



# EXCHANGE RADICAL MOMENTS!

Live Art Festival

**12.7.2011 – Sisyphos, der Flugelefant | Change Nai Wen – The Absent Hero Leads the Way**  
<http://11moments.org/hero>

## **Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival**

INTERVIEW #3: This time we meet with Chang Nai Wen from „Sisyphos, der Flugelefant“ which is an artist group from Berlin. They are part of the festival with their work „The Absent Hero Leads the Way“. Nai Wen, where are you at the moment?

### **Chang Nai Wen**

In Berlin!

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And what are you doing right now?

### **Chang Nai Wen**

I am trying to figure out why my computer is currently failing to connect to your page. At the same time I'm using my iPhone to answer your question. I wish I can type with ten Fingers soon instead of with only one. Yeah... my computer is awake again!

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Technology has its own will. But let's try ...

Berlin is a lively metropolis in the middle of Europe offering various cultural experiences. Which side of Berlin will you show us in „The Absent Hero Leads the Way“?

### **Chang Nai Wen**

It's a tough decision making process... Berlin has indeed a lot to offer. That's why it is so difficult to come up with a decision. We know for sure that Neukölln will be one of our two districts for the project. In fact we have just had a most fulfilling experience with our start-off tours in Neukölln at the festival "48 Hours Neukölln" a month ago. What I find most appealing in Berlin is the coexistence of its parallel worlds. In Neukölln you find yourself in a multicultural jungle just by walking down the street, let's say down Karl-Marx-Strasse and Sonnenallee for example. At the same time you could get completely lost in time just by turning into a smaller street from the main one, thinking you were in the 18th century. For our second part we managed to narrow down the options between Kreuzberg and Mitte meanwhile. In Kreuzberg, you have Turkish grocery stores next to art galleries and along one part of the canal you have a landscape of House Trailers whose inhabitants claim their right for an alternative way of living.



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## **Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival**

If you had to explain your project to a stranger in one sentence, how would you do that?

### **Chang Nai Wen**

Mitte used to be a part of East Berlin and its past is now coexisting with the present....maybe we will make a vote on our facebook page. ... Oh, there's another question already.

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Yes... If you give me the chance to ask, here again: If you had to explain your project to a stranger in one sentence, how would you do that?

### **Chang Nai Wen**

Sorry about the lengthy answer ... :- ) Ok, now one sentence: Our project is like a Treasure Hunt and all the participants get to become the heroes of this journey. Does that make sense to you after what you have experienced?

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Maybe you can tell us a little bit more about the aim of this journey ...

### **Chang Nai Wen**

Oh man... I still need to get used to the loops of Facebook interview. I probably need to reload the page each time I write something, right? There's not a real aim of this journey in a way that the participants would receive a trophy or something. Having said that, it is our great interest that the participants get to have a hell of a journey, which he could add on to his own life story.

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What was the most outstanding experience during the development phase of your project until now?

### **Chang Nai Wen**

Wow. Another tough question... I need to think about that... I don't think I could choose just one outstanding experience only. But maybe I could describe what those countless ones have in common?

I am not so sure whether I am such a big believer in the 'unknown' part of the universe. But I must say something indescribable keeps happening ever since "The Absent Hero" stepped into my life. It is something we would call "coincidence", "chance", "accident" – something



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we didn't plan for in the first place, you know? Does it sound very abstract? Maybe an example after all?

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How did you understand our festival theme „Exchange Radical Moments!“? What is a radical moment for you?

### **Chang Nai Wen**

For me the radicality of those moments of exchange lie in the direct communication among people. The face-to-face encounters enable people to be straightforward. Through the fun character of our project makes our participants to act on their own behalf without any constraints.

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Is there a coincidence between the meaning of our festival theme and your experiences during your development phase?

### **Chang Nai Wen**

Definitely. I discovered your call for submission two years ago on the net when I was looking for possibilities to present the workshop series that I started in 2009 on the topic of "The Absent Hero". And there I saw "EXCHANGE RADICAL MOMENTS!". I couldn't quite figure out what the festival was really about since it was not like a "theater festival" which I am more familiar with. But it was clear to me that "The Absent Hero" needed to go radical! So is that "coincidence"? I don't know... because if it is then there are way too many coincidence since then.

### **Exchange Radical Moments! Live Art Festival**

Where can visitors find more information about your project in the internet?

### **Chang Nai Wen**

[www.sdfprojekte.de](http://www.sdfprojekte.de) (where all the SISYPHOS, DER FLUGELEFANT projects are) or

[www.derabwesendeheld.de](http://www.derabwesendeheld.de) (where the visitors could take a look at our last tours in Neukölln)

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Thank you for this interview and good luck for the next steps!

### **Chang Nai Wen**

Thanks to you, too!