

The Roles and Representations of Walls in the Reshaping of Chinese Modernity

A multidisciplinary, international research conference held in conjunction with *The Wall: Reshaping Contemporary Chinese Art*, an exhibition co-sponsored by the Millennium Museum in Beijing, the University at Buffalo Art Galleries, and the Albright-Knox Art Gallery

University at Buffalo and Albright-Knox Art Galleries
October 20-23, 2005

Organizing Committee:

Thomas Burkman, Asian Studies, University at Buffalo, Primary Organizer
Roger Des Forges, History, University at Buffalo, Chair
Minglu Gao, Art History, University of Pittsburgh, Curator of the Exhibition
Bingyi Huang, Art History, University at Buffalo, Film Curator
Liu Chiao-mei, History, Taiwan University, Interpreting and Translating Services
Haun Saussy, Comparative Literature, Yale University, Commentator at Large

Program

Thursday, October 20, University at Buffalo Center for the Arts

4:30-5:00 Screening Room

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Uday Sukhatme, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Sandra Olsen, Director, UB Art Galleries
Louis Grachos, Director, Albright Knox Art Gallery.

5:00-6:00 Screening Room

Opening Keynote Address

Arthur Waldron, History, University of Pennsylvania
 "The Great Wall of China: An Author's Reflections after Fifteen Years"

5:00-7:30 Art Gallery

Public Reception

7:00-7:15 Atrium

Chen Qiulin Performance: "I Eat, I Consume, I am Happy"

Friday, October 21, University at Buffalo Center for the Arts Screening Room

9:00-11:30

Session I. "City Walls in Time and Space, Ming Through People's Republic."

Chair: Roger Des Forges, History, UB

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"Tales and Images of Three City Walls: Kaifeng, Guide, and Zhengzhou, Ming to Present"

Timothy Billings, History, Middlebury College

"The Great City of China: the 'Long Wall' in Early European Texts"

Desmond Cheung, History, University of British Columbia

"Writing on Walls and Building Histories in China"

Niu Jianqiang, History, Henan University

"The Functions and Influence of Village Walls in Shanxi and Henan Provinces During the Late Ming and Late Qing"

Yue Zhang, Politics, Princeton University

"From Demolition to Restoration: The Story of the Old City Walls of Beijing, 1949-2005"

1:30-4:00

Session II. "Cultural Walls: Minorities, Diasporas, Westerners, and the World."

Chair: Liu Chiao-mei, History, National Taiwan University

Magnus Fiskesjo, Anthropology, Cornell University
 “Internalized Boundaries: Anti-Barbarian Walls Central to China”
Millie Chen, Art, UB
 “Near Far: Dispersion, Relocation, Mobility”
Liu Chiao-mei, History, National Taiwan University
 “Writing on the Wall: Brice Marden’s Chinese Works and Modernism”
Luo Xu, History, SUNY College at Cortland
 “Bypass the Walls: Reconstructing World History in China Since the 1980s”

7:00-8:45

Session III. “Artists and Art Critics Talk About Walls.”

Chair: Bingyi Huang, Art History, UB
Eugene Yuejin Wang, Art History, Harvard University
 “The Spectral Head on the Wall: Zhang Dali’s ‘Graffiti’ in Beijing”
Chen Qiulin, Artist, Beijing
 “Farewell My Concubine, on the Three Gorges Dam”
Xu Hong, National Art Museum, Beijing
 “Feminist Art in China Today”
Shui Tianzhong, Art Critic, Beijing
 “‘Nationalism’ in Chinese Aesthetics Today”
Bingyi Huang, Art History, UB
 “Self-referentiality and Yang Fudong’s Estranged Paradise”

8:45-9:45

Discussion

Facilitators:

Haun Saussy, Comparative Literature, Yale University
Kuiyi Shen, Art History, University of California at San Diego

Saturday, October 22, University at Buffalo Anderson Art Gallery, Museum Studies Room

9:00-11:30

Session IV. “Laws and/as Walls.”

Chair: Shubha Ghosh, Law, UB
Tahirih Lee, Law, Florida State University
 “A Maze of Jurisdictional Walls: The Legal Systems of Republican-Era Shanghai”
Shubha Ghosh, Law School, UB
 “Walls, Boundaries, and the Global Public Domain”
Junhao Hong, Communication, UB
 “Realizing the Four Modernizations with a New ‘Great Wall:’ The ‘Big Fire Wall’ and China’s Control of the Internet”
Qiang Fang, History, UB
 “The Evolution of the Complaint System in China, 1979 to the Present”
Margaret Y. K. Woo, Law, Northeastern University
 “Borders Without Walls: Emerging Rights Consciousness in China”

2:00-4:30

Session V. “Literary and Cinematic Representations of Walls.”

Chair: Tsan Huang, Linguistics, UB
Jonathan Stalling, English, UB
 “‘Breaking Down the Wall between Self and Other in Daoist Poetics”
Xiaoping Lin, Art, Queen’s College, City University of New York
 “Wang Chao’s *Anyang Orphan*: A Troubled Socialist State, a Broken Traditional Family”
Ming Fang Zheng, Chinese Literature, University of British Columbia
 “The City Wall in Jia Pingwa’s Three Novels of the 1990s”
Keyang Tang, Harvard Design School
 “Anne Frank’s House vs. Chang-An’s Maze Wall: A New Perspective on Chinese Spatial Perceptions”

Sunday, October 23 Albright-Knox Art Gallery

9:00-11:00 Clifton Hall

Session VI. “Boundaries in Motion: Family, Society, Nation, and World.”

Chair: Thomas Burkman, Asian Studies, UB

Xiao Hu, Architecture, University at Nebraska

“Boundaries and Openings: Spatial Strategies in Chinese Families”

Hu Cheng, History, Nanjing University

“The Image of the ‘Dirty’ Chinese: Different Discourses in China and Outside”

Richard Lee, Medical, UB

“Pathogen Traffic: Walls and Apertures”

Adam Cathcart, History, Hiram College

“Building Barriers: Icons of Ascendance and Exclusion in Early Maoist Political Cartoons, 1949-1951”

Allen Carlson, Government, Cornell University

“Beyond Walls? The Chinese Reconsideration of the Sources of Strength and National Security During the 1990s”

12:30-2:00 Clifton Hall

Session VII. “Reflections on Contemporary Art and the Reshaping of Chinese Modernity.”

Chair: Douglas Dreischpoen, Senior Curator, Albright-Knox Art Gallery

Kuiyi Shen, Art History, University of California San Diego

“Institutional Critique and After—Some Issues in the Art of Twenty-First Century China”

Julia Andrews, Art History, Ohio State University

“Black and White, In and Out”

2:00-3:00 **Break to View the Exhibition**

3:00-4:00 Auditorium

Closing Keynote Address: Minglu Gao, Art History, University of Pittsburgh

“The Wall: Shaping Modernity in Contemporary Chinese Art”

Conference Sponsors:

Albright-Knox Art Gallery

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UB Department of Art History

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