

ARTIST / FILMMAKER / P4 THEATER

HE FA 何发

Beijing, China / Photography, moving image, theatre and film



Human Surrender, 2023-2024. Film still.

He Fa is an artist and filmmaker based in Beijing, China. His practice encompasses photography, moving-image installations, theatre, film and writing. Early works fragment and reassemble photographs; Fafalish and YourTube bring language, bodies and screens into the image. As a co-initiator and long-term host of P4 Theater, he develops sustained processes of rehearsal, performance and filming. He initiated, produced and edited Human Surrender (Shoot Self with You), whose direction and screenplay are collectively credited to the crew.

hefa.p4theater.cn/en
563073224@qq.com
Instagram: @fa.p4theater

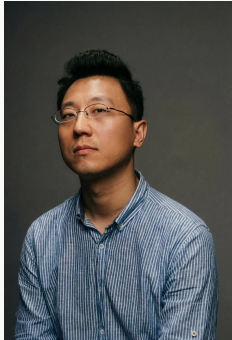
Biography & CV

He Fa works across photography, moving-image installations, theatre and film. Based in Beijing, he has also studied and made work in San Francisco. His early photographic practice, developed from around 2009, fragments and reassembles portraits, cities and landscapes. I, Shanshui, Central and Cocktail approach photography through bodily distance, montage, spatial rearrangement and the sorting of digital files.

Hamlet’s Mirror (2015) interweaves performance, projection and screens. Made during his time in San Francisco, Fafalish (2017) transforms translation, accent and transcription into video and printed text. YourTube (2018) organizes viewing through linked seats, multiple screens and exposed cables.

He Fa co-initiated P4 Theater with Zhang Shaohua and continues as its long-term host and organizer. This Beijing-based practice has worked in theatres, factories, offices, boxing spaces and bookshops, connecting recruitment, rehearsal, performance, documentation and writing. Human Surrender grew through collective rehearsals, filming and The Last Rehearsal performance in 2023, becoming a film of approximately 156 minutes in 2024. The end credits assign direction and screenplay collectively to the crew. He Fa is credited as initiator, producer and editor, with contributions to cinematography, art direction, rehearsal texts and subtitles.

He Fa studied photography in the School of Design at the Central Academy of Fine Arts and pursued MFA studies at California College of the Arts (CCA). Shanshui: Red and Shanshui: White were included in the CAFA Art Museum’s 2012 undergraduate collection. Fafalish was exhibited at CCA’s Simpson Library in 2017; in 2018 he participated in the CCA MFA Thesis Exhibition under the name Fa He. He currently uses the English name He Fa.



Selected education & public records

2008-2012	Photography studies, School of Design, Central Academy of Fine Arts.
2012	Shanshui: Red and White included in the CAFA Art Museum undergraduate collection.
2015-	Co-initiator of P4 Theater with Zhang Shaohua; long-term host and organizer.
2016-2018	MFA studies at California College of the Arts (CCA).
2017	Fafalish, CCA Simpson Library, San Francisco, October 2-December 15.
2018	CCA MFA Thesis Exhibition, Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco.

Chinese name: 何发. Current English name: He Fa. Historical English records also use Fa He; citations may retain the name as it appeared in the source.

Selected works / 1



Human Surrender / Shoot Self with You

2023–2024 / Film, rehearsal, live performance

Initiator, producer and editor; direction and screenplay collectively created by the crew

A collective film grows through recruitment, rehearsal and public performance. How does shared time enter the edit?

hefa.p4theater.cn/en/work/human-surrender/



YourTube

2018 / Multi-screen video installation

Artist; graduate thesis work

Screens are connected and people sit together. When does connection become participation?

hefa.p4theater.cn/en/work/yourtube/



Fafalish

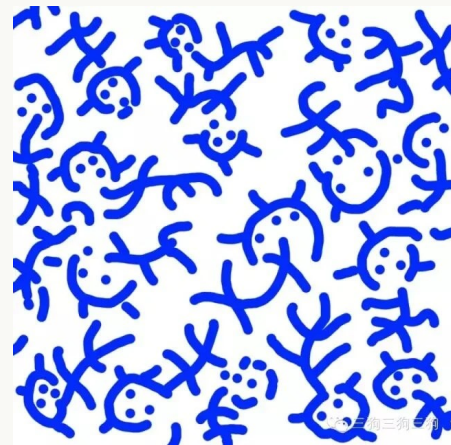
2017 / Language, video, printed text

Artist and exhibition curator

A sentence passes through translation, accent and transcription, becoming a situation between languages.

hefa.p4theater.cn/en/work/fafalish/

Image: CCA/C Archives , CC BY-NC 4.0 ; compressed derivative.



Sangou GIF Theatre

Listed in a 2016 proposal; public images and texts in 2022 / Online images, looping animation and text

FakingAosome: He Fa and Zhang Aoshuang

A virtual character builds a theatre through repetition, transformation and brief pieces of language.

hefa.p4theater.cn/en/work/sangou-gif-theatre/

Selected works / 2



I

2012 / Archival inkjet print

He Fa

A macro lens travels across the body; individual photographs assemble into an enlarged self-portrait.

hefa.p4theater.cn/en/work/i-2012/



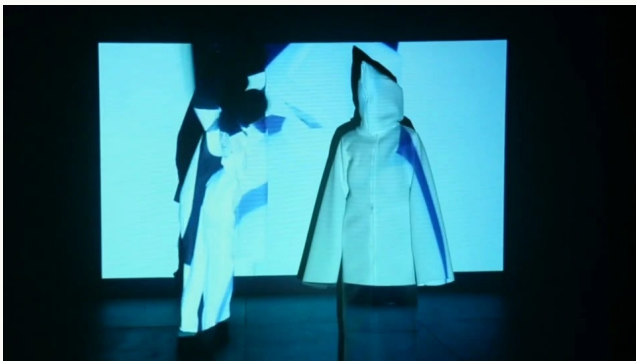
Shanshui

2012 / Photography, digital montage, light boxes

Artist

From a distance, a landscape. Up close, photographs made at different times and positions.

hefa.p4theater.cn/en/work/shanshui/



Hamlet's Mirror

2015 / Moving image and performance

Co-created by He Fa and Zhang Aoshuang (FakingAosome)

Performers, projections and screens reflect one another as Hamlet is broken into shifting fragments.

hefa.p4theater.cn/en/work/hamlets-mirror/



Central

2013 / Archival inkjet print

He Fa

Placing the sun among the mountains rearranges a space that photography cannot ordinarily show.

hefa.p4theater.cn/en/work/central-2013/

Selected works

Selected photography, moving image, installation, theatre, film and current digital form-making. Completed works and research in progress are identified; each project retains its specific credits, roles and material status.

17 entries / 1 / 2

2023–2024

Human Surrender / Shoot Self with You

Film, rehearsal, live performance

Initiator, producer and editor; direction and screenplay collectively created by the crew

2018

YourTube

Multi-screen video installation

Artist; graduate thesis work

2017

Fafalish

Language, video, printed text

Artist and exhibition curator

2019–2020

Shixiang

Photography theatre

Collaboration with Zhang Shaohua; theory, structure, framework and interpretation

2021

Final Solution

Participatory theatre, a deliberation game and process documentation

Purples co-initiation, participation in assemblies and authored reflection

Listed in a 2016
proposal; public
images and texts in
2022

Sangou GIF Theatre

Online images, looping animation and text

FakingAosome: He Fa and Zhang Aoshuang

2012

Shanshui

Photography, digital montage, light boxes

Artist

2012

I

Archival inkjet print

He Fa

2015

Hamlet's Mirror

Moving image and performance

Co-created by He Fa and Zhang Aoshuang (FakingAosome)

2013

Central

Archival inkjet print

He Fa

Selected works

Selected photography, moving image, installation, theatre, film and current digital form-making. Completed works and research in progress are identified; each project retains its specific credits, roles and material status.

17 entries / 2 / 2

2013	Cocktail Archival inkjet print He Fa
2013–2014	Wu Archival inkjet print He Fa
2014	Lose losing Any surface suitable for projection He Fa
2014	Touch touching Any surface suitable for projection He Fa
2012–2014	Untitled Archival inkjet print He Fa
2012–2013	Gewu Studio / Twelve Water Lamps Co-creation, 3D printing and product design He Fa: photography, conceptual development, form exploration and artistic direction; collaborative studio practice
2026–present	XIN GEWU Photography, objects and space He Fa: photography, conceptual development and artistic direction

Early explorations

Photographic studies, image experiments and records of reviews and processes from the artist's formative years. Original titles, images and statements trace the development of the work.

14 entries / 1 / 2

2018	chinesesamericandream / Instagram Thesis
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Network-based work, Instagram account, thesis

He Fa / Fa He

2017	Fa's review
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Documentary video

Fa He

2012	Fragments
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Photography, light box

He Fa

2011	Illusion
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Photography, light box

He Fa

2010	Sanhetan
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Photography, archival pigment print

He Fa

2010	Shunan Bamboo Sea
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Photography, light box

He Fa

2010	Appearance Arises from the Mind
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Photography, light box

He Fa

2010	Four-Dimensional People
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Photography, light box

He Fa

2010	Large Portraits / Portraits
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Photography, archival pigment prints

He Fa

2009–2012	The Forbidden City
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Photography, archival pigment print

He Fa

Early explorations

Photographic studies, image experiments and records of reviews and processes from the artist's formative years. Original titles, images and statements trace the development of the work.

14 entries / 2 / 2

2009

Yigui

Photography, light box

He Fa

2009

Inside and Outside a Vehicle

Photography, light box

He Fa

2009

Field of View

Photography, light box

He Fa

2009

Gathering

Photography, light box

He Fa

Collaborative practice

Work developed with P4 and other collaborators: initiating, programming, producing, participating and documenting. Each project identifies He Fa's contribution and retains the credits of others.

24 entries / 1 / 3

2023 **Becoming Wind, Breaking Waves**

Personal narrative, collective devising and documentation proposal

Facilitated the proposal and co-authored the call; proposed continuing documentation with a recording team

2023 **Personal Chronicle / PHA**

Interview archives, collective creation and public documentation

Author of the framework and declaration; P4 project organisation

2023 **Happiness Kingdom**

Collective puppet-making, role play and an evolving theatrical environment

Co-design of formats, rules and models, and organisation through P4

2023 **Breaking the Moon**

Theatre, rehearsal and production archive

Supervising producer; rehearsal discussion and creative coordination

2022 **Vortex**

North Wind Theatre collective creation

Collective creator, member of the announced performing roster, author of a signed article

2022 **Romance Theatre**

Continuing workshops, relational practice and documentation

Organisation and continuing practice, documented in his interview

2022 **World Question Center: Hangzhou Residency and A Common Festival**

Residency, collective rehearsal, interactive performance and work in public space

One of five project initiators; a named performer in A Common Festival

2021–2023 **Saturday Four-Hour Duel Club**

Interactive theatre, a voting game and a transcript archive

Purples co-initiation and collaborative development of its game models

2021–2022 **Iceberg**

Intimate live theatre

Producer

2021 **Purples / Purple Action**

Participatory theatre, role-playing and experiments in organisation

Co-initiated with Shen Bolun and Shao Yifan

Collaborative practice

Work developed with P4 and other collaborators: initiating, programming, producing, participating and documenting. Each project identifies He Fa's contribution and retains the credits of others.

24 entries / 2 / 3

2021 How to Eat a Banana?

P4X workshop
Initiator

2021 A Centrist's Self-Rescue Guide After the Failure of Love

P4U immersive theatre; associated writing
Author of the signed announcement "Who Are the Centrists?"

2021 Kill the Rose: 3P—Watching, Performing, Recording

Theatre event, 3P creative observation and exhibition proposal
3P group creator; author of the 3P recruitment text

2020–2021 The Rooftop Howler

Theatre, rehearsal and documentation
P4 organizing and 3P documentation

2020 Hallucination

Proscenium theatre and production practice
Production collaborator, according to his 2022 retrospective

2020 Cocoon

Dance theatre and collective production
Production and organisational collaboration, signed writing and participation in backstage interviews

2020 P4 Screenings: Reflections Between Us

Screenings, collective discussion and an ongoing participatory practice
Co-organisation, programme rules and authored project descriptions

2020 Paper Screening

Collective drawing, live narration and workshops
P4 Screenings framework and organisation; P4's collaborative programme with Lisa

2016 Shadow Counterpoint

Collective theatre, GIF and text
Named collaborator; collective P4 creation

2016 The Great Chain of Being: Planet Trilogy

Collective intermedia project and performative installation
Advanced-study cohort member, listed among the artists

Collaborative practice

Work developed with P4 and other collaborators: initiating, programming, producing, participating and documenting. Each project identifies He Fa's contribution and retains the credits of others.

24 entries / 3 / 3

2015–present	P4 Theater Long-term art practice, live work and archives Co-initiated with Zhang Shaohua; long-term host and organizer
2012–2013	Gewu Studio / Products and Spatial Experiments Parametric design, products, 3D printing, spatial proposals Co-founder and artistic director
Date not recorded	N/A Magazine: Founding Contribution Publication collaboration Founding Contributor, listed as Fa He
By 2016	Theatre Murder Case Immersive theatre, drama and games He Fa and Zhang Aoshuang / FakingAosome

Proposals

Surviving proposals for spaces, exhibitions and collective projects. Plans and drawings follow the original documents; planned dates and scale are distinguished from realised work.

5 entries / 1 / 1

2017	Long Long Ago / Project Proposal Collective art project proposal Long Long Ago Group
2016 (proposal document)	Time Canyon / The Disappearing Tail Proposal for spatial narrative, performance and a multisensory installation He Fa
2016 (proposal document)	Black Corridor of Spatiotemporal Echoes / Spatial Proposal Proposal for spatial division and a multisensory passage
2016	Hamlet's Mirror / Four-screen CAFAM Proposal Proposal for four-screen projection, live performance and real-time video He Fa and Zhang Aoshuang / FakingAosome
2016	The Invisible Odyssey / Performance Exhibition Proposal Collaborative performance exhibition proposal He Fa and Zhang Aoshuang / FakingAosome