

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.
June 27, 2014

bāc-tā-gon presents the July Edition of A.M. Brainstorm

Constructing Pathways: The Multi-Disciplinary Practices Naturally Arising
from the Architectural Realm

Beijing, China. bāc-tā-gon is proud to present **A.M. Brainstorm's** fourth conversation on **Saturday, July 26th** at **11am** at **The Other Place**.

Join us for the July edition of A.M. Brainstorm, as exhibition designer and architect, **Jenny Chou** will be in conversation with Cruz Garcia and Nathalie Frankowski of **WAI Architecture Think Tank** to discuss themes that arise from the naturally multi-disciplinary practice of architecture.

Within a profession that requires rigging training and a very practical skill set, how do architects negotiate with themselves to maintain a creative balance? What are the skills needed to have a meaningful, ethical and successful architectural practice? How do architects negotiate their trade and skillset, which is hired and supported by a client, with the more conceptual and/or theoretical ideals they wish to preserve within their work? Given the day-to day of any architectural practice, what leads individuals towards other creative outlets, such as a "pure" artistic practice versus exhibition design - one that further engages the self, and one that further engages a public. When one's training, practice, and interests lead to different veins of inquiry, how does one avoid the trap of being "spread too thin"? Is there an archetypal "architect", and if so, has this conception shifted (or how is it shifting) in the contemporary age? What opportunities and challenges is the field presenting for today's young architects and architectural thinkers?

With special thanks to Opera Bombana for providing freshly baked pastries and to The Other Place for their beautiful courtyard space.

A.M. Brainstorm is a series of casual, monthly conversations inviting distinguished speakers to discuss the research and skills-set utilized within their practice, and the influences over their creative process. The brainstorms serve as a platform for multidisciplinary dialogues between the local Beijing and transient creative communities, exploring the ways in which methodologies of one discipline can vastly differ, despite from a distanced vantage point seem indistinguishable. The conversations will be self-moderated between two individuals of similar discipline on a given topic, with a new topic each month. Speakers will include practicing artists, curators, designers, architects, chefs, poets, authors, publishers, filmmakers, musicians + composers, amongst others. All talks are recorded and posted as audio podcasts available for free download on the bāc-tā-gon website. Coffee and light refreshments are provided by Opera Bombana. The conversations are free and open to the public.

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About

Jenny Chou (b. 1981, Taipei) is a multidisciplinary designer based in Beijing. She received her Bachelor of Architecture from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2004 with a minor in Contemporary Theory and Criticism, and her Master of Science in Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University GSAPP in 2008. A cross-disciplinary creative, Jenny explores different mediums and materials and in recent years has worked with Taiwanese Architect Hsieh Ying Chun, actively involved with the craft sector and working with local people and material to create sustainable housing systems. Using design and technology to interface with the skills and knowledge of artisans, she strives to make objects of daily use invaluable, accessible, and enjoyable. She has also served as visiting critic at City College of New York, Konkuk University in Seoul, the University of Hong Kong, and the China Academy of Arts in Hangzhou. Jenny was the assistant curator and exhibition designer for the International design exhibition at the 2011 Chengdu Biennale, and she also designed the exhibition for the Taiwan Pavilion at The 55th International Art Exhibition- la Biennale di Venezia 2013, "This is not a Taiwan Pavilion", curated by Esther Lu.

WAI Architecture Think Tank is an international studio practicing architecture, urbanism and architectural research. Founded in Brussels in 2008 by Puerto Rican architect, artist, author, and theorist Cruz Garcia (b. 1983, San Juan) and French architect, artist, author, and poet, Nathalie Frankowski (b. 1985, Dundee), WAI and its parallel artistic practice, GarciaFrankowski, is currently based in Beijing. WAI, standing for "What About It?" strives to make significant contributions to the collective intelligence of architecture, from the conception of intelligent buildings and master plans to the production of fresh research projects and innovative publications. Their recent project designs have been shortlisted for the *National Centre for Contemporary Arts* (NCCA) in Moscow, included in exhibitions at the *Museum of Modern Art* (MoMA) in New York, and printed in leading architecture publications. Garcia and Frankowski are also co-founding curators of Intelligentsia Gallery in Beijing.

bāc-tā-gon is a curatorial platform that cultivates research-driven projects to explore cultural engagement in China via the hybridity of disciplinary practice across visual art, design, architecture, performing art, music, literature, moving image and cuisine. Implementing strategic partnerships to sustain its projects, **bāc-tā-gon** and its collaborators collectively identify and (re)define alternative research methodologies, funding channels and content distribution pathways.

Conversation Details

Date: Saturday, July 26, 2014

Time: 11am

Location: The Other Place

Beijing, Dongcheng District, Langjia Hutong #1 (At the corner with Beilouguxiang) | 北京, 东城区, 郎家胡同1号(北锣鼓巷北口)

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