

**童话项目**

**Fairytale Project**

**Fairytale-Projekt**

# 1. Overview

**Thank you for your interest in participating in a Fairytale Project workshop.**

**Fairytale Project is an entirely volunteer-based effort, and we welcome individuals interested in working with us to realize the project. Whether you are a beginner Mandarin speaker, taking German evening language classes, a professional translator, a bilingual/trilingual speaker, or simply interested in cultural dialogue, we need your help.**

**In 2007, Chinese artist Ai Weiwei initiated “Fairytale,” in which 1001 Mainland Chinese people were invited to Kassel, Germany to view and participate in Documenta 12, a respected European visual art exhibition. The tourists were divided into five groups, each group traveling in succession between June 12th and July 9th 2007. The extraordinary event of 1001 Chinese citizens traveling outside of China, many for the first time, enabled Ai Weiwei and the participants to discuss questions concerning identity, memory, love, dreams and the possibility of cultural dialogue.**

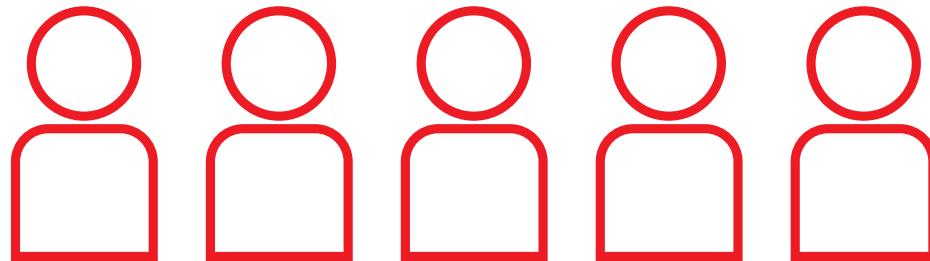
**In 2011, Ai Weiwei, Hong Kong-based curator Melissa Lee, and Aaron Levy of the Philadelphia-based Slought Foundation, began collaborating on a research project revisiting Fairytale. This work involves translating, archiving, and curating documents that the artist collected over the course of the project, predominantly through a global volunteer network. Our primary materials are participant questionnaires, snapshots, and recorded interviews that Ai Weiwei conducted with the participants. Of particular interest to us are the experiences, memories, and understandings of these participants.**

**As the translation process continues, so the fairytale unfolds for more of us.**

## 2. Watch a Video

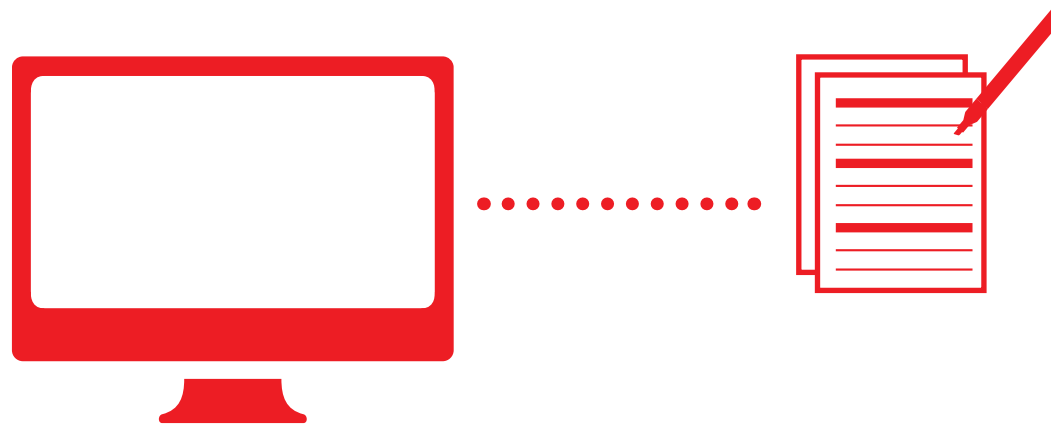
Central to Fairytale Project are the 99 questions that Ai Weiwei asked 1001 participants to answer in 2007. Their responses at times assert or interrogate the universality of culture, ethnicity, and society. This project revolves around the translation of these experiences and documents across other languages and cultures. In this way, translation becomes here another form of cultural inscription and exchange.

**Watch a short video with more information about how and why this workshop has been organized. When you are ready, your workshop facilitator will provide you with access to the video.**



# 3. Complete an Application

In 2007, a letter was sent to the Fairytale Participants by FAKE Design, the studio of Ai Weiwei. Upon receipt of this letter, participants were responsible for completing an application made up of 99 questions posed by Ai Weiwei.



**We invite you to briefly answer as many of these questions as time permits, to help you relate to the experiences of the 1001 original participants. Please be sure to carefully read and truthfully fill out each question.**

**When you are ready, your workshop facilitator will provide you with access to an online form.**

## **4. Review an Archived Application**

**Now that you have completed an application, we invite you to consider how the application was completed by one of the original participants.**

**As a workshop, navigate the website together. Use the website filters to choose 1 entry from the 1001. Consider the participant's application as a group.**



# Navigate the Website

The website's default view features all the participants.



When filters are selected, the corresponding participants are highlighted.



# Use the Website to Filter Stories

View the 1001 participants as a grid (default) or on a map.

肖像 / Grid / Raster



地图 / Map / Karte



Filter by the available options: language, gender, region, generation, and/or themes.

## 童话项目 Fairytale Project Fairytale-Projekt

1. 选择视图 / Select View / Ansicht auswählen:  
肖像 / Grid / Raster

2. 选择过滤器 / Select Filters / Filter auswählen:

语言 / Languages / Sprachen

性别 / Gender / Geschlecht

地区 / Region / Region

出生年代 / Generation / Generation

主题 / Themes / Themen

重置过滤器 / Reset Filters / Filter zurücksetzen

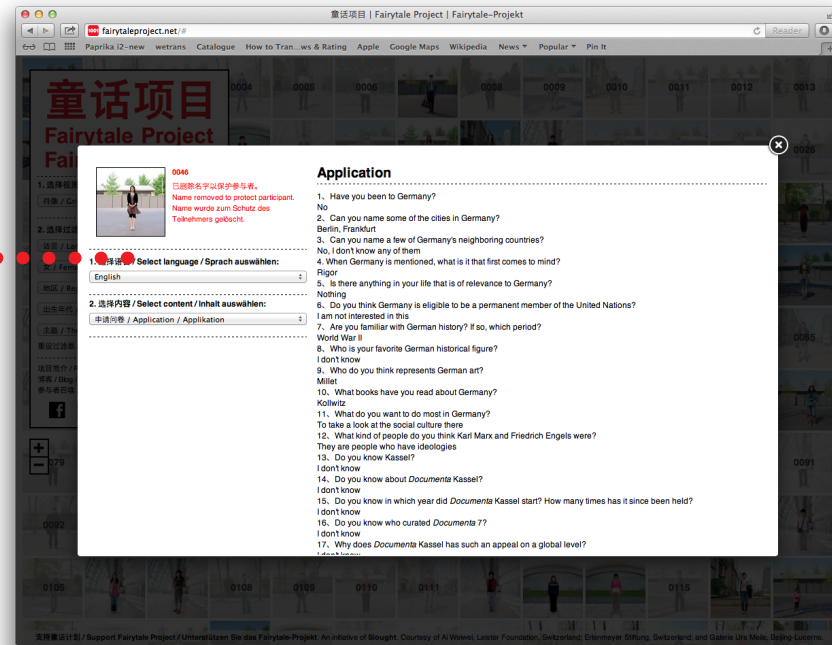
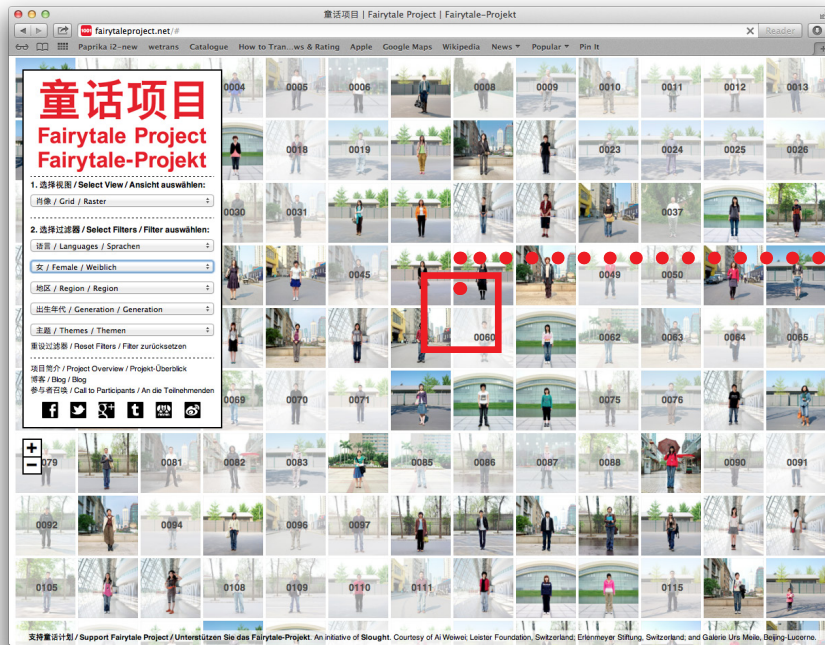
项目简介 / Project Overview / Projekt-Überblick  
博客 / Blog / Blog  
参与者召唤 / Call to Participants / An die Teilnehmenden

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# Select the Participant

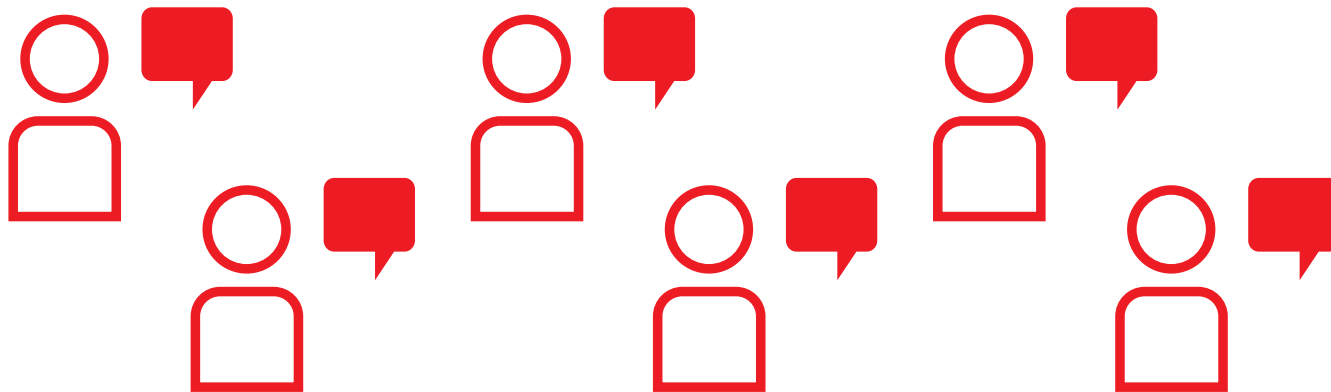
Click on a participant's photo. Learn about their experiences and read their application.



# 5. Translate Culturally

The Fairytale workshop is about language and how you imagine other people and cultures. Your response to Ai Weiwei's 99 questions, and the responses of the original selected Fairytale participant from the archive are examined together.

In the conversation that follows, consider the language you used to respond to these questions, and the language of the original participant you selected from the archive. What does your choice of language reveal about your cultural perspective compared to the fairytale participants? What are the similarities? Differences? Can you draw any conclusions by comparing both set of answers about the project in general? How does *Fairytale* and your responses imply or question the universality of culture, ethnicity, and society?



**We invite you to revisit your responses to the questions below in thinking through these questions. Select your own questions to advance other points for discussion.**

**23. 你了解西方对中国的幻想或是恐惧吗？**

**Do you understand Western fantasies or fears about China?**

**24. 什么是你想告诉西方社会的？**

**What would you like to tell the West?**

**25. 什么是童话？**

**What is a fairytale?**

**27. 在《童话》中你扮演怎样的角色？**

**How do you see yourself as a participant in Fairytale?**

**32. 你认为这个时代有童话吗？**

**Do you think there are fairytales in this day and age?**

**34. 艺术家需要怎样的特质？**

**What kind of person is an artist?**

**37. 艺术能改变这个世界吗？**

**Can art change the world?**

**55. 没有梦想的国家会变成什么样子？**

**What would a country be like without dreams?**

**56. 你对自己、国家及人类的梦想是什麼？**  
**What are your dreams for yourself, your country, and human kind?**

**57. 旅行对人生有什麼意义？**  
**What significance do you think travel has in one's life?**

**65. 你是谁？**  
**Who are you?**

**69. 你最想改变自己什么？**  
**What would you most like to change about yourself?**

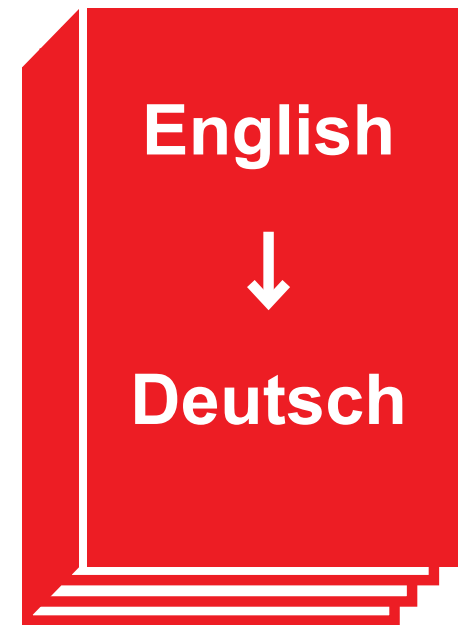
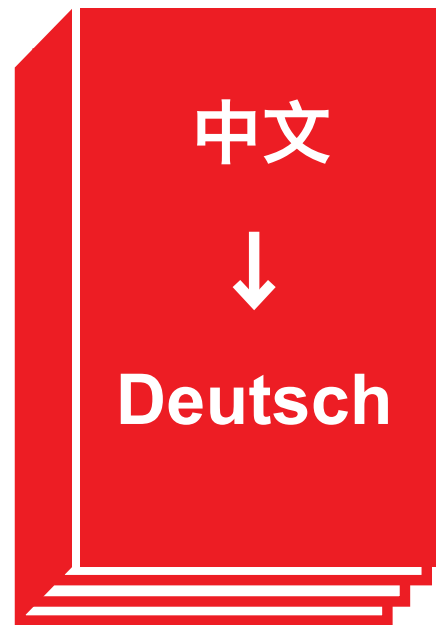
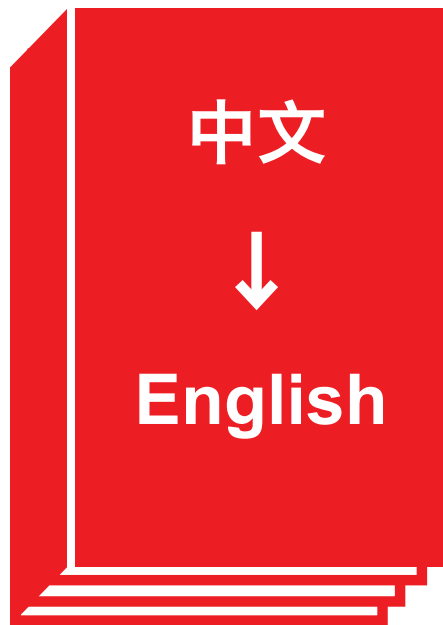
**75. 自由对于生活重要吗？**  
**Is freedom important to life?**

**90. 中国有哲学吗？**  
**Does China have a philosophy?**

**94. 你相信未来吗？**  
**Do you believe in the future?**

# 6. Translate Linguistically

As a workshop, divide into groups of 2–4, and choose the fairytale participant questionnaire or interview you wish to translate. Consult with the organizer and if necessary, divide the document into workable sections given the size and proficiency of the workshop.



**Regroup once you have completed your section, and discuss the translation process. What problems did you encounter in your translation? What were some words that seemed “untranslatable”? Did you attempt to translate word for word or was your translation more creative?**

**What can be said about the participants based on their responses? Consider the word choices you are proposing. Are they familiar or formal? Has the participant’s voice been translated clearly and consistently across all sections?**

**As a group, what would you want a reader to take away from your collective translation? What tensions are revealed in the process of translating this document? Does the translation alter your perspective on the universality of culture, ethnicity, and society?**



# 7. Share

We're eager to review and publish online the results of your workshop!  
Workshop participants are able to remain anonymous or named as preferred.  
Please send us your collated materials and a representative image to [info@fairytaleproject.net](mailto:info@fairytaleproject.net)

Please also contact us if, having now participated in a workshop, you would like to facilitate one. We recommend hosting workshops in classrooms, museums, civic institutions, or other communal spaces that welcome cultural dialogue.



**谢谢!**

**Thank you!**

**Danke!**