

Ecologies of Art (London, 23-24 Sep 16)

SOAS University of London, Sep 23-24, 2016

Tian S. Liang

Ecologies of Art: A Modern and Contemporary Chinese Art Debate

A conference at SOAS, University of London

23rd-24th September, 2016

'Ecologies of Art' is a two-day conference intended to accelerate multi-vocal discussions on developments in modern and contemporary art in China in the twentieth and twentieth-first centuries. It is held in conjunction with Hong Ling: A Retrospective in the Brunei Gallery at SOAS (14th July-24th September 2016; admission free), an exhibition occasioned by the retirement in 2015 of the landscape painter, Hong Ling (b. 1955), from the faculty of the prestigious Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, where he taught oil painting since 1987. Twenty-eight international scholars gather to present research and debate a wide range of topics including subject and genre, mediality and technique, regional and transregional aspect of artistic practice, space and temporality, and institutional collecting and cannon formation.

In its title, 'Ecologies of Art' highlights multiple aspects of place and context in modern and contemporary Chinese art. It considers the landscape as an art subject and genre as well as contingent environmental issues. It recognises landscape, landmarks and horizons as features of a mode of art historical visualisation. It explores the places, situations and contexts, including evolving forms of art space and surveillance regimes, in which art is experienced by audiences. It examines the ecology of collecting, curating and display practices.

Hosted by the Department of the History of Art & Archaeology at SOAS, this conference is organised by Professor Shane McCausland and Dr Tian S. Liang. The exhibition and its academic programme are sponsored by UNEEC Culture and Education Foundation, Taiwan, and by the artist's gallery, Soka Art.

Program

23 September

Looking at Painting and Art Practice

9:20 Registration

9:50 Welcome

Shane McCausland, SOAS University of London

10:00 Keynote Lecture I: Modern Chinese Art and the Cosmopolitan

Craig Clunas, University of Oxford

Panel 1: Subjects and Practice

Chair: Nancy Berliner, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

10:45 Jiang Eshi (1913-1972): Traveller between Two Worlds

Uta Rahman-Steinert, Museum für Asiatische Kunst, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

11:10 Revisiting Ink Art: The Legacy of 1980s Activism

Sarah E. Fraser, University of Heidelberg

11:35 Hong Ling's Art: The Literati Tradition Congenial to Modern Tastes

David Teh-yu Wang, University of Taipei

12:00 Russia in Twentieth Century Chinese Art

Shelagh Vainker, Ashmolean Museum

12:25 Chair's Remarks and Q&A

12:55 Lunch Break (lunch provided for speakers and chairs)

Panel 2: Locating Line, Colour and Form

Chair: Craig Clunas, University of Oxford

13:55 Chinese 'Bone', Western 'Flesh' - The Paintings of Hong Ling

Zhu Ling, Lyon and Turnbull

14:20 The Crisis with Colour: Rethinking the Nationalization of Chinese Oil Painting

Yi Gu, University of Toronto

14:45 Capturing the Human Form: Life Classes in Early-twentieth-century China

Tian S. Liang, SOAS University of London

15:10 Chair's Remarks and Q&A

15:40 Coffee/Tea Break

Panel 3: Regional Aspects of Modern Art

Chair: Nixi Cura, Christie's Education London

16:10 Charting the Landscape: Ink Painting, Photographic Realism and Visual Truth in Yu Jian-hua's Travel Albums

Juliane Noth, Freie Universität Berlin

16:35 Mediating Modernism - The Bifurcating Brush of Wu Guanzhong and the Twenty-first Century 'New' Painting

Yin Hwang, National University of Singapore

17:00 Object Script: Situating Contemporary Calligraphic Art from Vietnam

Pamela Corey, SOAS University of London

17:25 Chair's Remarks and Q&A

17:55 Day one ends

18:00 Drinks Reception (for all registered delegates)
Brunei Suite (ground floor)

24 September

Contemporary Art World and Institutional Borders

9:55 Welcome Back

Shane McCausland, SOAS University of London

10:00 Keynote Lecture II: A Drop in the Ocean: How Did a Seascape Make Waves in China and Beyond?

Eugene Y. Wang, Harvard University

Panel 4: Perspectives on Contemporary Art

Chair: Paul Gladston, University of Nottingham

10:45 How Do We Evaluate Chinese Abstract Art?

Wang Chunchen, CAFA Art Museum

11:10 Zhang Huan: Spring Poppy Fields No. 31

Malcolm McNeill, Victoria and Albert Museum

11:35 Moving Mountains: The Potential of Collaborative Projects

Lai Manonelles Moner, University of Barcelona

12:00 Curating Chinese Contemporary Art Exhibitions in French Museums from 1933 to 2003

Eric Lefebvre, Musée Cernuschi

12:25 Chair's Remarks and Q&A

12: 55 Lunch Break (lunch provided for speakers and chairs)

Panel 5: Space and Display of Contemporary Art

Chair: Jan Stuart, Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

13:55 Through the Lens of the Document: Curating and Display in the 1980s and 1990s

Claire Hsu, Asia Art Archive

14:20 Augmented Landscape: Chinese Contemporary Artists Recode Urban Space

Angela Becher, University of Manchester

14:45 From Painting to Performance to Participation: Chinese Engagements with European Modernism: Mainstreams and Margins in the Work of Chinese Artists in the Twenty-first Century

Katie Hill, Sotheby's Institute of Art, London

15:10 Chair's Remarks and Q&A

15:40 Coffee/Tea Break

Panel 6: Institutional Collecting and Canon Formation

Chair: Zhang Hongxing, Victoria and Albert Museum

16:10 Paintings by Masters of the So-Called Beijing School of Painting and Their Introduction to Europe in the 1920s and 1930s

Michaela Pejcochova, National Gallery in Prague

16:35 Considering Context: Exhibiting the Art of Hong Ling at the Chester Beatty Library

Mary Redfern, Chester Beatty Library, Dublin

17:00 Regional Museums and Temporary Exhibitions

Nicole Chiang, The Museum of East Asian Art, Bath

17:20 Chair's Remarks and Q&A

17:50 Discussion and Reflections on 'Ecologies of Art'

Chair: Craig Clunas, University of Oxford

Claire Hsu, Asia Art Archive

Sarah E. Fraser, University of Heidelberg

Jan Stuart, Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

Wang Chunchen, CAFA Art Museum

Eugene Y. Wang, Harvard University

18:10 Hong Ling's Concluding Remarks

18:20 Concluding Remarks

Shane McCausland, SOAS University of London

18:30 Conference ends

All are welcome. Entrance is free but registration is essential.

To register, click

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ecologies-of-art-a-modern-and-contemporary-chinese-art-debate-tickets-27439189354?ref=estw>.

To download the programme, click

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8HfyIRbEueSZjNSRGISQzRyWjA/view?usp=sharing>.

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Reference:

CONF: Ecologies of Art (London, 23-24 Sep 16). In: ArtHist.net, Sep 10, 2016 (accessed Apr 7, 2026),

<<https://arthist.net/archive/13630>>.