

Ai Weiwei “Be disappeared”: Responds from Local Artists

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On 3 April, 2011, Beijing-based contemporary artist Ai Weiwei was being intercepted at the Beijing Capital International Airport during the way to Taipei via Hong Kong, His news was blocked for 81 days. The “Be disappeared” of Ai Weiwei strongly echoes in all sectors of society in Hong Kong, local artists initiated activities with groups or individuals, to show their support of Ai Weiwei through different forms of Creativity.

Information: (More details please refer to the Chinese version footnote)

— Local newspapers

Photo provided by Wen Yau, Chan Ching-man.

2011/04

- On 4 April

Local newspapers reported that Ai Weiwei was detained at Beijing airport on 3 April when he was about to board a flight to Hong Kong.

- On 12 April

According to *Apple Daily*, graffiti with Ai Weiwei’s face and the words “Who’s afraid of Ai Weiwei?” in Chinese and English began appearing around Hong Kong, the graffiti artist then posted photos on the Internet.

The media called the artist “Graffiti Girl”. The West Kowloon Regional Crimes Unit has launched an investigation into the Ai Weiwei-inspired graffiti, which was denounced “White Terror”. The matter set off a wave of graffiti in Hong Kong, districts then appeared different patterns of Ai Weiwei sprayed graffiti.

- On 17 April

Artist Tong Wai-chun performed art at the Times Square to show solidarity with Ai for several days. He only wore black underpants, with A4 paper that printed with Ai Weiwei’s face attached to his waist, imitating Ai Weiwei’s *Block central*. The media called him “Shirtless Man”.

- On 22 April

On the evening, members of Art citizens set booth at East Point Road Pedestrian walkway in Causeway Bay, in solidarity with Ai Weiwei.

- On 23 April

Art Citizens initiated "423 Art Citizens March", starting from Mongkok at 3 pm, through Nathan Road and Canton Road, to the Hong Kong Cultural Centre in Tsim Sha Tsui. The march encouraged participants to use any creative way to voice out for solidarity with Ai Weiwei. The group then held an evening gathering at the Cultural Centre.

- On 29 April

Newspapers posted an interview of the 25-year-old "Flash graffiti" artist Cpak Ming. He projected an image of Ai Weiwei with words "Who's Afraid of Ai Weiwei?" on buildings of the Liaison Office, Police Headquarters and People's Liberation Army barracks. He took pictures and posted on the Facebook afterward. The album of 28 photos imitated others to follow.

- On 30 April

Local newspapers reported that there were four graffiti artist sprayed up to hundreds of graffiti in Tsuen Wan within days. They were exposed since the CCTV of nearby restaurants had captured the incident process.

2011/05

- On 3 May

The Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements in China organized "1001 Chairs for Ai Weiwei and arrested dissidents". About 200 protesters in Victoria Park using chairs to create a formation represents the Chinese word "prisoner" (囚), and some participants using performance art to show solidarity with arrested dissidents in mainland.

On the same day, Art Citizens initiated "A Symphony of Ai Weiwei" (艾未未魅影幻香江), in which using flashlight to project image of Ai Weiwei on the exterior wall of the Hong Kong Museum of Art during A Symphony of Lights at the Victoria Harbour.

On the same day, more than 12 artists, cartoonist and musician using a "Non-cooperate Method" in solidarity with Ai Weiwei at the Times Square in Causeway Bay, including pacing, calling for Ai Weiwei to back home, water spray graffiti on the floor, and posting notices on the ground etc.

- On 7 May

According to *Oriental Daily* and *The Sun*, Ai-inspired graffiti appeared at Tung Chung MTR Station.

- On 26 May

Hong Kong International Art Fair held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Swiss gallery Galarie Urs Meile exhibited Ai Weiwei's work *Marble Arm*.

On the same day, *Love the Future: An art and poetry exhibition* was opened. About 50 local artists exhibited works of art, to show their concern of "missing" of Ai Weiwei and other mainland human rights activists. It was curated by Art Citizens, held from May 26 to June 26, Art Island East Gallery. Participating artists include: Ai Weiwei, Almond Chu, Anothermountainman, Art Labour Solidarity, Ah Cat, Au Wah-yan, Beatrice Sam, Birdy Chu, Bobby Gram, Cheng Ka-yue, Cheng Chi-kin, Chung Wai-ian, Damon Tong, Ducky Tse, Emma Gutierrez, Hanison Lau, Him Lo, Juliet Lera Grey, Kacey Wong, Karden Chan, Kenneth Hung, Ko Siu-lan, Lee Kit, Lo Chi-kit, Luke Ching, Man Chan, Map Office, Miss Fat, Nadim Abbas, Ng Ka-chun, Ocean Leung, Otto Li, Ricky Yeung, Sara Wong, Stephanie Sin, Suitman Kim Young, Susie Law, Tangerine Chin, Tan Yuk-king, Timothy Zauho, Vinci Mok, Leung Chi-wo, Wen Yau, Wong Hin-yan and Wong Suk-king. Participating poets include: Cally Yu, Chan Fai-kin, Ken Chow, Kitty Hung, Liao Wei-tang, Lok Leung, QuanNan, Tang Siu-wa, wesleyman, Yuen Siu-cheong and Damian Cheng.¹

¹ Facebook Event: <http://www.facebook.com/events/151320004938234/>