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*WANT TO KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT CHINESE CONTEMPORARY ART?
HERE IS YOUR FUNDAMENTAL GUIDE.*

New York, NY— Interest in Chinese contemporary art mounts with each successive season: auction prices rise, a new art fair or biennale opens in Asia, and another influential Chinese artist receives a major museum retrospective.

Now one of the leading scholars of the thriving new art movement offers a guide to its history and significance entitled *Chinese Contemporary Art 7 Things You Should Know*. Melissa Chiu, Director of the museum at the Asia Society in New York, as well as Vice President of its Global Arts Program, is uniquely positioned to guide the lay reader from the dramatic beginnings of the Chinese art vanguard movement in 1979 to the burgeoning scene of today.

Along the way, Dr. Chiu dispels commonly held preconceptions about Chinese contemporary art (no, it did not spring up from nowhere; and, yes, there are many more fascinating artists than the handful known in the West.) She also examines the reality of government censorship in China, explains how the art market functions differently there than in the United States and Europe, and identifies recurring themes in works across a range of media – from painting and sculpture to photography, video and installation.

All the major figures in the field—Cai Guo Qiang, Ai Wei Wei, Zhang Xiaogang, Yue Minjun, Cao Fei, Zhan Wang, and Rong Rong, among others—are represented by reproductions of key works and biographies. A bibliography leads to further reading.

“There are those who claim that just as the 20th century was known as “the American century,” so the 21st will belong to China,” says Dr. Chiu. “That remains to be seen. But surely the vigor of the new Chinese art has generated this century’s first great art movement.”

“As vanguard Asian art becomes a part of the cultural matrix of the world, I hope this reference book opens the doors to a widespread appreciation of the achievements of Chinese artists,” she concludes.

About the Author

Prior to assuming her post at Asia Society, the leading institution in the U.S. dedicated to educating Americans about Asia, Melissa Chiu served as founding Director of the Asia-Australia Arts Centre in Sydney, a non-profit contemporary art center devoted to promoting dialogue in the Asia-Pacific region. Over the course of her career, Dr. Chiu has organized more than 30 exhibitions of works of art by artists from China, Japan, India, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Thailand. As a founding member of the Asian Contemporary Art Consortium, she helped establish Asian Contemporary Art Week in New York City.

AW Asia

AW Asia is a New York organization devoted to the promotion of contemporary Chinese art. Its programs include institutional loans, curatorial initiatives, educational outreach, and publications, including U-TURN, a new periodical chronicling the development of Chinese art from 1979 to the present. AW Asia maintains a collection of works of art by avant-garde Chinese artists, which serves as the basis for traveling exhibitions, ongoing installations, and educational programs.

“Chinese Contemporary Art 7 Things You Should Know”
is available at www.amazon.com