

## **GALLERY STATEMENT**

Since its establishment in 1992, Galerie Urs Meile has been committed to the international presentation and dissemination of contemporary art – from painting and sculpture to photography, installation and video. The gallery has two locations – one in Lucerne, Switzerland and the other in Beijing, China. While its main center of operations is based in Switzerland, the Beijing gallery – located in the heart of the art district Caochangdi – has established itself as an international meeting place for collectors, curators and aficionados of the arts. The building complex designed by Ai Weiwei reflects influences from traditional Chinese architecture. It consists of five buildings, which offer large exhibition spaces, and also houses the studio for the artist-in-residence program initiated by the gallery.

Galerie Urs Meile was one of the first galleries worldwide to focus on the Chinese art scene. Since 1995, it has made some of China's most influential artists today internationally known. The gallery represents established artists such as Ai Weiwei, Wim Delvoye (in Asia), Xie Nanxing, Qiu Shihua, Not Vital and Wang Xingwei, as well as emerging artists such as Cheng Ran, Li Gang, Christian Schoeler, Julia Steiner and Yan Xing.

The artist-in-residence studio in Beijing offers Western artists the opportunity to work in China for several months and create a network within the Chinese art scene. The program also gives internationally established and emerging artists the chance to present site-specific projects that have been created especially for the Beijing gallery space.

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