



For Immediate Release  
October 14, 2009

**AW ASIA PRESENTS PANEL DISCUSSION  
ON THE WORK OF QI ZHILONG**

*Artist joins scholars and experts in conversation on  
Saturday, October 31, presented in conjunction with his new exhibit*

NEW YORK — AW Asia will present a panel discussion on the work of Beijing-based artist Qi Zhilong and the art of the Cultural Revolution, to be held at AW Asia's Chelsea offices on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. The discussion is presented in conjunction with a show of eight new large works by the artist, which opens at AW Asia on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.

The artist himself will take part in the discussion, along with writer and curator Zheng Shengtian; art historian and photographer Joan Lebold Cohen; and artist Chen Aikang (see bios below).

*Panel Discussion: 2-3:30 pm, Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup>  
Exhibition Opening: 6-8 pm, Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>*

**Attendance at the panel discussion is free but seating is limited. Please  
Contact AW Asia at [info@awasiany.com](mailto:info@awasiany.com) to register for this event,  
or to RSVP for the opening reception.**

PANELISTS

**Qi Zhilong**

Born in Inner Mongolia in 1962, Qi Zhilong is best known for his portraits of female Red Guards, dressed in uniform and smiling sweetly for the viewer. Reflecting Qi's roots in Political Pop, these works lend a provocatively girlish gloss to one of the most complex and difficult periods in modern Chinese history. Qi graduated from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing in 1987. His art has been exhibited throughout China, as well as in Australia, Europe, and the United States.

**Zheng Shengtian**

A graduate of the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou, Zheng subsequently spent more than thirty years there as a professor and chair of the Oil Painting Department. In the 1980s, he also served as a visiting professor at the University of Minnesota and at San Diego State University. In 1990, Zheng emigrated to Canada. From 1996 to 2000 he was

secretary of the Annie Wong Art Foundation and director of Art Beatus Gallery in Vancouver. Since 2002, he has served as managing editor of *Yishu – Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art*, the only English-language magazine on contemporary Chinese art. He is also a founding member and board director of the Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art. As an independent curator, he has organized numerous exhibitions worldwide. He is currently a senior curator for Asia with the Vancouver Biennale.

### **Joan Lebold Cohen**

Joan Lebold Cohen is an art historian and photographer specializing in Chinese art and film. A sometime resident of China, Hong Kong and Japan, she lived in China during the dramatic post-Cultural Revolution years of 1979-81. Her book, *The New Chinese Painting, 1949-1986*, introduced recent generations of Chinese artists to the West. Her photographs have been widely exhibited and published, and are represented in public and private collections in the U.S. and Asia. A lecturer at Tufts University/School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston for 22 years, Cohen is currently a research fellow at Harvard University's Fairbank Center for East Asian Studies. She has curated many exhibitions of Chinese art and photography, including the recent *Post-Mao Dreaming: Contemporary Chinese Art* at the Smith College Museum of Art.

### **Chen Aikang**

Born in 1945 in Yan'an Province, Chen Aikang was part of a generation of artists whose lives were interrupted by the Cultural Revolution. As a young girl she was accepted to the high school affiliated with the elite Central Academy in Beijing, then entered the Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts (now the China Academy of Art) in Hangzhou in 1965. When universities reopened after the Cultural Revolution, she returned to the China Academy of Art and taught in the Oil Painting Department from 1978 to 1989. There, her students included the noted artists Huang Yongping, Zhang Peili, and Wang Guangyi. From 1986 to 1988, she was a visiting artist at the San Diego State University and UCLA. She emigrated to Canada with her family in 1990. She is now a freelance artist and teacher based in Vancouver, and exhibits her work in Canada and China.

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**AW Asia** is a private organization that promotes the field of Chinese contemporary art through institutional loans and museum acquisitions, curatorial projects, publishing, and educational programs. AW Asia works with many of China's leading contemporary artists and has placed significant collections of Chinese contemporary art with institutions such as The Museum of Modern Art and the J. Paul Getty Museum.

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