China Quick-Fix
Daily-Life Improvisation in Contemporary China

Bill Aitchison

5pm, January 18 (Wednesday), 2017 (Rooms 8 & 9, FAMES)

Abstract  This talk explores the phenomenon of 'quick-fixes' (improvised repairs) that can be seen widely on the streets and in homes across China. These seemingly spontaneous and insignificant quick-fixes, when viewed as a whole, offer a unique way of viewing contemporary Chinese society. This talk introduces and comments upon the sizeable photographic archive of quick-fixes Aitchison has collected over the last three years, some of which is concurrently on show at a solo-exhibition in RichMix, London. In attempting to account for this phenomenon, the talk jumps across fields connecting documentary photography to craft techniques, generational politics, decision making processes, the status of public space, wealth distribution and recycling, to name but a few of the directions it shoots out in. It provides a ground level view of China during its current period of rapid urbanisation and modernisation and considers the quick-fix as the contemporary Chinese modus

All seminars take place on Wednesdays (unless otherwise arranged) at 5pm in rooms 8 & 9 in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. Tea will be served at the same venue at 4:45pm. All are welcome!
operandi. The talk is ambitious in scope, quirky in focus and nuanced in tone as, rather than seeing quick-fixes as a negative thing, it also communicates some of the creativity that can be found in them whilst never entirely forgetting the reasons that require them in the first place. Following the presentation of the China Quick-Fix archive there will be time for Q&A and discussion.

**Speaker** Bill Aitchison is a performance artist whose work been presented in museums, galleries, theatres, festivals and on radio in Europe, North America, the Middle East, Australia and China. His output is as prolific as it is diverse with projects taking an extremely diverse range of forms. Despite this, his work as a whole is recognisable for its formal clarity, ambition of intent, dry humour and its openness to site, both local and global.

Aitchison has produced art books, made several works for radio and has had his critical and journalistic articles published in several countries. He is a popular blogger on the subject of contemporary arts and tourism, is involved in lobbying for the arts at national and international level and has made several presentations in Brussels to European policy makers. Working collaboratively, he has co-authored, created, advised and performed original award winning works with choreographers, visual artists and theatre makers that have toured extensively around the world.

He is a graduate of Ecole de Mime Corporel Dramatique and the University of Wolverhampton, has an MA from Middlesex University and a practice-as-research PhD from Goldsmiths College in the field of performance art. He is currently based in China and working at Xiamen University and Nanjing University, where he teaches performance studies. He has given many workshops and lectured at graduate and post-graduate level and presented his work and research at numerous conferences and events in Europe, Asia, Australia and America.