

PROJECT 35 VOLUME 2

CHEN ZHOU (China)

MORNING!, 2011

Single-channel video with color and sound

13 min., 12 sec.

Courtesy of the artist

Selected by PHILIP TINARI

Morning! is thirteen minutes of push-and-pull between a protagonist and a director. A gray room is fraught with tension, and a man broods over breakfast and suspects that everything has been arranged in his still-life world. He sits, a Bresson-esque model, noting the perfect framing of the shot and holding his cigarette just so. The room is a scene, which unfolds into a stage, which reveals itself to an audience, which applauds and laughs in unison as if to a script. This is an expansion of uncertain reality, caught in itself and unsure where it ends and who its participants are—a tinkle of silverware, the chirping of birds, a charcoal forest—until the protagonist (or so we thought) rises and exits, locking the flimsy door behind him.

— Philip Tinari

CHEN ZHOU (b. 1987, Zhejiang Province, China) graduated from the Digital Media Department of the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, China, in 2009. Working primarily in video, his artistic practice involves, among other topics, the investigation of the relationship between visual perception and the symbols and signs of language-based imagery. Chen Zhou is a founding member of the video art collective **3 Minute Group**, as well as a member of the artist collective **Company**, which includes Yan Xing, Li Ming, and Li Ran. Shortly after completing his degree, Chen was given a solo exhibition at Platform China Contemporary Art Institute Space, Beijing (2009). He has exhibited and screened his works internationally at venues such as Photo Tapei, Taiwan (2009), and the **1st and 2nd E-Arts Shanghai**, China (2007-08). Chen was a guest lecturer at Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing for their **China New Design** series, where he screened his film **Morning!** as well as footage of himself at work. Chen currently lives and works in Beijing, China.

PHILIP TINARI (b. 1979, Philadelphia, PA) is director of the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing, China's leading independent museum of contemporary art. Since 2009 he has also served as founding editor-in-chief of **LEAP**, the international art magazine of contemporary China. Tinari is a contributing editor to **Artforum** and adjunct professor at the China Central Academy of Fine Arts. Tinari is based in Beijing, China.

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