

SYLLABUS

ART AND THE WORLD: CHINA

China's re-emergence as a global economic power has coincided with its growing importance in the international contemporary art world. NGV curators and special guests guide participants through China's social, political and cultural history, discovering the development of Chinese art from past to present.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Introductory knowledge of Chinese history and philosophy including Confucianism, Daoism and the influence of these philosophies on contemporary Chinese culture
- Understanding of key themes in traditional Chinese art and culture, such as the role of nature
- Understanding of the impact Communism and socialist ideology on Chinese art and culture, from the Cultural Revolution to today
- Insights into the development of the contemporary Chinese and global art markets
- Skills in analysing, interpreting and discussing contemporary Chinese art and artists
- Understanding of China's contemporary, social environmental concerns and how they have informed contemporary art

PROGRAM OUTLINE

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE ART, CULTURE AND BELIEFS

Discover the profound impact of cultural traditions and beliefs on the development of Chinese art over centuries.

VENUES

- Members Lounge, NGV International
- Exhibition Space, *Terracotta Warriors: Guardians of Immortality & Cai Guo-Qiang: The Transient Landscape*

PROGRAM OUTLINE

6.30–6.40	Welcome and introduction
6.40–7.00	Presentation: Confucianism, Buddhism and Other Beliefs in Traditional Chinese Culture Speaker: Chunmei Pan
7.00–7.10	Move to Exhibition Space
7.10–8.20	Exhibition Tour: <i>Terracotta Warriors: Guardians of Immortality</i> and <i>Cai Guo-Qiang: The Transient Landscape</i> Speakers: Claire Roberts & Tonia Eckfeld
8.20–8.30	Closing remarks

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Introductory knowledge of China's early history and Chinese art from antiquity to contemporary
- Understanding of the development of Chinese art, and the origins and principles of Confucianism, Buddhism and other beliefs in Chinese culture past and present
- Understanding of the impact of Confucianism on Chinese culture

WEEK 2: BEAUTY, NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN CHINESE ART AND CULTURE

How is nature used as an inspirational force in Chinese art and culture? Explore examples of traditional and contemporary art works that consider the beauty and power of nature, and environmental challenges.

VENUES

- Members Lounge, NGV International
- NGV Asian Art Collection Gallery Space
- Exhibition Space, *A Fairy Tale in Red Times: Works from the White Rabbit Collection*

PROGRAM OUTLINE

6.30–6.35	Welcome
6.35–7.00	Presentation: Nature as a Driving Force in Traditional Chinese Art Speaker: Wayne Crothers
7.00–7.10	Move to Asian Art Collection
7.10–7.30	Tour of Asian Art Collection Speaker: Wayne Crothers
7.30–7.45	Break
7.45–8.25	Group Discussion: Nature, Environmental Issues and their Influence on Contemporary Chinese Art and Culture Speakers: Vickie Zhang & Annika Aitken
8.25–8.30	Closing remarks

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Insights into the importance of nature in Chinese culture and philosophy
- Understanding of the key role the natural world plays in traditional and contemporary Chinese art, literature and music

WEEK 3: MAO AND THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION

Learn about Mao's Cultural Revolution (1966 – 1976) and its continuing influence on contemporary Chinese art, with consideration of the current restrictions in representing political beliefs.

VENUES

- Members Lounge, NGV International
- Exhibition Space, *Turning Points: Contemporary Photography from China*
- Exhibition Space, *A Fairy Tale in Red Times: Works from the White Rabbit Collection*

PROGRAM OUTLINE

6.30–6.35	Welcome
6.35–6.55	Presentation: Mao's Cultural Revolution Speaker: Antonia Finnane
6.55–7.15	Presentation: Contemporary Art in post-Mao China Speaker: Claire Roberts
7.15–7.20	Break
7.20–7.25	Move to <i>Turning Points: Contemporary Photography from China</i> Exhibition Space
7.25–7.45	Tour of <i>Turning Points: Contemporary Photography from China</i> Speaker: Susan van Wyk
7.45 – 7.50	Move to <i>A Fairy Tale in Red Times: Works from the White Rabbit Collection</i> Exhibition Space
7.50 – 8.25	Gallery Talk & Group Discussion: Memory of the Cultural Revolution in Contemporary Chinese Art Speakers: Luise Guest & Annika Aitken
8.25–8.30	Closing remarks

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Knowledge of the history of the Cultural Revolution in China from 1966 until 1976
- An understanding of how economic progress has led to the evolution of Chinese Communism
- Understanding of the effect of Communism and the Cultural Revolution on Chinese art today
- Awareness of the effect of successive Communist regimes in China on dissident Chinese artists

WEEK 4: THE CHINESE CENTURY

What is the impact of China's rise in the global economy on Chinese contemporary art and culture? Considering works on display in *A Fairy Tale in Red Times: Works From the White Rabbit Collection*, learn how to situate China in a global framework and consider the impact of globalisation on the Chinese contemporary art scene.

VENUES

- Members Lounge, International
- Exhibition Space, *A Fairy Tale in Red Times: Works from the White Rabbit Collection*

PROGRAM OUTLINE

6.30–6.35	Welcome
6.35–6.55	Presentation: Situating the World and China Speaker: Merriden Varrall
6.55–7.15	Presentation: Why China Matters Speaker: James Leibold
7.15–7.20	Break
7.20–7.40	Presentation: China Under Xi Speaker: Philipp Ivanov
7.40–7.45	Move to <i>A Fairy Tale in Red Times: Works from the White Rabbit Collection</i>
7.45–8.05	Gallery Talk: Considering Chinese Contemporary Art in a Global Framework Speakers: Anita Archer, Simon Maidment & Annika Aitken
8.05–8.25	Final Group Discussion
8.25–8.30	Closing remarks

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Introductory knowledge of the current economic structure in China and its impact on contemporary Chinese art
- Insights into the influence of the global economy on the development of Chinese art and culture
- Understanding of the relationship between China and the West today
- Knowledge of the effect of Western ideas on Chinese art over recent decades
- Insights into Chinese contemporary artists as global citizens creating art for an international market

SPEAKERS

WAYNE CROTHERS

Wayne Crothers is Senior Curator of Asian Art at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV). Before starting at the NGV he spent a total of eighteen years researching, completing a master's degree and lecturing in Japan, and has held guest lecturing residencies at the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute, China; Australian National University, Canberra; Lafayette College, Pennsylvania, USA; and the Joan Miro Foundation, Spain. Wayne is the curator of *Terracotta Warriors: Guardians of Immortality* and *Cai Guo-Qiang: The Transient Landscape*, currently on display at the NGV for the 2019 Melbourne Winter Masterpieces.

ANNIKA AITKEN

Annika Aitken is Curatorial Project Officer of Asian Art at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV). She has been on the curatorial team for *Terracotta Warriors: Guardians of Immortality* and *Cai Guo-Qiang: The Transient Landscape* and is co-editor of the recent NGV publication *The Centre: On Art and Urbanism in China*. Prior to commencing her position at the NGV, she managed a range of permanent and temporary public art projects for City of Perth and the WA Artists' Foundation, alongside independent curatorial projects. She has studied and worked in Beijing and Hangzhou, China, and has a longstanding research interest in Australia-Asia engagement through the visual arts.

DR SIMON MAIDMENT

Dr Simon Maidment is Senior Curator of Contemporary Art at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) and curator of *A Fairy Tale in Red Times: Works from the White Rabbit Collection*. His PhD research used curatorial practice as a method to investigate art's potential to influence social and political change.

SUSAN VAN WYK

Susan van Wyk is Senior Curator of Photography at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV). Since joining the Gallery in 1989, she has curated numerous exhibitions of Australian and international photography, including most recently curating *Turning Points: Contemporary Photography From China*.

PHILIPP IVANOV

Philipp Ivanov is Chief Executive Officer of Asia Society Australia. Philipp is a China specialist with extensive experience in policy, education and research. Previously, he was a manager of the Australia-China Council at the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and a policy officer on DFAT's China desk. Philipp was one of the principal authors of the Australia in the Asian Century White Paper - China Country Strategy. He has been studying China since 1993, and lived and worked in China for over 6 years. He is a fluent Chinese and Russian speaker.

DR CLAIRE ROBERTS

Dr Claire Roberts is a historian of Chinese art and a curator. She is Associate Professor, Art History and ARC Future Fellow in the School of Culture and Communication at The University of Melbourne.

SPEAKERS

PROF TONIA ECKFELD

Professor Tonia Eckfeld is Principal Fellow at The University of Melbourne, Distinguished Research Fellow at Northwestern Polytechnical University, Xi'an, and a consultant for documentary films on Chinese archaeology and cultural heritage. Tonia is a collaborative researcher with the Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology, Henan Provincial Administration of Cultural Heritage, Zhengzhou University and other institutions in China and worldwide. Tonia is author of the landmark book, *Imperial Tombs in Tang China, 618–907, The Politics of Paradise* (2005).

PROF ANTONIA FINNANE

Professor Finnane is a graduate of the University of Sydney and the Australian National University, with a PhD in Chinese history. Her research is in the area of urban history, the focus of her prize-winning book, *Speaking of Yangzhou: A Chinese City, 1550–1850* (Harvard, 2004). Current research, funded by the Australian Research Council, concerns production and consumption in Maoist China, with a focus on Beijing and Shanghai. Her Australian base has also meant engagement with Australia's Chinese history: she has written on Jewish migration from post-war Shanghai, and is at present researching the Chinese community in between-the-wars Perth. She has studied and worked in China for varying periods in her career, including a period of five years from 2008 to 2012. Recently retired from The University of Melbourne, she continues in an active research and training role there, with a number of PhD students under her supervision.

LUISE GUEST

Luise Guest researches and writes about contemporary Chinese art. She travels to China regularly to interview artists for the White Rabbit Collection, where she is Manager of Research. Her writing has been published in a range of online and print journals including *The Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art*, *Art Monthly Australasia*, *Garland*, *The Art Life*, *Randian* and *Artist Profile*. Her book, *Half the Sky: Conversations with Women Artists in China*, was published by Piper Press in 2016. Luise is currently undertaking PhD research at UNSWAD, examining the work of female artists who subvert conventions of ink painting and calligraphy.

DR MERRIDEN VARRALL

Dr Merriden Varrall is a Nonresident Fellow at the Lowy Institute and Director of Geopolitics and Tax at KPMG. From 2014–2018, Merriden was the Director of the Lowy Institute's East Asia Program. Before joining the Institute, Merriden was the Assistant Country Director and Senior Policy Advisor at United Nations Development Programme, China, where she worked on China's role in the world, focusing on its international development cooperation policy. Prior to that she worked for the Australian Government Treasury and the Department of Family and Community Services. Merriden spent almost eight years living and working in China, including lecturing in foreign policy at the China Foreign Affairs University and conducting fieldwork for her doctoral research.

SPEAKERS

DR ANITA ARCHER

Dr Anita Archer, academic at The University of Melbourne, has worked as an art consultant specialising in contemporary Asian art for over 15 years. She has led many VIP collector tours to the UAE and Hong Kong, and has extensive connections and experience in the art world of the region. Archer has recently completed her PhD on the international market for Chinese art titled *Global Positioning: International Auctions and the Development of the Western Market for Chinese Contemporary Art, 1998–2012*.

DR JAMES LEIBOLD

Dr James Leibold has research expertise on the politics of ethnicity, race and national identity in modern Chinese history and society, and is currently engaged in research on ethnic policy-making and ethnic conflict in contemporary China with a particular focus on the restive Western frontier and its Tibetan and Uyghur ethnic minorities. He is the author and co-editor of four books and over twenty-five peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, and a frequent contributor to the international media on these topics. Dr Leibold is currently the lead Chief Investigator on an Australia Research Council funded project entitled *Urbanising Western China: Nation-building and Social Mobilisation on the Sino-Tibetan Frontier*.

CHUNMEI PAN

Chunmei Pan is a PhD Candidate in the China Studies Research Centre at La Trobe University. She obtained her first PhD in Anthropology at Yunnan University in 2012.

VICKIE ZHANG

Vickie Zhang is a cultural geographer and documentary maker. She is currently a PhD Student in the School of Geography at The University of Melbourne. Her PhD research considers experiences of loss under conditions of technological, environmental and economic change, looking at workers affected by recent coalmine closures in regional Australia and China. In 2014, she received a State Government of Victoria's Hamer Scholarship for language study in Nanjing, China. She currently holds The University of Melbourne's prestigious Elizabeth & Vernon Puzey Scholarship and recently received an Australian Government Endeavour Research Fellowship for fieldwork in China and the UK. Her short film 'Drum Village Primary School' premiered at the 8th Antenna Documentary Film Festival in 2018.