

Father and Mother (Part 1)

A performance collaboration by artists YINGMEI DUAN & MONCEF RAYACHI

Date: 15 March 2013 - 9 April 2013 & 26 April 2013 - 15 May 2013

Location: China & Tunisia

Curator: YINGHUA DUAN & FATMA RAYACHI

“...As time goes by, do you ever think about yourself becoming an elderly person?

Can you picture your parents precisely in your mind without hesitation?

Compared with last time you saw them, how many differences can you notice? Are they getting slower? Are more wrinkles appearing on their faces?

In what position do you place your parents inside your heart?

Do you know what your parents aspirations for you are?...”

This performance takes place in China and Tunisia so is divided into two cultural parts which are separate but relate to each other closely. Situations vary according to where we live but in every culture children want to rebel against their parents irrespective of other distinctions. The artists will slow down during this period and look towards the people who have always stood by them and supported them throughout their life. The aim of the performance is to spend time with their parents and experience their daily life. In the past Yingmei Duan collaborated with artist Feng Weidong on a performance titled FILIAL PIETY, focusing on family dynamics is a consistent theme running through the artist's practice.



Both artists have been away from their parents for a long time, and have recently become conscious of them getting older. Sometimes the relationship and communication between children and parents can be difficult. Even when the children grow up they may not understand their parents completely, in this performance they will try and build on this relationship in a harmonious way. The artists will spend a concentrated time ACCOMPANYING their parents, and learn more about them by listening, observing, following, chatting, helping etc to explore their wishes and achieve some of their aspirations.



The two artists will communicate with each other for the duration of the performance, it is an ongoing project that will develop into parts involving different collaborators and also different family members. This collaboration will explore the relationship between parents and children in different cultures and allow people to question this relationship.