

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**16 JANUARY 2012**

# CARRIAGEWORKS

Carriageworks and Creative Asia present

## **SOUND KAPITAL**

**Projections by Matthew Niederhauser**

**Live performance by AV Okubo, Nova Heart & Xiao He**

**Carriageworks - 3 February 2012**

Part of the 2012 City of Sydney Chinese New Year Festival

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*"A new wave of Chinese musicians is taking Beijing by storm. This burgeoning group of performers are working outside government-controlled media channels, and in the process, capturing the attention of the international music community. They now constitute a fresh, independent voice in a country renowned for creative conformity and saccharine Cantonese pop." - Sound Kapital by Matthew Nederhauser*

Direct from Beijing, exclusive to Carriageworks and for one night only, you can discover the wild energy of Beijing's underground music scene with three of Beijing's most explosive cult bands, **AV Okubo**, **Nova Heart** and **Xiao He**. Featuring large scale projections from photographer Matthew Nierderhauser's acclaimed work, **Sound Kapital**, whose powerful images capture the energy of the live music revolution gripping Beijing's underground scene.

This highly anticipated event at Carriageworks will be the largest showcase of contemporary Chinese rock to tour to Australia, and aims to expose local audiences to the raw energy, unique style and innovation of China's contemporary underground music scene. The three bands featured in the Sound Kapital line up will make their Australian debut at Carriageworks:

### **Nova Heart**

The long awaited solo project from 'Queen of Beijing rock' Helen Feng, bringing a mix of sexy psychedelic disco with lo-fi ethereal pop vocals. A sinister disco beat is buried under haunting soundscapes, led by Feng's much talked about, siren-like stage presence giving the live shows a dark, unpredictable edge.

### **AV Okubo**

Headliners of the 2010 SouthbySouthwest festival, AV Okubo have recently returned from a tour of the US with Chinese cult heroes Carsick Cars and PK14. The combination of retro-amusements and deeper social critique, along with their ferocious dance rhythms, has quickly brought this young band to the attention of fellow musicians and audiences across China and internationally.

### **Xiao He**

Xiao He is one of the most creative and influential leaders of the Beijing music scene, with his multi-faceted improvised performances, or "Free Folk". Xiao He has become the inventor of a deeply weird and immensely moving style of music, mystical and surreal, which abruptly veers from the plaintive cries of Mongolian or Western Chinese music to the barbed humour of the avant-garde.

### **Projections by Matthew Nederhauser**

Photographer Matthew Nederhauser has become internationally renowned for his work in rapidly developing urban China. His recent publication [Sound Kapital](#) chronicles the seething punk underground of Beijing. Nederhauser will present a free artists talk, and large scale projections of his work will feature during the performances of **AV Okubo**, **Nova Heart** and **Xiao He** at Carriageworks.

Nederhauser's work covering youth culture and urban development in China has appeared in The New Yorker, Le Monde, Guardian Observer, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and Time Magazine in the US.

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WHAT	<b>Artists Talk: Matthew Nederhauser, Photographer</b>
WHEN	6PM, Friday 3 February 2012
PRICE	Free
WHAT	<b>AV Okubo, Nova Heart and Xiao He</b>
WHEN	8PM, Friday 3 February 2012
PRICE	\$25 + booking fee
BOOKINGS	<a href="http://www.carriageworks.com.au">www.carriageworks.com.au</a> or 1300 723 038

## MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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## EDITORS NOTES

### NOVA HEART

Lead singer, songwriter, and filmmaker, Helen Feng, aka Nova Heart has been an influential figure of the Chinese music scene and has helped shape it for almost a decade. Her two previous bands include Free the Birds (ZIYO) and Pet Conspiracy, both critically and commercially successful, with former ZIYO releasing on Warner Music in 2008, and Pet Conspiracy, known for its wild and exhilarating live performances, winning best Chinese Language band in Asia in 2010.

Critics praise Nova Heart:

*"Dark, sexy and beautiful - Music Karl Lagerfeld would be proud of"* - Alex Chow, Creative Director, Vogue China

*"In a scene where a lot of rock stars take themselves a bit seriously, Helen Feng's out-and-out ... theatricality is a breath of fresh air. Watching her... you're guaranteed to get a great performance"* - Time Out

Website: [www.fakemusicmedia.com/artist/nova-heart/](http://www.fakemusicmedia.com/artist/nova-heart/)

Douban: <http://site.douban.com/NovaHeart/>

Soundcloud: <http://soundcloud.com/novaheart/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nova-Heart/211992295524438>

Myspace: <http://www.myspace.com/nova-heart>

Youtube [www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTRMmrHnFIQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTRMmrHnFIQ)

### AV Okubo

Formed in 2006 in the dirty industrial megalopolis of Wuhan, traditionally the home of China's hardest and wildest punk scene, AV Okubo has captured the eyes and ears of China.

Hong Kong experimental cinema, 80's Kungfu movies, triad gangsters, Chinese and Japanese cartoons, and China's early space program all collide together in AV Okubo's sound to create a weird kaleidoscope of modern Chinese sensibilities. The combination of retro-amusements combined with deeper social critique, along with their ferocious dance rhythms, has quickly brought this young band to the attention of fellow musicians and audiences across China and internationally, recently headlining at Austin's SouthbySouthwest festival in 2010, and touring the US with Beijing music legend's Carsick Cars and PK14. AV Okubo are represented by Beijing's best-known indie label, Maybe Mars.

Website: <http://maybemars.org/index.php/artists/av-okubo/?lang=en>

MySpace: <http://www.myspace.com/avokubo>

### Xiao He

Xiao He is one of the most creative and influential leaders of the Beijing music scene. Besides his recordings and his solo and ensemble music performances, he is active in drama, writes incidental music, and is a creative force in the underground movie industry.

Except for a very few special performances with his band Glorious Pharmacy, today Xiao He only plays solo performances. Calling these multi-faceted improvised performances “Free Folk”, as much to express his anarchic playfulness as to suggest the total freedom which he approaches musical instrumentation, vocal performances and stylistic experimentation, he has become the inventor of a deeply weird and immensely moving style of music, mystical and surreal, which abruptly veers from the plaintive cries of Mongolian or Western Chinese music to the barbed humour of the avant garde. Complementing his stylistic creativity is a wholly unique way of playing acoustic guitar, loops, synthesizers and any other instrument that catches his fancy.

Xiao He is represented by Beijing’s best-known indie label, Maybe Mars.

Website: <http://maybemars.org/index.php/artists/xiao-he/?lang=en>

Myspace: <http://www.myspace.com/pekingxiaohe>

## **MATTHEW NEDERHAUSER**

### **Excerpt from Sound Kapital**

*On October 3, 2007, I first entered D-22—a dive bar featuring live music in Beijing’s university district—to check out the current underground offerings. Nothing prepared me for what was to come: the next four bands completely floored me with their intensity, sincerity, and ingenuity. At the end of the night I fought my way out of a teeming mosh pit, camera barely intact, and left D-22 with some of my first images documenting the personalities behind the creative orgy driving Beijing’s underground.*

*The portraits presented in Sound Kapital are a comprehensive survey... capturing a moment in time in China’s musical evolution...the musicians featured are some of the most important contemporary performers emerging from the underground. They constitute a formidable new wave of artists striving to expand their creative limits in an autonomous and compelling fashion... There is no doubt that they will continue to break ground within Beijing’s nascent artistic landscape, helping to push the boundaries of an already expanding realm of independent thought and musical expression in China.*

- Excerpt from *Sound Kapital*, by Matthew Nederhauser

Website: <http://www.mdnphoto.com/soundkapital>

### **Links and Reviews**

[Washington Post: Beijing Surprise - A 'Sound Kapital' of indie rock](#)

[Economist: China's Underground Punks](#)

[CNN: Beijing's rock scene through the lens of Matthew Nederhauser](#)

[NPR: Sound Kapital And Beijing's Rock'n'Roll Rebellion](#)