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## **Australia China Art Foundation launches exciting new artist residency program in Beijing.**

The Australia China Art Foundation (ACAF) is a not for profit organisation dedicated to the promotion of contemporary art by facilitating meaningful cross-cultural exchange between artists, collectors, institutions and art professionals in Australia and China.

The Australia China Art Foundation will sponsor a total of 8 two-month residencies per year at the studio of renowned Chinese Australian artist Shen Shaomin. Located within the Qiao Zi Art Commune in outer Beijing, Mr Shen has built a new art complex providing accommodation for up to 8 Chinese and international artists. The studio complex includes offers state of the art multi-media design studios, with printing facilities and traditional atelier spaces and also includes a public gallery. The commune is already home to a number of well-established artists, designers, writers and architects and covers an area of 43 hectares.

Each spring and autumn, two Australian and two Chinese artists will be invited by ACAF to participate in an organised programme of lectures, excursions and other activities. The artists will have an opportunity to work on their own projects as well as collaborate and engage with the local community.

Founder and Executive Director of the Foundation, Ms Yashian Schauble describes the residency as '...a rare opportunity for both emerging and more established artists from both China and Australia to work in the studios one of China's most respected and internationally acclaimed artists. Mr Shen's generosity is greatly appreciated. And through our network, the Foundation will ensure that the artists have opportunities to develop a meaningful dialogue with curators, writers and art institutions.'

Earlier this year, Matthew Greaves was announced as the inaugural recipient of the ACAF Beijing residency, however due to other exhibition commitments in the US, Matthew will be taking up his award in 2013. Photographer and multi-media artist Sonia Payes has accepted the offer to participate in the first autumn residency starting in October 2012. The Chinese artists, selected by Shen Shaomin are Lu Dong Yan and Zhang Ying from the Szechuan Fine Arts Academy.

The launch of the residency program will be held at the studio complex in Qiaozizhen, Beijing on Saturday 4 October 2012 at 4pm. A silent auction will be held as a fundraiser for the program with works donated by Shen Shaomin and Wu Daxin amongst others.

### **SUMMARY:**

**What:** Launch of Australia China Art Foundation Beijing artist residency program at the studio of Shen Shaomin

**When:** Saturday 6 October 2012 at 4pm

**Who:** Founder and Executive Director, Ms Yashian Schauble; Chinese Australian artist Mr Shen Shaomin, Australian artist Ms Sonia Payes

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**Interview and images available on request**