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## Beijing's first non-governmental biennale assessed

Posted by News on 26 August 2009 at 5:27pm

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The Art Newspaper's report on Beijing's fledgling 798 Biennale is in and the results are mixed. China's first non-governmental biennale saw a chaotic opening on the 15th August due to the censoring of major works by artists, including pieces that referenced last year's Sichuan earthquake. The opening ceremony was interrupted by a group of artists who appeared to be protesting against their exclusion from the exhibition. Meanwhile, the biennale has been hampered by scarcity of funds, lack operational support, and some inexperience on the part of the organisers, who were predominantly Chinese art journalists, as well as soaring temperatures. Still, what work was left in the biennale was deemed strong enough to hold attention and while the actions of the Chinese government proved difficult, the fact of its existence suggests there is hope for similar future showcases in the People's Republic.

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- [December](#) (49)
- [November](#) (53)
- [October](#) (24)
- [September](#) (3)
- [August](#) (1)
- [July](#) (10)
- [June](#) (2)

### 2009

- [September](#) (56)
- [August](#) (75)
- [July](#) (94)
- [June](#) (78)
- [May](#) (57)
- [April](#) (72)
- [March](#) (40)
- [February](#) (57)
- [January](#) (52)

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- [beijing 798 biennale](#) (1)
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