



Below: Swiss Rene Zach and Chinese-Swiss artist Luo Mingjun are exhibiting their works in the "1 & 1/2 Aliens" exhibition. Left: Zach's satellite dish sculptures in wood. Left below: Part of Luo's 100-meter mosquito netting cloth embroidered with Swiss yarn.



## 'One and A Half Aliens' explores identity

Jenny Hammond

**O**ne and a Half Aliens," an exhibition at the reopened Creek Art Center, explores the meaning of identity, belonging, foreignness and how a Chinese-born Swiss national needs a visa to come back home.

It also features sculptures of Chinese woks turned into satellite dishes in the information-hungry information age.

The exhibition examines communications and East-West links through the works of artists Rene Zach and Luo Mingjun, both Swiss citizens and residents. But Luo was born in China to Chinese parents and acquired her Swiss nationality through marriage — she's the "half-alien."

Born in Hunan Province, Luo moved to Switzerland 20 years ago. "My work talks

about identity," she says.

For a foreigner, a passport or visa is so important, she says. "For me now holding Swiss documents, I need a visa

to get back home to China." She is Chinese and Swiss. "I want people to understand that identity is just on paper, it does not change the person."

One work features a 100-meter-long Chinese mosquito netting-like cloth embroidered with Swiss yarn. "The two materials show my thinking about the two places I call home," she says. "The material has a protective element to it."

However, sewn into the cloth are images or words,



explaining her thoughts and feelings as she was making it. There's a mobile phone representing the running theme of communication, and the words "terrorist" and "revolt."

Luo also works in Chinese ink, which she calls "a link to my original heritage." But she says she does not "market Chinese culture when I am abroad. I want my work to be a somber exploration of art."

She uses everyday objects like a Chanel lipstick,

chopsticks and jewelry as her subjects.

"I want to use these mundane objects in a portrait of myself. They are autobiographical," she says. "But it is funny but when Chinese people see my work, they say, 'I knew you came from Europe'."

Zach comes from the tradition of European and American minimal and conceptual art. But he sought manmade objects to express himself.

He concentrates on a single object, a communications antenna and has made 12 satellite dish sculptures in wood, with a metal Chinese wok as the dish. They all face West.

"This focuses on the hardware of communication, which is then remade in wood so it becomes a sculpture as it no longer has its original function," Zach says. "Each piece is made from a common Chinese wok, something that would be found in most homes, this is a good symbol of Chinese daily life."

He says this shows that communications today has become like food, "people are hungry for it."

In conceptual art, it is necessary to find a trick to convey an idea. The idea here is that the antenna in China receives news from space, originally from Zach's home in Switzerland.

In fact, Luo first showed her work along with Zach's work in Switzerland. "I wanted to bring him back to China," she says, "for his first exhibition here."

Date: March 10-April 1, 12-8pm  
Address: 101 Chang'an Rd (behind 423 Guangfu Rd)  
Tel: 6380-4150

## Spring music — Stravinsky to Gershwin

Michelle Qiao and Xu Wei

**T**wo conducting maestros will deliver a melancholy rite for this chilly spring weekend featuring the "Butterfly Lovers" concerto and "Petroushka" at the Shanghai Concert Hall.

Tonight Chinese-American conductor Hu Yongyan will play the famous Chinese concerto "Butterfly Lovers" and "Spring Festival Prelude" with his EOS-Orchestra Academy performance ensemble. "Butterfly" soloist will be award-winning violinist Gao Shen.

The musicians from the Central Conservatory of Music have been newly assembled to develop young musicians from across the Asia-Pacific region.

"In ancient Greek, 'eos' means 'dawn,' and dawn foresees hope and a bright future, which is the blueprint of this Chinese orchestra in my mind," says Shanghai-born conductor Hu.

"Most Chinese conservatories only focus on training soloists or musical geniuses, instead of training orchestras," says Hu. "The students are busy in big or small competitions, which limits their musical career. EOS will deliver an intensive, practical program of orchestral training."

After the performance at Shanghai Concert Hall, EOS will move on to Shanghai Times Square for a free concert.

The show will open with American composer George Gershwin's vigorous piece "Rhapsody in Blue," then Mozart's brisk "Divertimento No. 17," Johannes Brahms' "Hungarian Dance No. 5" and Franz Waxman's "Carmen Fantasy."

Cheerful classics from Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn and Puccini are also on the program, fueling the season's energy.

"It is easy for people in Shanghai to feel the fusion of Western and Oriental arts



and culture," says Cathy Hau, deputy general manager of Shanghai Times Square. "We hope the performance can promote classical music among young people."

Tomorrow night Belgian maestro Ronald Zollman will conduct the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra in Stravinsky's "Petroushka" and Beethoven's "Coriolan Overture" and the "Violin Concerto."

Zollman's concert last Saturday with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra received high praise from music critic Liu Enhui.

He called it "standard but passionate, delicate and full of power. Every second of Verdi's nine-minute "Vespro Siciliano" gave dramatic energy. Zollman solidly controlled the pace."

The highlight of tomorrow's concert will be French violin soloist Raphael Oleg. The 48-year-old virtuoso won first prize in the International Tchaikovsky Competition at the age of 27 and now is at his prime.

**• EOS concerts**  
Date: March 9, 8pm  
Tickets: 50-880 yuan  
Venue: Shanghai Concert Hall, 523 Yan'an Rd E.  
Date: March 9, 10pm  
Tel: 6391-0691  
Venue: Shanghai Times Square, 1/F, 99 Huaihai Rd M.  
**• Zollman concert**  
Date: March 10, 7:30pm  
Tickets: 80-300 yuan  
Venue: Shanghai Concert Hall, 523 Yan'an Rd E.  
Tel: 962-288



Conducted by Chinese-American Hu Yongyan (top), EOS Orchestra Academy will stage two concerts in Shanghai.

**Donghu Hotel**  
A Prestigious Address

1934

A historical building that hides behind the bustling Huaihai Road and enjoys the serenity of an early 20th Century garden estate. This is the hotel for business travelers who desire a central location and quiet environment for their all-important missions in Shanghai.

For reservation  
Tel: 86-21-64158158 Fax: 86-21-64157759  
Email: sales@donghuhotel.com

www.donghuhotel.com  
70 Donghu Road, Shanghai 200031, China