



AW ASIA RELEASES DATABASE OF CHINESE CONTEMPORARY ART IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

*Comprehensive Online List Provides Valuable Resource
For International Arts Community*

NEW YORK – October 4, 2009, AW Asia is pleased to announce the launch of **Chinese Contemporary Art in Museum Collections**, an online list of worldwide institutions holding works of Chinese contemporary art in their permanent collections. As the first international compilation of its kind, the AW Asia database currently represents 42 contemporary Chinese artists, including internationally acclaimed figures such as Ai Weiwei, Cai Guoqiang, Lin Tianmiao, Qiu Zhijie, Song Dong, Xu Bing, Yue Minjun and Zhang Huan.

Global institutions collecting Chinese contemporary art include The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), Museum of Modern Art (New York), the Museum of Contemporary Art (Los Angeles), the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Pompidou Centre (Paris), the Victoria and Albert Museum (London), and the China National Museum of Fine Arts (Beijing). The list also includes museums in Brazil, Singapore, Austria and several other countries.

“The information included in the AW Asia list will be an important resource for the international arts community,” says AW Asia founder Larry Warsh. “It is a work-in-progress, and since it’s online it can be updated consistently. We are looking for the museum community to help expand it, keep it current, and make it as comprehensive as possible.”

The **Chinese Contemporary Art in Museum Collections** list, which is available for viewing at <http://www.awasiany.com/releaselist.php>, shows an increased trend in museums collecting Chinese contemporary art for their permanent collections, and also highlights the growing importance of Chinese contemporary art in the museum world at large.

The J. Paul Getty Museum is among the most recent institutions to add works by Chinese contemporary artists to its holdings, acquiring nine works by two Chinese artists, Hai Bo and Wang Qingsong, in April of 2009. Additionally, the J. Paul Getty Museum recently announced that it will present an exhibition of Chinese contemporary photography in December 2010.

In the summer of 2008, New York's Museum of Modern Art acquired 28 works by 11 Chinese artists for its photography collection. Many of those artists had emerged as historic figures of the Chinese vanguard in the 1990s, including Hai Bo, Hong Hao, Hong Lei, Huang Yan, Rong Rong, Zhang Dali, and Zhang Peili.

As museums increase their collection of Chinese contemporary art, iconic works will likely become more difficult to acquire. Many observers have already seen scarcity in important works, particularly in painting and photography.

AW Asia is a private organization that promotes the field of Chinese contemporary art through institutional loans and museum acquisitions, curatorial projects, publications, and educational programs.

For more information, please visit www.awasiany.com.

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