



For Immediate Release:

March 27, 2008

**Ming-Yuen S. Ma Presents
Xin Lu Video Bus Tours
As Part of the 24th Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival
Saturday, May 3rd and Sunday, May 4, 2008**

LOS ANGELES, CA – On Saturday, May 3 and Sunday, May 4, 2008, at 12:30pm, Los Angeles-based media artist **Ming-Yuen S. Ma** and Visual Communications will present two site-specific video bus tours featuring Ma's experimental videos from the *Xin Lu Project*. The *Xin Lu Video Bus Tour* is part of Visual Communications' 24th annual Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, and the tour bus will board at the Directors Guild of America, 7920 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90046, just west of Fairfax. In addition to the video screening on board the 50-seat tour bus, (imagine a screening-room-on-wheels) the audience will also experience a curated tour route along local geopolitical sites related to the content of the videos. Performances, created in collaboration with L.A. based solo performer/culture jammer **Kristina Wong**, will take place along the route. The tour includes a specially prepared lunch by Diep Tran, chef of **Good Girl Foods** and former chef of Blue Hen Organic Vietnamese Kitchen.

Tickets for the bus tour are \$25.00 including lunch and beverages. For complete program and ticket information call Visual Communications at 213-680-4462 x59 beginning April 2008 or visit <http://www.vonline.org/festival/>. To learn more about the artists, please visit <http://pzacad.pitzer.edu/~mma> and <http://www.kristinawong.com>. For more information on this event please visit <http://pzacad.pitzer.edu/~mma/work/work.html>.

Xin Lu is a large-scale media project exploring the intersections between autobiography, tourism, travel, immigration, exile, and displacement. In this project, Ma uses the metaphor of nomadism to examine his family history, which branches out from the former British colony of Hong Kong. He envisions *Xin Lu* (from the Chinese phrase *xin lu li qing*, literally translated as heart—road—experience — journey) as a conceptual road movie that travels in between cities and countries as well as language and identities. An autobiographical approach in this project allows for in-depth examination of displacement on all levels, where the specificity of Ma's personal and family history can bring out a broader analysis of social and political issues.

A major component of this project is four linked experimental videos. Three of the videos investigate significant points in a journey: departure (*Mother/Land*), passage (*Movements East—West*), and arrival (*Ios*). The fourth video, *Myth(s) of Creation*, is an examination of the travelogue itself, and acts as an index to the other pieces. During the *Xin Lu Bus Tour*, the four videos are shown on tour buses along a specially curated route. The aim of the site-specific tour is to link issues raised by the videos with local history and communities, thereby “siting” these videos to where they are shown. Examples of issues and communities include Chinese American experiences, queer social formations, haunted locales, and the many transnational spaces created by “legal” and “illegal” migrants. Local performance artists are invited to collaborate and participate as unconventional tour guides. Ma also participates on the tour, introducing and discussing the videos as they are screened. The anticipated length of the Los Angeles tour is 3 hours.

Ming-Yuen S. Ma is a Los Angeles-based media artist, and an Associate Professor in Media Studies at Pitzer College in Claremont, CA. His experimental videos and installations, including the *ReCut Project*

(2006), *THIS IS NOT A FOREIGN FILM* (2002), *Sniff* (1997), *Slanted Vision* (1995), *Between The Lines; Who Speaks?* (1994-6), *Toc Storee* (1992), and *Aura* (1991) have screened nationally and internationally in venues ranging from the Museum of Modern Art in New York to the notorious Coral Sands Motel in Hollywood.

Collaborating artists Kristina Wong is a nationally presented solo performer, writer, actor, educator, culture jammer, and filmmaker. The East Bay Express describes her as “Brutal but hilarious... a woman who takes life’s absurdities very seriously.” Noted for her quirky, culture-jamming, and subversive tactics, Wong takes an offbeat artistic approach to activism that upstages the strangeness of our times. In her irreverently signature style, Wong’s performances, presented both as announced events along the tour and as guerilla theater at unexpected moments, will give a vigorous shake to the notions of “cultural tourism” and “authenticity”, and turn some of these problematic notions on their heads.

Diep Tran is the owner of Good Girl Foods, a catering company specializing in Asian cuisines. She is currently in the process of opening up Good Girl Dinette, slated for summer 2008. For the Xin Lu Video Bus Tour, Tran will prepare a specially designed lunch box that features a sampling of Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Filipino baos (steamed buns), accompanied by a beverage choice of young coconut drink, Asian yogurt drink, or bottled water. Surprise dessert to be announced at a later date!

Founded in 1970, Visual Communications is the nation’s premier Asian Pacific American media arts center. The mission of Visual Communications is to promote intercultural understanding through the creation, presentation, preservation and support of media works by and about Asian Pacific Americans. Visual Communications will present the 24th edition of The Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival May 1 through 8, 2008 at the Directors Guild of America, Laemmle's Sunset 5 Theatre, and Aratani/Japan America Theatre, among others. The Film Festival will include the latest new works by established and emerging Asian American filmmakers and video artists; Asian international artists; and filmmaker seminars, panel discussions and symposiums on topics relevant to Asian Pacific cinema.

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For more information, to request a DVD, or interviews please contact Green Galactic’s Lynn Hasty at 213-840-1201 or lynn@greengalactic.com.