

STEEL HOME STILL

Exhibition curated by Bo Hongtao and Wang Zigeng

22 September - 31 October, 2018

Santa Caterina Church, Venice

“Through this exhibition, we hope to unveil the microhistories at the level of individuals and families. Reigniting the collective memories in the legendary factory, we examine the modernization path of China that Shougang represents, and we honor every worker’s life and labor along the way.” Wang Zigeng, Curator

The exhibition ***Steel Home Still*** successfully opened on the 21st of September at the presence of the two Chief Curators, **Mr. Bo Hongtao**, Chief Architect of CCTN, and **Mr. Wang Zigeng**, Chief Architect of Pills; of **Mr. Wang Daming**, Vice Manager of Beijing Shougang Construction Investment Co. Ltd., and of **Mr. Marino Folin**, Chairman of Fondazione EMGdotART,

Prestigious international guests took part at the opening conference, among them: **Mr. Alberto Cecchetto**, Professor of Town Planning at IUAV University; **Mr. Massimo Preite**, Board member of TICCIH, Board member of ERIH; **Mr. Paul Lawitzke**, Member of RTG Ruhr Tourism consulting group of experts, Member of the board of FMR Ruhr Leisure & Recreation Company; **Ms. Benedetta Tagliabue**, Director of the acclaimed international architecture firm EMBT Miralles Tagliabue, jury member of the Pritzker Architecture Prize; **Mr. Francesco Bandarin**, Former UNESCO Assistant Director, General for Culture, Professor of Town Planning at IUAV University; **Mr. Amnon Rechter**, Head of Rechter Architects, one of the most influential Israel prize winner architects; and **Mr. Shan Ganyu**, Director of Italian International Cultural Association.

Steel Home Still in Venice exhibits the past and the future of the Shougang industrial area. The exhibition documents a process of renewal and transformation driven by an economy devoted to creativity, leisure, and global competitiveness.

For almost a century, Capital Iron and Steel Corporation (today **Shougang Corporation**) in Beijing has been the industrial pride of the country and one of China's largest steel companies. Prior to the 2008 Summer Olympics, Beijing moved the factory out of the city, due to concerns over pollutions. Rather than demolishing the blast furnaces and the cooling towers, the city left them as silent memorials. Now, with another Olympic Games on the horizon (2022 Beijing Winter Olympics), Chinese planners are working on the project of bringing the ruins back to life and instilling new meanings into this area. The new plan will keep structurally-safe buildings as intact as possible to be renovated soon. As a gift for the centenary celebration, the renovation is scheduled to be completed by 2019.

The exhibition includes design works completed by professionals from different fields, such as architecture, film and stage set decoration, graphic design, literature, documentary, photography, and multimedia art. **The organizers of the exhibition are Shougang Group, Beijing Shougang Construction Investment Co. Ltd, CCTN Design, and Beijing Shougang International Engineering Technology Co., Ltd.**

The concept of the exhibition follows the cabinets of curiosities tradition passed down from European Renaissance. Through a series of installations using spatial montage in the Church, the exhibition presents an immersive drama. The curators have reproduced “**Dormitory**,” “**Worker’s Club**,” “**Drawing Room**,” and “**Furnace Preparation Room**,” and other representative moments of production and living for the exhibition.

The architect and curator **Wang Zigeng** is in charge of the overall concept and spatial installations. The set decorators of *Sleep No More*, **Zhao Nali** and her team, have reproduced different thematic spaces by combining artists’ creations with the historical items collected from the Shougang factory.

The “drawing room” is dedicated to the *No. 3 Blast Furnace*, the biggest construction in the Capital Steel industrial area: here are displayed a series of process drawings and research models of the CCTN team led by **Bo Hongtao** (Chief Architect of the No. 3 Blast Furnace Renovation Project), together with historical drawings and drawing tools from the archive. The other side of the room exhibits a large-scale profile model of the *No. 3 Blast Furnace*, produced by model artist **Chen Yijie**. It is a huge simulation model presenting a series of extreme spatial experiences.

Connections among spaces, objects and texts are created, endowing the space with a narrative and a depth of reading. Novelist **Jiang Fangzhou**’s writings will form the basis for the spatial experiences of audiences, which, together with the map drawn by graphic designer **Liu Zhizhi**, will become a clue for viewers to explore the space and the exhibition.

The multimedia device of artist **Fei Jun**’s team transforms a single spatial narrative into a multi-line narrative, allowing viewers to obtain various information and experiences in a limited space. The drama director, **Shang Lei**, weaves the narratives together with multimedia technologies and expands the limit of spatial expressions.

Practical information:

Location: Santa Caterina Church, Cannaregio 4942, Venice (Italy) - Nearest public water bus stops: Fondamente Nove and Ca ’D’oro

Dates: 22 September - 31 October, 2018 | 10am - 5pm, Closed on Mondays

For more information:

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