

PRESS RELEASE

# OPEN2006 PRIZE

6<sup>th</sup> Edition

Special Prize parallel to the 63<sup>rd</sup> International Film Festival of Venice

**The Artist Omar Galliani  
awards the OPEN2006 PRIZE  
to the Director Jia Zhangke for the film "Dong"**

**Award-giving ceremony on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 4.00 p.m.  
at Palazzo del Casinò - Sala Perla, Venice – Lido**

Arte Communications, in collaboration with the Centro Italiano per le Arti e la Cultura, launches the 6th edition of the OPEN Prize, on the occasion of OPEN2006, 9th International Exhibition of Sculptures and Installations. The prize awards a director taking part in the 63rd Venice International Film Festival whose work reveals, in an unprecedented way, a fruitful interest in the fascinating theme of the mutual interaction between art and cinema, two art forms which live on image and are nourished by the desire to express emotions. The winning director has been selected by the jury, composed of the President Paolo De Grandis and the jury members Vincenzo Sanfo, Chang Tsong-zung and Gloria Vallese. The OPEN2006 prize is a work conceived and realised by the artist Omar Galliani who will present the sculpture to the winning director at the award ceremony. The President of the Jury, Paolo De Grandis, gave this interpretation of the work: "In documenting the journey of the painter Liu Xiaodong through the rural and industrial areas of China, Jia Zhangke traces an extremely effective picture of the life of one of the exponents of the New Generation of Painters of Cynical Realism together with the representation of the social context in China. With 'Dong', Jia Zhangke experiments the emotive, social and cultural density of Chinese art, offering an important testimony of the reciprocal correspondence between art and the cinema". The institution of this award, conceived in 2000 by Pierre Restany, developed parallel to OPEN, the International Exhibition of Sculptures and Installations, which opened its ninth edition this year on 20th August at Venice Lido. In the first four editions the Prize was produced by the artist Mimmo Rotella and in the 2005 edition by Sebastian. Previous winning directors were Joao Botelho with the film *Quem es tu?*, Julie Taymor with *Frida*, Takeshi Kitano with *Zatoichi*, Marziyeh Meshkini with *Sag - haye velgard* and in 2005 Stanley Kwan with *Everlasting Regret*. The OPEN exhibition has been held for nine years, coinciding with the Venice Film Festival, confirming the precise intent to strengthen the bond that exists between art and the cinema; the creation of this prize bears witness to this close and fertile relationship.