

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 13 May 2010
For immediate release



ED PIEN MEMENTO

Commissioned by the Chinese Arts Centre

Exhibition Dates: 24 July - 4 September 2010

Preview: Friday 23 July, 6 - 9pm

Memento is a contemplation of the human condition: how we act and react to the inescapable forces that shape us. Memento has been developed out of research into the plight of **illegal immigrants** who often take great risks in the hope of living a more significant and meaningful life. It also shows his interest in the supernatural.

Examples include '**snakes**' or '**ghosts**' (slam term to Chinese illegal immigrants), those **Chinese** who remain hidden in society (the tragedy that beset the cockle pickers), the **Faujjs**, from **India** as well as the "**burnt ones**" young **Moroccans**, some, attempting to cross the Strait of Gibraltar, perish along the way.

Memento is a walk-through installation and consists of **ropes, cut silhouettes, sound and video**. Memento transforms the entire gallery space into '**a haunting environment**' that the audience is invited to physically engage with.

The network of patterns is also reminiscent of the human circulatory system, passageways and maps. The video shown within the structure depicts the artist negotiating the might of churning waves emphasizing **human beings' vulnerability** as well as celebrating **the strengths** to confront and overcome difficulty. Memento is a continuation of Pien's ongoing interest in the otherworldly, invisibility, disappearance, and journeys. It poignantly reflects on the **displaced, forgotten and unseen** yet remains poetically **open-ended, embracing multiple interpretations**.

Alongside the exhibition, Ed will take part in some special activities as part of our Education and Events programme:

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- Saturday 24 July, Inking Up - 3D Ink Painting workshops, 2pm - 4pm
- Thursday 29 July, In Conversation with Ed Pien, 6pm
- Saturday 31 July, Shadow Play - Interactive Art workshops, 2pm - 4pm

- Ends -

For further Press information, images or enquiries please contact: Raam Tarat, *Marketing and Communication Manager* on E: raam@nae.org.uk T: 0115 924 8630 M: 077910 45090

Notes to Editors:

- Ed Pien's *Memento* will be on show from **Saturday 24 July - 4 September 2010**.
- The Preview takes place on Friday 23 July 2010
- Venue: **New Art Exchange**, 39-41 Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham NG7 6BE
- The exhibition has been commissioned by the Chinese Arts Centre
- Opening Times: Monday to Friday 10am - 7pm, Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sunday: Closed
- Admission to the exhibition is FREE
- For more information visit the NAE website: www.nae.org.uk

New Art Exchange

- **New Art Exchange was awarded £5million** of funding from Arts Council England, Nottingham City Council, the Greater Nottingham Partnership, East Midlands Development Agency, Radford and Hyson Green New Deal for Communities, and European Regional Development Funding, and took 18 months to build. The organisation was a big winner in Arts Council England's the January 2008 review of national arts funding gaining a 58% increase in its annual funding grant. The award was made in recognition of the organisation's vital role in supporting visual and performing arts.
- **The building designed by architects Hawkins\ Brown** boasts 5 -storey building provides 1360 sqm space dedicated to visual arts with; galleries, workshop/performance/rehearsal space, artists in residence facilities, and a cafe. Distinguished from the red clay buildings of the neighbourhood by its black brick façade and arrangement of frameless windows ranging in size (from 0.16 sqm to 4.84sqm), offers incidental and unexpected views into and out of the building.
- **Mission:** *The New Art Exchange ambition is to become a national centre of excellence promoting contemporary arts development within the cultural and creative industries, to deliver an innovative and exciting programme of activity to promote, support and advocate contemporary multi-cultural arts development in visual and performing arts and new media. To be a cultural centre led by African, African Caribbean and South Asian arts practice. To serve an international community from roots firmly embedded in the local area.*