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Fragile, Chen Wei, 2011.

NEWS

Degeneration

by [Toby Fehily](#) | Posted 22 Feb 2014

For its inaugural exhibition in the new ACAF Art Terminal T1, the Australian China Art Foundation (ACAF) will be celebrating the work of young Chinese new media artists. First shown in December last year in Shanghai, *Degeneration* brings together artists Chen Wei, Chen Zhou, Cheng Ran, Guan Xiao, Hu Yun, Li Ming, Li Ran, Lu Yang and Ma Quisha.

Exhibition curator Mariagrazia Constantino, who also serves as curator and artistic director of the OCT Contemporary Art Terminal (OCAT), explains that the title *Degeneration* refers not to associated ideas of decline or deterioration, but to the word's original, literal meaning of "deviation from the genus". The film, sound, projection, digital collage, sculpture and photography represented here all embody implacable change.

"It refers to a process that cannot be stopped," she says, "an altered status that makes it impossible to go back to the starting point. Not necessarily entirely negative, this is a condition confronting all contemporary societies, including China."

The fact that the artists included were born between 1980 and 1987 speaks to the wider implications of a new generation of artists who don't feel a strong generational fit.

"Here lies an interesting contradiction: by denying their belonging to a generation, with its plans and requirements, they assess and reinforce their belonging to a wider system, which is not only transcultural, but also 'transgenerational'," Constantino says.

ACAF Art Terminal 1 was founded by ACAF together with Beijing-based Bridging Hope Charity Foundation and OCAT Shanghai. In addition to hosting exhibitions, the new premises will also offer a series of public programs. For this, their first exhibition, they will be holding a discussion and panel with Constantino, along with a workshop that will have teenagers making 15 second video works with their smart phones in response to part of Li Ming's video performance series *Nothing Happened Today*.

Degeneration

ACAF Art Terminal T1

22 February - 16 May 2014.