

PERSPECTIVE

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二世古踏雪尋夢

巴黎Ralph Lauren新店漫步

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Philippe Starck與Will Alsop有話說

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Leonardo da Vinci

The Luxury Issue

後奢華時代



PERSPECTIVE
AWARDS 2010
Calling for entries now

人生地圖

Personal mapping

From art to architecture, only a few brave souls have attempted the complex challenge of recording and interpreting the human condition

綜觀藝術及建築界，敢於挑戰難度，嘗試紀錄並詮釋人類發展狀況的藝術創作者，寥寥可數

TEXT: JOHN BATTEN
IMAGES: MOBART GALLERY



For the last 40 years, German photographers Bernd and Hilla Becher have documented industrial plants and buildings. Their precise photographs and careful inventory is an objective record of each structure, and a visual history of the changes in industrial processes that made many of these buildings obsolete.

Hong Kong-based American artist Charles LaBelle has been working on a similar, ongoing and now lifetime project. He has drawn every building he has entered in cities around the world since 1997. 'Buildings Entered' currently numbers more than 11,000 drawings and, in a recent exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences, the 19th century former Pathological Institute, a selection of 200 drawings explores the interrelationship of the human body and architecture.

Seen are the exteriors of buildings that house medical clinics, dental surgeries, barber shops, massage and acupuncture businesses, funeral homes, police stations, hospitals, tattoo parlours, sex shops and "anonymous buildings whose relationship to the artist's body remains unspoken".

these dynamics.

Similarly – but focusing on the psychological aspects of human emotions – an extraordinary daily marathon performance was slowly acted out by Hong Kong artists Doris Wong Wai Yin and Kwan Sheung Chi in a remote small room during ArtHK10, the recent art fair. Replicating aspects of their own relationship and reflecting 1950s social behaviour, the artists acted out a single, but different, scene of 'sadness' on each day, without a break, for the fair's entire opening hours.

Their live performance was projected onto a screen into an adjacent room with a grainy black-and-white movie chiaroscuro effect and poignant music. The scene on day three, for example, of the anguish and guilt of a discovered extra-marital affair was elongated, slow, emotional – and timeless.

過去四十年來，德國攝影師貝歇夫婦的鏡頭拍下了不少工廠及工業建築物。他們以主觀角度忠實紀錄工業發展的進程，如何令一幢幢工業建築逐漸荒廢，取材精準而且鉅細無遺。

以香港為基地，來自美國的藝術家Charles LaBelle也一直進行類似的攝影紀錄，更當成終身事

Information about Charles LaBelle's 'Buildings Entered' can be seen at www.mobartgallery.com/exhibitions/charles-labelle1.html
'Everything Goes Wrong for the Poor Couple' performance can be viewed at www.ustream.tv/recorded/7262407



Above Doris Wong Wai Yin and Kwan Sheung Chi's 'Everything Goes Wrong for the Poor Couple' Below, from left Charles LaBelle: [Corpus III 117] 2010/02/10 19:29 – Oasis Massage – NE Staunton + Graham Soho Hong Kong • Charles LaBelle: [Corpus I 037] 2008/03/08 22:05 – Thai Orchid Massage – SE Wan Chai + Johnston Wan Chai Hong Kong

Each drawing is of a specific building in which the body is both cared for and administered. This personal mapping of buildings also reveals something deeper: "...a mechanism of power – economic, political, judicial and scientific power – which collectively (and often coercively) organises both the built-space of the world and the perceptions, ideas and subjectivities of the human beings that inhabit the world."

Students of geography, in particular, are aware of

業。自九七年起，他將自己在世界各地進入過的每一座建築物都畫下來。Buildings Entered專題已累積了超過一萬一千幅繪圖，近日，十九世紀時的舊病理學院、今天的香港醫學博物館展出其中二百幅Charles的作品，探索人類及建築之間的關係。

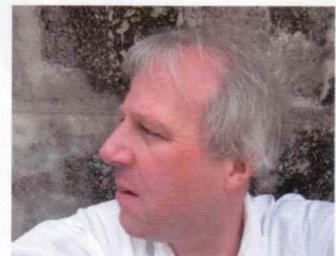
作品描繪了眾多建築物的外貌，診所、牙醫診所、髮型屋、按摩及針灸店、殯儀館、警館、醫院、紋身店、性商店，以及攝影師口中「一些不知名建築，它們和藝術家的關係仍待揭曉。」

每一幅作品全以特定建築物為對象，它們都跟身體的照料及管理有關，紀錄建築在人類生活變幻中的轉變軌跡，饒富深意，體現了「權力機制，包括經濟、政治、法律及科學等權力共同（通常是強制性的）掌管世界已發展地區及人類的觀感、意念及主觀意願。」

修讀地理的話，對這種權力運作分外省察。

同樣地，本地藝術家關尚智與黃慧妍最近於2010香港國際藝術展期間，將自己鎖在預設的房間裡，慢動作演繹電影中經典的悲情場面。每天開放的幾小時裡，只會演出其中一個鏡頭，天天不同。透過現場的即時投影，觀眾可細察藝術家的悲傷狀態及五十年代的社會行為。兩位藝術家將善用今次機會，好好感受自己的悲哀情緒。

隔鄰房間的投映屏幕，會現場播出他們的表演，配上不同的舊粵語長片黑白雪花畫面，還有悲慘音樂。舉例說，在第三天演出，主角婚外情曝光痛苦愧疚萬分，所配的背景及音樂就是節奏拖沓緩慢、濃濃愁緒盈滿、連綿無盡。



John Batten is the organiser of Hong Kong ArtWalk, co-convenor of the Central & Western Concern Group and writes on art, culture & heritage issues.

百德約翰是Hong Kong ArtWalk的籌劃人及香港的中西區關注組召集人，專門撰寫藝術、文化及歷史遺產的專題研究。