

# CALENDAR

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Photographs by BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

**AN ARMFUL:** Zhang Huan's 15-ton "Three Heads, Six Arms" stretches out in the plaza in front of San Francisco's City Hall.

## In grand form

Zhang Huan's monumental 'Three Heads' lands in San Francisco — a harmonic convergence for the Chinese artist best known for intense performance art.

**JORI FINKEL** REPORTING FROM SAN FRANCISCO >>> The last time that the Chinese art star Zhang Huan made a public appearance here, just over a decade ago, he was lying face down on an uprooted tree, naked, covered with dog food. A pack of nine dogs, invited to participate in his performance, fought for the chance to lick it off. One bit the artist.

This week, Zhang flew into town from Shanghai for the dedication ceremony for "Three Heads, Six Arms": a 15-ton, two-story tall sculpture, considered the artist's largest to date, which has been installed in the plaza in front of City Hall. The San Francisco Arts Commission brought the work to town as part of its public art program and as a way of promoting a "sister city" alliance with Shanghai.

It was, to say the least, a more welcoming event. For starters, the artist was fully clothed, wearing baggy gray pants and jacket. And this time, it was a mixed crowd, with schoolchildren, a few Buddhist monks, and some prominent Chinese American business leaders in the audience and Mayor Gavin Newsom among the speakers.

But perhaps the biggest difference was the artwork itself: a child-friendly, plaza-ready sculpture, [See 'Three Heads,' D14]



**HAND:** Anika Shrestha, 4, leans on the piece, one of the Chinese artist's most approachable works.