

# Wang Zhi-Wu

(Chinese, b. 1984)

Wang Zhi-Wu is a Chinese pop artist, whose paintings and sculptures celebrate the life of children via whimsically caricatured animals. Although at first glance, Wang's heroes delight the viewer with humor and innocent charm, deeper themes lurk afoot. With sophisticated, scumbled brushwork and cold-paint patinas, Wang uses color and texture to allude to global land masses, oceans, seas, mountains, weather patterns, skies, and national borders. The overall effect of his paint handling is to create a sense of geopolitical map-making, rather than that of just mere 'flesh and fur!' On close inspection Wang's seemingly innocent animal protagonists turn out to be subtle referents of power-exchanges between mogul and maid, bad guy and bodyguard, the haves and have-nots -- even to an array of geeks, nerds, and n'er-do-wells, seemingly striving to become calm, cool, and collected. Some of his protagonists haplessly go without -- the fate of the startled? -- while others fancy a social climb! In contemporary China's topsy-turvy world of instant billionaires, displaced peasants, newly-minted capitalists, sorry slums by luxury condos, and bureaucrats puzzled by the mixed signals of free markets with the old, top-down communist order, it's no wonder that one of China's most successful contemporary artists should take on such themes -- even if they are 'masked over' by his sheer love of 'cute' animals and the glorious life of children. (It should be noted that Wang is, indeed, an animal-rights activist in China -- an oxymoron, in itself?) Finally, from a recent generation -- so saturated by animated, popular media and an exploding global art market -- it's again no surprise that Wang tackles mixing fine-art technique and thematic *gravitas* with pop characters and ingenuous "cartooning."

## EDUCATION

MFA, 2006 -- Meizhou Wan Arts-&-Crafts College, Fujian, China

## SELECTED MUSEUMS & EXHIBITIONS

"World Expo," Shanghai, China  
"Guangdong Province Fine-Art Exhibition," Guangzhou Art Museum, Guangdong, China  
"The Artistic-Process Show," Shenzhen Art Museum, Shenzhen, China  
*Shanghai Youth Biennial* LIU, Haisu Art Museum, Shanghai  
*4th China International Cultural-Industries Fair*, Shenzhen  
Dubai Museum of Fine Art, United Arab Emirates

## SELECTED PUBLIC & PRIVATE COLLECTORS

*Heng Tong Securities, Ltd.*, Hong Kong, China  
Shenzhen People's Hospital  
*The Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, Ltd.*  
*Hang Seng Bank, Ltd.*, Hong Kong  
*The Bank of East Asia, Ltd.*, Hong Kong  
*Guangdong Development Bank Company*  
The Duchess of Kent Hospital for Children, Perth, Western Australia  
Macau Tourism & Cultural Activities Center  
Norwegian International School, Hong Kong