

HORSE

The horse (*Equus ferus caballus*) is one of two extant subspecies of *Equus ferus*, or the wild horse. The horse has evolved over the past 45 to 55 million years from a small multi-toed creature into the large, single-toed animal of today. Humans began to domesticate horses around 4000 BC. There is an extensive, specialized vocabulary used to describe equine-related concepts, covering everything from anatomy to life stages, size, colors, markings, breeds, locomotion, and behavior. Horses' anatomy enables them to make use of speed to escape predators and they have a well-developed sense of balance. Most domesticated horses reach full adult development by age five, and have an average lifespan of between 25 and 30 years. Horses and humans interact in a wide variety of sport and recreational pursuits, in police work, agriculture, entertainment, and therapy. Many products are derived from horses, including meat, milk, hide, hair, bone, and pharmaceuticals extracted from the urine of pregnant mares.



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horse>. Image courtesy Manchester Museum. Stuffed Swamp Deer 2012.

The Exhibition 'Point At A Deer Call it A Horse' or 'Zhi Lu Wei Ma' is based on a popular Chinese idiom which means to purposefully misrepresent something, confuse right and wrong, or distort the facts. Its derived from the history of the rebel leader Zhao Gao minister of Qin who in 207BCE tested the court by presenting the emperor with a deer and saying 'This is a horse'. The exhibition captures the rapidly changing conflicts between the individual, authority and culture in contemporary China. Making deft use of parody, sarcasm and absurdity several works uncover the subversive potential of mass media re-appropriation, in others reenactments or a trenchant documentary and direct socio-political engagement test the limits of free speech and expression.

POINT AT A DEER CALL IT A HORSE

UNREAL SOCIALISM IN CHINESE PERFORMANCE & VIDEO ART

AI WEI WEI, CAI YUAN & JJ XI, HALL STEPHEN & REN LI LI,

LIU XIN YI, YE FU NA, ZHANG PEI LI, ZHANG DING

02 MARCH 21 APRIL 2013 THURSDAY - SUNDAY 12-6PM

PRIVATE VIEW 01 MARCH 2013 7-9pm PERFORMANCES 8.30

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