FIRST CULTURAL MOBILITY EXPERIENCES FOR EUROPEAN ARTISTS AND CULTURAL PROFESSIONALS IN CHINA



A REPERTORY OF WEB-LINKS





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http://on-the-move.org https://www.facebook.com/onthemove.OTM

http://www.chinamission.be/eng/
https://twitter.com/ChinaEUMission

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHAT IS ON THE MOVE? WHAT IS CULTURAL MOBILITY?	P.	4
WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT NOT TO FIND AND TO FIND IN THIS REPERTORY?	P.	6
	_	_
1. GETTING TO KNOW CHINA: CULTURE[S] AND POLICIES	۲.	8
2. ARTS AND CULTURAL DISCIPLINES: CHINA A FEW CLICKS AWAY	P.	11
3. FOCUS ON RESIDENCIES	P.	15
4. CHINA IN EUROPE / EUROPE IN CHINA	۲.	18
5. WHERE IS THE MONEY?	۲.	29
6. VISAS AND ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS: WHERE TO GET THE INFORMATION?	₽.	2
7. EU / CHINA: MORE WEB-LINKS!	۲.	28
8. SHARE YOUR CHINA EXPERIENCE!	۲.	33
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	۴.	3.

WHAT IS ON THE MOVE? WHAT IS CULTURAL MOBILITY?

Since 2002 On the Move (OTM) has been working as a gateway to **information about cultural mobility opportunities for artists and cultural professionals**. Born as a website, it has evolved into a network which now includes 35+ member organisations in Europe and beyond. Information provision is still our main *raison d'être* but advocating for better conditions for cultural mobility has also become an important part of our mission, in particular through the Charter for a Sustainable and Responsible Cultural Mobility (on-the-move.org/charter).

The website <u>on-the-move.org</u> remains OTM's most visible face. It gathers from a variety of sources relevant information on travel grants and mobility opportunities, giving priority to calls and schemes covering the travel costs for the selected participants. OTM thus aims to widen and improve the free access to relevant information for professional artists and cultural operators from all fields, in Europe and beyond. We believe that facilitating the access to information means empowering the artists and cultural operators working/willing to work internationally, allowing them to deal with mobility without intermediaries. This benefits in particular young and emerging artists as well as small companies or groups, who have limited time and resources to search for mobility opportunities and related information.

In line with this approach and following the same "gateway principle" of our website, we have collected in this publication a comprehensive set of web-links related to 8 key topics, ranging from inspiring references about cultural organisations in China to visa and administrative issues (less exciting maybe, but crucial for your travel!) to facilitate your first cultural mobility experience in China

Whether you are an individual artist, a cultural professional, a group or a company, we hope this repertory will help you find relevant information to make the most out of your mobility experience in China!

FOCUS ON CULTURAL MOBILITY

On the Move focuses on the mobility of professional artists and cultural professionals - including only people, not artworks.

We understand cultural mobility as "the temporary cross-border movement of artists and other cultural professionals. Certain forms of mobility relate to the individual (e.g. networking, residencies etc.); others are intrinsically connected to the mobility of works or performances in another country. (...) Mobility is not only understood as occasional movements across national borders that may be useful to gain professional experience required for career advancement, as well as advance artistic endeavour, but more as an integral part of the regular work life of artists and other cultural professionals" (from Ericarts, Mobility Matters, 2008).

Mobility can take many different forms, the most common examples being:

- Participation in events, conferences, meetings, trans-national professionals networks;
- Short-term visits to explore/get in touch with the cultural sector, to look for market development opportunities/for project partners;
- Touring/exhibiting;
- Short- or medium-term stays to carry out a project/a production/co-production;
- Residencies;
- Research stays;
- Training/work placement;
- Postgraduate training courses, master classes.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT NOT TO FIND AND... TO FIND IN THIS REPERTORY?

Pollution and eco-cities, traditions VS globalisation, non-stop urbanisation process, censorship issues etc.: every day new articles, videos and commentaries appear about China, yet they cannot encompass all the complexities of this huge country of more than 1,360,000,000 inhabitants.

You are planning either to go to China on your own or with a company / artists' collective, for a touring, a residency, a training or a project of collaboration. You are surely excited about this first exploration which will allow you to see and feel by yourself what China is about from your point of view of artist, creator and/or cultural professional.

This online repertory by On the Move aims to facilitate your first mobility experience in China. There may be links and references you know about, others that you will discover and maybe still others you will want to share with us after this reading.

THIS GUIDE IS NOT:

- Listing all organisations, initiatives, residencies, performances' places related to arts and culture in China;
- Providing direct and in-depth information about China and its cultural landscape;
- Covering a particular art discipline or form.

THIS GUIDE IS FIRST AND FOREMOST A GATEWAY TO EXISTING RESOURCES:

- It provides links to websites and Internet platforms and/or articles which have extensive and/or precise information and references related to cultural mobility and China;
- It is conceived as a check list that you can follow while planning your trip to China (from the discovery cultural differences to administrative issues);
- It is thought for European artists individuals and groups and cultural operators, working in any discipline, planning to go to China for the first time: the tips are therefore quite general and apply to everybody in the arts and culture sector working across borders;
- It is conceived as a work in process. Any feedback or suggestion about web-links not included yet in this publication is welcome! Send your messages to: mobility@on-the-move.org.

Information does exist about many topics, but is sometimes difficult to identify in a fast and efficient way; we have compiled this list of resources thanks to the members and partners of On the Move, and split them into 8 sections to ease the reading. 8 is a lucky number for Chinese and we hope these tips and resources will bring you good luck for your first (and also the next) mobility experience(s) in China! And don't forget that this experience may be also the beginning of future collaborations with Chinese artists/cultural professionals coming to Europe – that is why, when available, the Chinese version of these resources are mentioned as well.



1. GETTING TO KNOW CHINA: CULTURE[S] AND POLICIES

* Europe-China Cultural Compass: A project by the partners of EUNIC in China, the Goethe-Institut, the British Council, and the Danish Cultural Institute). EUNIC is the European Union National Institutes for Culture. This publication includes among others a broad range of knowledge relevant for cooperation: context knowledge on Europe and China (history, society, media, value systems, etc.), information on how the cultural sectors work differently, case stories of cultural practitioners, information about creative industries, learning and practices, and an extensive resource chapter.

http://www.eunic-online.eu/?q=content/europe-china-cultural-compass-available-online Available in English and Chinese.

We highly encourage you to read this publication and to pay particularly attention to:

- the "Selected Key Vocabulary An Overview of Common Terms in the Context of Cultural Cooperation between Europe and China", page 16;
- the section on media and the issue of censorship, page 61;
- the section on how the cultural sector works, page 90 and
- the section, page 128, on "Basic principles for setting up China-Europe projects", to avoid misconceptions and over-emphasis on cultural differences.

** Additional tips needed?

Policy / research documents:

EU-China policy dialogue and cooperation in the field of culture (policy dialogue, cooperation, cultural and creative industries): http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-policy-development/culture-and-external-relations/cooperation-with-china_en.htm

Mapping of studies on EU-China Cultural Relations (by Judith Staines, for the European Expert Network on Culture, 2012): themes addressed include Chinese views of culture and international cultural cooperation, cross-perceptions, points of friction in EU-China cultural relations, bilateral cultural relations, cultural cooperation project examples and evaluation of cultural relations etc.: <a href="http://www.eenc.info/?search_class=DB_CustomSearch_Widget-db_customsearch_widget&widget_number=preset-default&all-0=eencdocs&cs-all-1=External+Relations+and+Culture&search=Search

The Potential for Cultural Exchanges between the European Union and Third Countries - the Case of China (2009): http://on-the-move.org/news/article/62/the-potential-for-cultural-exchanges-between-the/

Culture(s) and differences:

An introduction about cultures and traditions in China is in "China - Things To Know Before You Go" (document available in 24 EU languages), from the EU-funded project *Chinese for Europeans*: http://www.chinese4.eu/china-things-to-know/

Have a look at the work by Yang Liu with her exhibition "East meets west & differences of German & Chinese" (under projects): http://www.yangliudesign.com/



These websites are comprehensive platforms of information which will help you to delve into various arts and cultural disciplines in China. They can be initiated and developed by national organisations (Dutch/British for instance) but their content is relevant to users of any nationality.

* Cultural Exchange China – The Netherlands

This web-platform is supported by **DutchCulture**, centre for international cooperation, the support organisation for the international cultural policy of the Dutch government.

You will find detailed information and references related to architecture, design, literature, music, performing arts (dance and theatre) and visual arts under the section *knowledge base*. Extensive mappings are also available, e.g. the one on music. This huge set of information is enriched with an index of organisations and a list of events.

Direct web-link to the platform (including a list of events): http://www.culturalexchange-cn.nl/

Knowledge base: http://www.culturalexchange-cn.nl/mapping-china

Index of organisations: http://www.culturalexchange-cn.nl/mapping-china/index

DutchCulture provides information on cultural exchange with China through its China Desk: http://dutchculture.nl/en/china

* Culture 360.org, the cultural portal of the Asia-Europe Foundation:

A good introduction to China is also to discover some of its key organisations. More than 40 of them are listed (as of January 2014):

http://culture360.org/category/organisations/?country=china

Articles related to China (particularly in the visual arts sector):

http://culture360.org/category/magazine/?cntry=china&country=china

* China guide by Artquest (visual arts):

This guide was written by a number of curators, artists and industry professionals based in the UK and China. You can find information and resources on the following topics: **Being an artist in China, The Government and the Arts, Money, Building networks, art schools, museums and exhibitions venues**. Though the focus is on visual arts, the articles can be enriching for artists from other disciplines. http://www.artquest.org.uk/articles/view/china

* China, a special resource page by ifa, the Institute of External Cultural Relations – Germany: http://www.ifa.de/en/culture-and-foreign-policy/alias/china.html

* UK now – website to be launched:

The British Council will be launching in June 2014 a new China arts site called *UK Now* (http://www.uknow.org.cn) which will include the great resources of the former *UK-China: Connections through Culture* website.

** Additional tips needed?

- * For those interested in **creative industries**, you can also follow the activities of:
- **KEA**, a Brussels-based consultancy specialised in culture, creativity, media and sports, addressing the public and private sector: http://www.keanet.eu/kea-china/media-and-press-china/
- **EARS Asia**, Europe-Asia Roundtable Sessions is a new platform focusing on creative industry collaboration between Europe and Asia: http://www.ears.asia/what-is-ears/
- China-UK Cultural and Creative Industry Association: http://chinaukcreative.com/
- Fasheng.org, a Shanghai non-profit creative community: http://en.fasheng.org/about_us.aspx
- * For links and events related to **contemporary arts**, you can find a lot of articles about the contemporary art boom in China. You can gain an insightful perspective on artists, curators and events related to China, thanks to these three websites:
- Asia Art Archive based in Hong Kong: http://www.aaa.org.hk/
- ArtHub is a not-for-profit organisation supporting the contemporary art creation in China and rest of Asia: http://arthubasia.org/about/
- Universes in Universe, visual arts from Africa, Asia, the Americas in the international art context (103 Chinese artists listed as on 24 January 2014: http://universes-in-universe.org/eng/intartdata/artists/asia/chn)
- * Listing and references on **music** in China (including rock, metal, hip hop etc.): http://rockinchina.wordpress.com/artist/

3. FOCUS ON RESIDENCIES

* **DutchCulture** | **TransArtists** is the platform stimulating and strengthening artists' mobility in the Netherlands and internationally. It combines and shares expertise and offers tools and services on artist-in-residence programmes and related issues. TransArtists is a member of On the Move. http://www.transartists.org/

TransArtists maps 33 residencies in China (as of 24 January 2014), of which 12 are located in Beijing, 4 in Shanghai, others in Hong Kong, Shenzhen etc. A search engine will allow you to identify the disciplines you are searching for. The majority of the 33 residencies is for visual arts, but 5 of them are related to performing art practices: http://www.transartists.org/map?country=cn&tid=All

* **RES ARTIS** is a network of over 480 centres and organisations in over 70 countries. Their members are dedicated to offering artists, curators, and all types of creative people a time and place away from their every-day life, an experience framed within a unique geographic and cultural context. Through its programming, RES ARTIS supports international cultural exchange, cooperation and the development of the artist in residence field: http://resartis.org

Since 2011 RES ARTIS has undertaken the task of comprehensively maps the world of residencies. Through their *RES ARTIS Mapping project*, they graphically portray the field of artist residencies by mapping artist residencies, including in China in cooperation with China Residencies (see below). RES ARTIS is a member of On the Move.

** Additional tips needed?

* Additional information about residencies in China:

Cultural Exchange China – The Netherlands: http://www.culturalexchange-cn.nl/china/artist-residence-program/airs-china

Examples of listed residencies can be the Yellow River art centre that has an artist village in the Yinchuan region (http://www.yrac.cn/en/index_en.html), as well as the Videotage (new media centre in Hong Kong, listed under http://www.transartists.org/). You can also learn about the Global Exchange Center (http://www.global-chinaprinting.com).

* China Residencies: http://www.chinaresidencies.com

China Residencies was founded with the mission of promoting cultural exchange to China. Chinaresidencies.com is a free resource with the most up to date directory of residency programs (30+) throughout mainland China as well as interviews and photos with residencies and visiting artists.

* Residency Unlimited posts regularly residency opportunities in China: http://opps.residencyunlimited.org/?s=china&submit=



4. CHINA IN EUROPE / EUROPE IN CHINA

CHINA IN EUROPE

* Confucius Institutes in Europe

Since 2004, the Chinese government has been opening more than 400 Confucius Institutes in the world - including around 150 in Europe - through the *Hanban*, a public institution affiliated with the Chinese Ministry of Education.

Most of them are linked to Universities and focus mostly on the teaching of Chinese language but some have developed a cultural programme related to contemporary art practices.

Check the nearest Confucius Institute next to your place on the worldwide map of Confucius Institutes: http://www.chinesecio.com/m/cio wci/

You can read more about these Confucius Institutes on the **ifa**'s website (under *selected articles*): http://www.ifa.de/en/culture-and-foreign-policy/alias/china.html

** Additional tips needed?

- * Learn some basics Chinese at home thanks to the EU-funded project Chinese for Europeans: http://www.chinese4.eu/
- ...or when you are in China: http://www.glexchange.net
- * Before going to China you may enjoy a working/internship experiences in a China-related organisation based in Europe, for example at the Centre for Contemporary Chinese Art in Manchester, United Kingdom: http://cfcca.org.uk/

EUROPE IN CHINA

* EU national institutes

An easy way to check the European cultural national institutes in China is to search them via the website of **EUNIC**, the European Union National Institutes for Culture: http://china.eunic-online.eu (click on the map of China and EUNIC China).

Connect in one click to the **Austrian** Cultural Forum; **British** Council, China; China Instituto Cervantes - **Spain**; The Institut français de Chine - **France**; Goethe Institut - **Germany**; Istituto Italiano di Cultura - **Italy**; Delegation Wallonie Bruxelles en Chine - **Belgium**. You can also link to the Embassies of **Greece**, **Hungary**, **Poland**, **Ireland**, **Romania** and the **Netherlands**.

These centres and embassies are located in Beijing but some national cultural institutes have antennas and/or offices in other cities in China:

- the **Institut français** has different antennas in Guanzhou, Chengdu, Shanghai, Shenyang and Wuhan: http://www.ambafrance-cn.org/Service-de-cooperation-et-d-action-culturelle-Institut-français-de-Chine.html?lang=fr
- the **Goethe Institut** offers (in 2014) residencies in Beijing, Chongqing and Nanjing: http://www.goethe.de/ins/cn/pek/deindex.htm?wt_sc=peking
- the **British Council** has centres in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chongqing: http://www.britishcouncil.org/china-about-us-where-we-are-in-china.htm

Some of these European national cultural institutes have developed websites and Internet platforms focused on arts and culture in and with China, for instance the one about **France**: http://www.faguowenhua.com/ (in Chinese and French).

Non-EU countries have also an important presence in China and interesting resources to delve into:

Pro Helvetia: http://www.prohelvetia.cn/2042.0.html?&L=4 and http://www.swissnexchina.org/

Norway Embassy in China (focus on arts and culture): http://www.norway.cn/News and events/Culture/

** Additional tips needed?

- * For events and projects related to China in EU member countries or vice versa, a good online tool is the ASEF cultural portal, Culture360.org: http://culture360.org
- * Follow events organised in Europe and related to China (http://ukchinaarts.blogspot.co.uk/), events organised by Europe/China teams like the new Dong Dong Music Festival (http://www.dongdong-event.com/) and discover new ways to network between China and Europe with MyPeople project (http://myppl.co.uk/#/home).

5. WHERE IS THE M□N€¥?

* Guide to funding opportunities for the international mobility of artists and culture professionals in **Europe** (for incoming and **outgoing mobility**) by On the Move: http://on-the-move.org/funding/europe/

Regular and online funding opportunities in China for incoming mobility are still very limited. However you can check these web-links:

- * The Cultural mobility guide China (including Hong Kong) and the Guide "Open to any nationality" on Culture360: http://culture360.org/asef-news/mobility/
- * Check regularly news and opportunities through:
- On the Move's website (opportunities and news by region): http://on-the-move.org/news/region/
- Culture360.org: http://culture360.org
- -The websites about residencies listed at page 14 & 15
- ** Additional tips needed?

* Try to get information about special events / bilateral celebrations where special funding can be allocated (eg. 2014 is the year of the 50th anniversary of French-Chinese diplomatic relations).

Other bilateral treaties (with a focus on culture) can be found in the publication Mapping Asia-Europe Cultural Cooperation: http://on-the-move.org/about/ourownnews/article/15021/mapping-asia-europe-cultural-cooperation/?category=36

...and in the abovementioned mapping by Judith Staines for the EENC (pages 25-30).

- * Check with your city or region as more and more local governments tend to develop stronger links with Chinese cities and regions; these have mostly economic reasons, however culture can sometimes be linked to some of their programmes or policy lines (including through twin-city partnerships);
- * Try to identify some companies in your city, region and/or at national level which have business partnership with Chinese companies. They may be able to sponsor you/your project;
- * Check on On the Move some international organisations and funders that may include China among their eligible countries: http://on-the-move.org/funding/;
- * For broader projects, consider EU funding; for instance the "Creative Europe" programme supports partnerships with certain countries outside the EU (third countries), under certain conditions: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/creative-europe

Focus on cultural management: some organisations support regular exchanges between cultural managers from and to China:

- the British Council: http://www.britishcouncil.org/china.htm
- the Goethe Institut: http://www.goethe.de/ges/prj/ken/qua/kum/chi/enindex.htm

6. VISAS AND ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS: WHERE TO GET THE INFORMATION?

1

Check carefully the conditions for visa applications. You will find below general information as well as specific resources targeted at artists and cultural professionals.

* List of Chinese embassies / consulates in EU member countries:

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjb_663304/zwjg_665342/2490_665344/2495_665354/

* Information about visas to China: http://english.gov.cn/service/immigrating.htm

* Information about taxation and legal issues in China (including for touring, participation of foreigners in festivals, performing art events in China, copyright law etc.): http://www1.chinaculture.org/library/library laws.html

* EU official representations in China (embassies and consulates) - please scroll down (the same page is very useful for your colleagues / friends from China willing to travel to the EU): http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/china/travel to eu/visa/index en.htm

- * A very useful check-list on touring to and in China (relevant for UK companies and Chinese promoters but also Europeans at large) includes additional information about:
- Work permits
- Taxation and
- The "Examination & Approval Procedures Relating to Commercial Performances by Foreign Art Organisations and Individuals in China":

http://on-the-move.org/librarynew/guidesandtoolkits/article/16126/check-list-tour-in-china-performing-arts-music-etc/?category=81

This document is extracted from the former website "China – UK Connections through Culture" (supported by the British Council)

7. EU / CHINA: MORE WEB-LINKS!

HTTF://...

The following links and references about specific EU countries may be useful for you even if you are not based or from these countries (we mention when the websites are not in English). Most of them include recent news (2012-2014), references or online publications/guides about Europe and/or China. We welcome your suggestions to add references for other EU countries!

Austria: Ars Electronica is the partner of the China Millennium Monument Museum of Digital Arts (CMoDA), the first comprehensive art center in China that specialises in integrating digital technology with art and design: http://www.dyz.citsmice.net/venue.pdf

Belgium: China is the first non-EU country to have confirmed its participation at Mons, European Capital of Culture in 2015: http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/culture/2013-12/12/content_17170810.htm

Bulgaria: Planned opening of cultural centres in Sofia and Beijing: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-01/14/c 133044616.htm

Czech Republic: News via the Arts and Theatre Institute (OTM member) In 2015, participation of the Czech Republic at the International fair of cultural and creative industries, Shenzhen, China. The Czech booth should present strong fields of cultural and creative industries in CR – puppets, animation movies, computer games or design: http://en.cnci.gov.cn/

Croatia: Check the Confucius Institute at the University of Zagreb, open since 2012 and now holding a position in a group of regional institutes together with institutes in Slovenia, Austria and Hungary: http://www.ki.unizg.hr/

Cyprus adopted a cultural agreement with China in December 2013: http://famagusta-gazette.com/cyprus-and-china-sign-agreement-on-cultural-cooperation-p21851-69.htm

Denmark: A new international and inter-ministerial Danish group focuses on emerging countries, including China: http://kum.dk/english/Cultural-Policy1/International-exchange-and-cooperation/The-International-Culture-Panel-/

Finland: Check the Centre Stage China website for some Finnish-Chinese co-productions: http://www.centerstagechina.com

France: A GREAT online guide to prepare your trip to China as an artist/cultural organisation: http://www.la-nacre.org/ressources-et-thematiques/nos-ressources/repertoires-et-guides/les-fiches-pays/ (under *Objectifs pays*) – in French.

Germany: IGBK – Internationale Gesellschaft der Bildenden Künste is involved in the research project "Dreams of Art Spaces Collected", a research on different approaches of art spaces. China has been one focus country: check the great collection of information and interviews with artists and creators: http://www.dreamsofartspacescollected.org/Art_Spaces_Collected.html

Lithuania: Baltic Guitar Quartet tour in China (including a concert at the Forbidden City Hall): http://chrisruebens.com/

Luxemburg: Chinese contemporary arts in Luxemburg, an exhibition at the Abbaye of Neumünster: http://www.ccrn.lu/Culture/Offre-diversifiee-Calendrier-shop-visites/Programmation/Expositions/Art-chinois-contemporain-2-Wednesday-05-February-2014-11-00-00-am

Malta signed a cultural agreement with China in January 2014:

http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20140122/local/malta-signs-cultural-agreement-with-china.503658 - .UuQspLYo8b0

The Netherlands host the European Foundation for Chinese Music Research: http://home.planet.nl/~chime/

Poland: Adam Mickiewicz Institute has an Asian programme (including China): http://azja.iam.pl/en.html?lng=en

Portugal: The Oriente Foundation has strong links and projects related to Macao: http://www.foriente.pt/111/culture.htm

Romania will host the next meeting of the EUNIC China Dialogue in October 2014: http://www.eunic-online.eu/?q=content/eunic-china-cultural-dialogue-0

Slovenia: Hallerstein: Science meets art - events in China: http://www.kibla.org/en/sections/kibela-space-for-art/archive/kibela-arhiv/2009/hallerstein-znanost-se-sreca-z-umetnostjo-dogodki-na-kitajskem/

Spain: Casa Asia released some publications related to China

(http://www.casaasia.es/infantil/publicaciones) and an interactive map with a description and contacts for China: http://www.casaasia.es/viajes/mapa interactivo) – in Spanish.

Sweden: Sami-Chinese collaboration for Umea, European Capital of Culture 2014: http://umea2014.se/en/event/sami-chinese-project/

United Kingdom: check the Green Mobility Guide for the Performing Arts Sector, commissioned to the London-based agency Julie's Bicycle by On the Move to green your practices when touring, welcoming artists, do co-productions anywhere you go in the world. This guide is available in English, French, Italian, German and Chinese: share it with your Chinese friends and contacts!

http://on-the-move.org/about/ourownnews/article/14222/green-mobility-guide-for-the-performing-arts/?category=36

** Additional tips needed?

Transnational Dialogues facilitates artists, creative people, professionals, intellectuals and writers from Europe, China and (from 2014) Brazil willing to come together for a series of exchanges, live and online: http://www.transnationaldialogues.eu/

8. SHARE YOUR CHINA EXPERIENCE!



Sharing experiences through blogs, websites, articles, publications etc. is crucial to disseminate knowledge, experiences and contacts to other artists and cultural professionals beyond inspiring them to discover China.

* Publications:

IETM — International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts published the International Co-Production Manual: The Journey which is full of surprises: http://ietm.org/ietm-publications (scroll down on the left side).

Check the feedback about Euro/international-Chinese co-production projects: page 74, "Hallenstein" and page 129, "Women of the World".

* Europe-China Cultural Compass: http://www.eunic-online.eu/?q=content/europe-china-cultural-compass-available-online (in English and Chinese). Check the case studies from page 187.

* Articles:

- "Portraits of Chinese artists in Germany and German artists in China" (in German): http://www.goethe.de/ins/cn/lp/kul/mag/por/enindex.htm
- Dutch artist Roma Pas stayed six months at the Ceac in Xiamen: http://www.transartists.org/article/here-china

SOME QUOTES FROM EUROPEAN ARTISTS SHARING THEIR FIRST MOBILITY EXPERIENCES IN CHINA

IN RESPONSE TO A SHORT QUESTIONNAIRE BY OTM [END 2013]

Ben Pointeker

(selected in 2013, for an Artist-in-Residence scholarship in Shanghai by the fine art section of the Austrian Ministry for Art, Culture and Education - BMUKK)

"The BMUKK established a type of exchange program with the Shanghai Theatre Academy, so each year 2 Austrian artists are selected to go to Shanghai for 3 months, while artists from the Shanghai Theatre Academy will go to work in Austria for a period of time. The Shanghai Theatre Academy mainly functions as a host for us. We do our projects independently. (...) My main difficulty in this first month was to make contact to local artists and get connected to the art circle here. I think this is especially difficult for me as I didn't know any artists in shanghai before I came here, through which I could have made first contacts".

Michele Cremaschi

(Italian theatre professional)

"I took part in the Macao Arts International Festival with a theater show that I co-produced and in which I was acting. It took place in Macao city, the organiser was the cultural department of the government. Macao was previously a Portuguese colony. Everything there is still 50% Chinese and 50% Portuguese. The city itself, is half a modern city with crystal skyscrapers and casino, and the rest seems like historical Lisbon. All people speak also English and Portuguese, so, everything was curious, but we never really had difficulties due to cultural differences. I can say that we stepped into China from the easiest door as a European".

Elena Kilina

(Translator and occasional photographer, Russian, based in Spain, after three years of experiences in China)

"I would like to say that it is very important to know about China at least a little bit about its culture and language. It is a question not only of respect but also a way of feeling more comfortable in another country. The symbolism of Chinese culture and constant references to the past can sometimes be a key to daily life and help you to discover your own suitable networking".

** Additional tips needed?

* Two online magazines (source: Culture360.org):

Randian: this art magazine seeks to promote independent cultural debate in China and to foster intellectual exchange between China and the rest of the world:

http://culture360.org/publications/randian-online-art-magazine-from-china/

LEAP, international art magazine of contemporary China (also on performance and public space issues): http://culture360.org/news/leap-international-art-magazine-of-china/

* Why don't you try the Chinese social networks? Read more about them in these infographics:

http://www.businessinsider.com/a-quick-guide-to-chinas-social-networks-2013-10

http://www.techinasia.com/2013-china-top-10-social-sites-infographic/

PLEASE NOTE THAT WEB-BASED INFORMATION IS QUICKLY OUTDATED. IT IS ADVISED TO ALWAYS CHECK THE WEB-LINKS INCLUDED IN THE GUIDE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.
FOR CLARIFICATIONS OR COMMENTS ON THE CONTENT OF THIS REPERTORY OR TO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES IN CHINA, PLEASE CONTACT MOBILITY@ON-THE-MOVE.ORG

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