

廣東  
中國淑女



# CANTON, the Chinese

a film by Robert Cahen and Rob Rombout

52' - Digi Beta - Color - 2001

→ With

**Christian MERER**  
**Chian TSI (Carine)**  
**Chen TONG**  
**Lin YILIN**  
**Zhang HAIER**

→ Production

**LES FILMS DE L'OBSERVATOIRE**

→ In association with

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Urbaine de Strasbourg**

# CANTON, la Chinoise

a film by Robert Cahen and Rob Rombout



52' - Digi Beta  
color - vostf & vosta - 2001

## CANTON, la Chinoise

a film by Robert CAHEN and Rob ROMBOUT

- Based upon an original idea by **Robert CAHEN**
- Translations by **Lai-Ying SALIN, Wang XIAOJIE**
- Editing **Maureen MAZUREK**
- Sound editing and mixing by **Gilles MARCHESI**
- Executive Producer **Philippe AVRIL**
- Photography, sound recording, script and direction by **Robert CAHEN, Rob ROMBOUT**

**They say Canton is the most chinese of cities.** But it is also a megalopolis where eight million people live. A limitless, endlessly rebuilt city, with no apparent structure. A furious city where the remnants of the past are disappearing under the concrete and tarmac, where chaos rules over the organization of time and space... A city that embodies a system which is not a system any more.

The protagonists, or messengers, of the film, are between two cultures (Christian Mérer, Chen Tong), between two systems, (Carine... her family), or between two conceptions of art (Lin Yilin, Zhang Haier). Each of them is preoccupied by his own cultural survival. Above all, they are doomed to observe a gigantic urban transformation.

In this experimental documentary, the five characters form an involuntary group faced with the human mass. There is constantly a screen between these actors and their décor – a window, photograph, painting, language difficulty, etc.

Being in China without being in China. Intimate feelings, tellings signs, strolls. Words and images blend into the vision of an incredibly mobile and perhaps imaginary city...

### Robert CAHEN

born in Valence, worked in Paris and Mulhouse. After earning a degree from the National Higher Conservatory of Music of Paris in 1971, he became a member of the Musical Research Group of ORTF and then took charge of experimental video research (INA) until 1976. He has also won the Villa Medicis "beyond the walls" prize (1992). Robert Cahen, trained as a composer, studied with Pierre Schaeffer, and became, in twenty years' time, one of the most important personalities in the field of video creation. He set up a permanent video installation in Lille at Euralille (1995) and has taken part with his installations since 1997 at different international Contemporary Art exhibitions (Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Canada, Peru, US, France).

### FILM-VIDEOGRAPHY (SELECTION):

*L'invitation au voyage* (1973) – *Karine* (1979) – *Arrêt sur Marche* (1979) – *L'entra-perçu* (1980) – *Juste le temps* (1983) – *La danse de l'épervier* (1984) – *Les Carte Postales Vidéo* (1986), co-directed with Stéphan Huter et Alain Longuet – *Hong-Kong Song* (1986) – *Dernier Adieu* (1988) – *Boulez / Repons* (1989) – *Rodin / Fragments* (1990) – *Voyage d'hiver* (1993) – *Sept visions fugitives* (1995) – *Corps Flottants* (1997) – *Canton, la Chinoise* (2001)

Production and commercial distribution

**LES FILMS DE L'OBSERVATOIRE**

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### Rob ROMBOUT

born in Amsterdam, has been living and working in Brussels for twenty years. He has succeeded, over the years, in creating approximately ten documentaries whose cinematographic world, so unique and personal, can readily be recognised. Not only has his films been selected but he has also received awards at international festivals and had his work broadcasted by Belgian, French and international television networks. He teaches documentary cinema in Strasbourg and at Hogeschool St Lukas of Brussels. He also organizes documentary workshops in Brazil, Portugal and Canada.

### FILM-VIDEOGRAPHY (SELECTION):

*Entre deux tours* (1987) – *Nord Express* (1990) – *Transatlantique* (1992) – *L'île noire* (1994) – *Les Açores de Madradeus* (1995) – *Amsterdam via Amsterdam* (1999) – *Le piège de Kerguelen* – *Perm-mission* (1999) – *Canton, la Chinoise* (2001).

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Non profit distribution

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