



Skira editore

Contemporary art

SHORT CUTS

Artists in China

Thomas Fuesser

edited by Rosa Maria Falvo

Photographs by Thomas Fuesser

Text by Lorenz Helbling, Shen Qilan, Rosa Maria Falvo, Jean Loh

The first, intimate visual documentation of artists who have influenced and transformed the Chinese art scene over the last two decades.

German photographer Thomas Fuesser has been following artists in China since 1993, when he was first invited by renowned Dutch curator Hans van Dijk (1946–2002) to join a group of foreign journalists and photographers to visit the up-and-coming members of the then fledgling Beijing and Shanghai art scenes. Reports on this visit, by New York Times art critic Andrew Solomon and several others, later played a major role in the making of prominent artists, such as Fang Lijun, Wang Guangyi, and Yue Minjun. Over many years, Fuesser has developed close and enduring professional relationships with the artistic community in China. His striking portraits tell their stories and depict their work and personalities in an entirely distinct style, documenting a part of contemporary history and an immensely dynamic time in China.

Recording the lives and thought processes of leading artists, such as Ai Weiwei, Cai Guo-Qiang, Zeng Fanzhi, Zhang Peili, Feng Mengbo, Wu Shanzhuan, and Zhou Tiehai, **SHORT CUTS**, inspired by Robert Altman's idea of multiple parallel destinies, provides a fascinating visual insight into the heart and soul of Chinese society.

Thomas Fuesser has produced several major series of portraits of important figures in the art, cinema, and cultural worlds. Based in Shanghai since 2005, he has participated in many exhibitions across China and internationally.

Rosa Maria Falvo is a writer and curator, specialising in Asian contemporary art and photography.

Lorenz Helbling opened ShanghART gallery in 1996, one of the first private galleries in Shanghai and one of China's most influential art institutions.

Jean Loh is one of Shanghai's most widely respected curators of photography.

Shen Qilan is the chief editor of arts and director of international projects for the Shanghai Insight Media Company.

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