so stupid. Chickens never want to know how much they eat. This is a human problem. Humans are stupid."