

# Beyond G(l)aze

中国与挪威：作为陶瓷媒介的“形制之上”

Suzhou Jinji Lake Art Museum  
KODE | Art Museums of Bergen

中国苏州金鸡湖美术馆  
挪威卑尔根KODE美术馆



## Acknowledgement

### Norwegian Crafts

Finally Norwegian Crafts, in partnership with Suzhou Jinji Lake Art Museum and KODE - Art Museums of Bergen, can now welcome the public to experience the exhibition *Beyond G(l)aze!*

In spring 2012, Norwegian Crafts received an e-mail from the ceramic artist and curator Heidi Bjørgan. She wrote on behalf of a curatorial team who launched the idea of creating an exhibition of Norwegian and Chinese ceramics. Since then, we have been allowed to participate in an adventure, not least through collaborating with the four curators Heidi Bjørgan, Feng Boyi, Wang Dong and Bjørn Inge Follevaag. They have contributed with each their own strengths: Heidi Bjørgan has a deep understanding of ceramic art, Feng Boyi has obvious professional ballast, Bjørn Follevaag has extensive experience with Norwegian-Chinese collaboration, and Wang Dong has a unique ability to see connections. The dynamics between the curators have turned *Beyond G(l)aze* into an exciting collaborative project, which Norwegian Crafts has very much wanted to be involved in. It is therefore also very interesting to read the curators' reflections in this catalogue, where they tell about their experiences and what they have learned during the process.

The curators of course also tell about the sixteen participating artists. Norwegian Crafts is proud to be able to present an exhibition featuring works by Ingrid Askeland, Lu Bin, Feng Feng, Liu Danhua, Huang Huanyi, Liu Jianhua, Stein Haga Kristensen, Torbjørn Kvasbø, Nils Martin, Anne Helen Mydland, Irene Nordli, Linn Pedersen, Lu Pinchang, Corrina Thornton, Ai Weiwei and Chen Xiaodan. The curators have chosen ceramic works that represent both similarities and differences between two cultures which we perhaps think of as very different. The exhibition shows how clay materials as expressive media hold a strong position in contemporary art. And as the title indicates, we are invited to explore the role of ceramic works as conveyors of meaning.

By being held at two museums – KODE - Art Museums of Bergen in Norway and Suzhou Jinji Lake Art Museum in China – the exhibition will be accessible to a large and diverse public. Norwegian Crafts appreciates the professional way in which both museums have handled the project, but also the enthusiasm that has marked the collaboration throughout the process. We thank the museum directors Zhu Qiang and Karin Hindsbo, and we extend very special thanks to assisting curator Wu Yan and senior curator Anne Britt Ylvisåker.

Martin Yang Stousland and Christian Bielke, from the graphic design studio Bielke+Yang, deserve many thanks for their involvement in the exhibition catalogue's production. Our focus in the catalogue has been the same as that of the curatorial team: ceramics as a form of expression in contemporary art, and an enthusiastic dialogue between Norwegian and Chinese traditions and contemporary culture.

Norwegian Crafts has received support for *Beyond G(l)aze* from the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Beijing, the Norwegian Consulate General in Shanghai and Bergen Municipality. Such generous support has made it possible to initiate this ambitious project, and it has of course also been crucial for bringing it to fruition.

Norwegian Crafts heartily welcomes the public to experience *Beyond G(l)aze*. We anticipate that the show will incite as much interest and enthusiasm in Suzhou and in Bergen as it has amongst those of us who have worked on the project.

Gjertrud Steinsvåg – *Director,*  
*International Projects Norwegian Crafts*



# Foreword

## Suzhou Jinji Lake Art Museum

The Suzhou Jinji Lake Art Museum, a recently established institution, is located on the outskirts of Suzhou, a Chinese city which is famous for her classical gardens. The Museum has defined international artistic exchange as one of its core professional aims. To this end, we are honored to join with Norwegian Crafts and KODE - Art Museums of Bergen to hold the contemporary art exchange exhibition *Beyond G(l)aze*. We hope that the Chinese and Norwegian artists can use ceramic artworks to present their transformation of traditional ceramic cultural resources in the context of contemporary art, as well as their commonalities and differences.

This exhibition also stands as a dialogue and interaction between China and Norway, through which Chinese viewers and professionals can gain an understanding of the creative practices of these Chinese and Norwegian artists. The aim of exchange is not to exceed limits or to overcome obstacles, but to deepen the mutual understanding that arises through the natural communication process.

Here I would like to extend my appreciation to the 16 participating artists from China and Norway; to Norwegian Crafts and KODE - Art Museums of Bergen for their wonderful cooperation; to the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Beijing, the Norwegian Consulate General in Shanghai for their strong support; and finally, I thank Norwegian curators Heidi Bjørgan and Bjørn Follevaag and Chinese curators Feng Boyi and Wang Dong, and all the staff who have worked so hard to make this exhibition a reality.

Zhu Qiang — *Executive Director,*  
*Suzhou Jinji Lake Art Museum*

尼尔斯·马丁

# Nils Martin













