

“Paths to the Real: Processes of Contemporary Art in China”

PENG Feng, Peking University

5:00–7:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 18, 2014

Art Auditorium (Art 132)

THIS presentation will contrast the development of contemporary art in China with the arts of North America and Europe. Whereas Western art has undergone several significant revolutions finally progressing to what Arthur Danto has termed the “post-historical” stage, Chinese art can be seen as undergoing a process of gradual reformation.



Contemporary art in China has not yet won its fight with socialist realism, and it has thus been unable to accomplish its mission of promoting political reform and social change. This presentation will therefore explore what it means for contemporary art in China to exist between the socialist realist past and the so-called post-historical stage of art.

DR. Peng Feng is a Professor in the Department of Art Studies and the Deputy Director of the Center for Aesthetics and Aesthetic Education at Peking University, in Beijing. He received his training in Philosophy, with a focus upon traditional Chinese aesthetics. His many books include: *Flexibility, Benevolence, and Enjoyment: A Philosophical Interpretation of the Roots of Chinese Aesthetics* (1997), *Uplifting: An Aesthetic Interpretation of Traditional Chinese Religion, Ethics, Philosophy, and Arts* (2003), *The Main Concepts of Western Aesthetics* (2005), and *The Return of Beauty: 11 Issues in Contemporary Aesthetics* (2009). Today, he is regarded as one of the most important curators working in China. To date, he has curated over 200 exhibitions, including the Chinese Pavilion at the 54th Venice Biennale in 2011, and the International Sculpture Biennial in Datong, China, in both 2011 and 2013. Currently, he is planning the second Xinjiang Biennale of International Art. It opens on June 25 in Urumqi, China.

Admission is free and the university community and public are cordially invited to attend.

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