

## CHES5145 Chinese Art in the World after 1900: Aesthetics and History

2021-2022, Term 2, Mondays 1:30pm-4:15pm  
WMY301

**Lecturer:** Dr. Elaine Kwok, Yin Ning (kyn.elaine@gmail.com)

**Teaching Assistant:** Ms. Mavis Siu (mavissiu@cuhk.edu.hk)

### Course Description

This course looks at the history and aesthetics of various arts in China (painting, calligraphy, photography, sculpture, architecture, installation, performance art, video or digital art, etc.), their role in Chinese culture, and in shaping the characteristics of Chinese art in the global context. The following themes will be dealt with: the aesthetic evaluation of these arts and their unique artistic features; the roles of the artist and the spectator in the context of globalization; the transformation of Chinese art from a perspective of cross-cultural exchange; the influence of Chinese art on the West; the aesthetic valuation of expressiveness and descriptiveness in art; and the cultural correlation between art and society. Historically, the course will cover the following areas: the artistic importance of the Lingnan School paintings in the late Qing dynasty (c.1850-1911), the evolution of Western and traditional painting in China (1911-1949), the art development during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), the cross-cultural exchange between Chinese art and Western art (1976-1989), and the question of “Chineseness” under the conditions of globalization and digitization (1989-now). We will deal with these topics by examining major works of art and by analyzing primary texts as well as contemporary scholarly writings.

### Learning Outcomes

After completing the course, students should:

- be equipped with the essential techniques to examine the artistic features of any artwork;
- have a basic understanding of Chinese art history and aesthetics since 1900;
- be able to critically analyze various aesthetic and artistic issues in Chinese art, and to participate in relevant scholarly debates.

### Assessment Scheme

Students are required to express themselves in the form of in-class discussions, a presentation, and a final paper. Students will need to write a short exhibition curatorial leaflet and present a seminar on one special topic of the course. They are also required to write an academic paper in order to demonstrate their understanding of contemporary Chinese art by participating in the scholarly debates about the various aesthetic and artistic issues put forth in the course (please see the grading system below).

**Remarks:** *If in-person contact is not allowed, all the assessments will be conducted online and be submitted in soft copy.*

*Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of the policies, regulations and procedures.*

**Grading System** (details will be provided in separate documents available in due course)

- (30%) In-class seminar presentation on one seminar topic (the seminar topics are scheduled and listed below)
- (20%) Exhibition curatorial leaflet (submit the hardcopy or PDF file of your Exhibition Curatorial Leaflet one day after your Seminar Topic presentation)
- (50%) Final paper (the due date for final paper is 1 week after the course ends as stated below)

**Course Schedule**

*Remarks: If in-person contact is not allowed, all the course contents will be conducted online.*

**Unit 1 – The Global Context for Chinese Art: 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Western Art (10 Jan)**

Lazzari, Margaret and Dona Schlesier. *Exploring Art: A Global, Thematic Approach*, Belmont: Thomas/Wadsworth, c2005 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). 26-41, and 81-88.

**Unit 2 – (before 1900) Summary of Chinese Art History (17 Jan)**

Thorp, Robert L. and Richard Ellis Vinograd. *Chinese Art and Culture*, New York: Harry N. Abrams, c2001. 230-251, 261-268, and 301-303.

**Unit 3 – (1900-1966) The New & the Old: Traditional & Foreign Influences (24 Jan)**

Andrews, Julia and Shen Kuiyi. *The Art of Modern China*, Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press, 2012. 27-45.

Happy Spring Festival (NO class on 31 Jan)!

**Unit 4 – (1966-1989) The Modern and the Post-Modern (7 Feb)**

Barthes, Roland. *Mythologies*, selected and translated from the French by Annette Lavers, New York: The Noonday Press, 1990, c1957. 109-119 and 124-125.

Evans, Harriet, “Comrade Sisters’: Gendered Bodies and Spaces.” In *Picturing Power in the People’s Republic of China: Posters of the Cultural Revolution*, edited by Harriet Evans and Stephanie Donald, 63-78. Lanham, Boulder, New York, and Oxford: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 1999.

Galikowski, Maria. *Art and Politics in China 1949-1984*, Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, c1998. 137-174. (especially pp. 164-169)

**Unit 5 – (1989-now) Chinese Art and the Individual (14 Feb)**

Warr, Tracey. “Preface.” In *The Artist’s Body*, edited by Tracey Warr and survey by Amelia Jones, 10-15. London: Phaidon, 2000.

O’Reilly, Sally. *The Body in Contemporary Art*, New York: Thames & Hudson, 2009. 149-187.

Chinese Spring Festival (NO class on 15 Feb)

**Unit 6 – (1989-now) Chinese Art and the Global Cities (21 Feb)**

McQuire, Scott. *Visions of Modernity: Representation, Memory, Time and Space in the Age of the Cinema*, London: Sage Publications, 1998. 183-190.

Cresswell, Tim. *Place: An Introduction*, Chichester: John Wiley & Sons Ltd, 2015 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). 1-14.

Simmel, Georg, “The Metropolis and Mental Life.” In *Urban Culture: Critical Concepts in Literary and Cultural Studies*, edited by Chris Jenks, Vol. 1, 349-361. London and New York: Routledge, 2004.

**Unit 7 – (after 1900) Chinese Art in the World (28 Feb)**

Longley, Kateryna Olijnyk. "Fabricating Otherness: Demidenko and Exoticism." In *"New" Exoticisms: Changing Patterns in the Construction of Otherness*, edited by Isabel Santaolalla, 21-40. Amsterdam: Rodopi B. V., 2000.

Santaolalla, Isabel, "Introduction: What is 'New' in 'New' Exoticism?" In *"New" Exoticisms: Changing Patterns in the Construction of Otherness*, edited by Isabel Santaolalla, 9-20. Amsterdam: Rodopi B. V., 2000.

**Unit 8 – (after 1900) Hong Kong Art: The Colonial and the Post-Colonial (7 Mar)**

Clarke, David. *Art and Place: Essays on Art from a Hong Kong Perspective*, Hong Kong: HKU Press, 1996. 65-84.

**Unit 9 – Field Trip: Art & Cultural Places (?? Mar, Saturday afternoon ??12:30-17:30??)**

Details and notes will be provided in separate documents available in due course.

**NO lecture on 14 Mar (Mon)**

**Unit 10 – Exhibition Curatorial Writing (21 Mar)**

\*\*\*Submit the hardcopy or PDF file of your Exhibition Curatorial Leaflet on the same day of your Seminar Topic presentation.

**Unit 11 – Seminar Topic 1: Cross-Cultural Exchange in the Global Context (28 Mar)**

Clarke, David. *Art and Place: Essays on Art from a Hong Kong Perspective*, Hong Kong: HKU Press, 1996. 65-104.

Elkins, James. *Chinese Landscape Painting as Western Art History*, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2010. ix-xviii; 24, 45, 57, 62, 110, and 145.

**Unit 12 – Seminar Topic 2: Orientalism and Exoticism (4 Apr)**

Longley, Kateryna Olijnyk. "Fabricating Otherness: Demidenko and Exoticism." In *"New" Exoticisms: Changing Patterns in the Construction of Otherness*, edited by Isabel Santaolalla, 21-40. Amsterdam: Rodopi B. V., 2000.

Said, Edward. *Orientalism*, London: Penguin Books, 1995, c1978. 1-28.

Santaolalla, Isabel. "Introduction: What is 'New' in 'New' Exoticism?" In *"New" Exoticisms: Changing Patterns in the Construction of Otherness*, edited by Isabel Santaolalla, 9-20. Amsterdam: Rodopi B. V., 2000.

AND/OR (to be confirmed in due course)

**Unit 13 – Seminar Topic 3: Post-Modernism and Globalism (4 Apr)**

AlSayyad, Nezar. *Cinematic Urbanism: A History of the Modern from Reel to Real*, New York and London: Routledge, 2006. 123-145. (especially, pp. 123-127)

McQuire, Scott. *Visions of Modernity: Representation, Memory, Time and Space in the Age of the Cinema*, London: Sage Publications, 1998. 183-190.

Simmel, Georg. "The Metropolis and Mental Life." In *Urban Culture: Critical Concepts in Literary and Cultural Studies*, edited by Chris Jenks, Vol. 1, 349-361. London and New York: Routledge, 2004.

**Unit 14 – Seminar Topic 4: The City and the Body in Art (11 Apr)**

Cresswell, Tim. *Place: An Introduction*, Chichester: John Wiley & Sons Ltd, 2015 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). 1-14.

Urry, John. "City Life and the Senses." In *A Companion to the City*, edited by Gary Bridge and Sophie Watson, 388-397. Malden: Blackwell Publishers, 2000.

Warr, Tracey. "Preface." In *The Artist's Body*, edited by Tracey Warr and survey by Amelia Jones, 10-15. London: Phaidon, 2000.

Easter Holiday (NO class on 18 Apr)

**Final Paper Due (25 Apr)**

Late papers will NOT be accepted. Details will be provided in a separate document available in due course.

**Remarks:** PDF versions of all readings and other related materials can be found on the CUHK eLearning System. Registered students may access the CHES5145 page by using their Student ID and OnePass password.