

About Living Dance Studio, Beijing, China

The Beijing-based dance theatre company, Living Dance Studio (LDS) was founded in 1994 by choreographer Wen Hui and documentary filmmaker Wu Wenguang. Before starting this company together, both artists were already well-known and respected for their achievements in their respective fields.

The Living Dance Studio is unique in China in various ways:

- They are an independent company, which means they get no funding from and are not facilitated in any other way by the Chinese government.
- Their style of working and their productions bring together dance, video, stories, sets, lighting and music to document routine and personal acts of life in modern China. As the LDS aims at stimulating the production of contemporary dance in China, they invite different dancers, actors, writers, musicians, visual artists and filmmakers to collaborate with them in each production. The artistic process of creating a piece is just as important as the result.
- Through the themes addressed in their work, LDS makes very personal work that encapsulates life in China with a documentary eye. According to Wen Hui: "We want to focus on the true daily life and show what we are feeling and what is going on now. That is why we named the company 'Living Dance'. We have to give people questions, not answers".

Living Dance Studio's works includes *100 Verbs* (1994), *Living Together / Toilet* (1995), *Breathe with the Earth* (1996), *Dining with 1997* (1996), *Skirt/Video* (1997), *Report on Giving Birth* (1999), *Dancing with Farm Workers* (2001), *Report on Body* (2003), *Time/Space* (2004), *Report on 37.8 °* (2005), *Outlands* (2006), *Skirt* (2007), *Memory* (2008), *Treating* (2009).

Wen Hui Choreographer / Dancer

Wen was born in Yunnan, China. She started her professional dance training in Yunnan Art School when she was 13 years old, and her dance study in the school was for four years. After having worked as a dancer and dance teacher for years, she studied choreography in the Beijing Dance Academy in 1985, and graduated in 1989. Wen then worked in the Orient Dance & Song Company in Beijing as choreographer. Since 1994, she co-founded Living Dance Studio with Wu Wenguang in Beijing, and she worked on all their performance works as choreographer. In 2005, together with Wu Wenguang, the Living Dance Studio moved to an independent art space CCD Workstation in Beijing.

Wu Wenguang Dramaturg / Video Designer

Wu was born in China's Yunnan province in 1956. After graduating from high school in 1974, Wu was sent to the countryside, where he worked as farmer for four years. Between 1978 and 1982, he studied Chinese Literature in Yunnan University. Wu moved to Beijing in 1988 to be an independent documentary filmmaker and freelance writer. He co-founded Living Dance Studio with Wen Hui in 1994 and worked on all their performances from conception as performer, video maker and producer. In 2005, together with Wen Hui, the Living Dance Studio moved to an independent art space CCD Workstation in Beijing.