



ACROSS THE DIVIDE
穿越分界

2017
NEWSLETTER



Dear Artists and Colleagues,

“This is the real secret of life-to be completely engaged with what you are doing in the here and now. And instead of calling it work, realize it is play.” - Alan W. Watts

Artists should play, experiment and explore. In 2017, our forum members share their profession and passion in prestigious exhibitions in diverse venues, and their artistic and academic appeal pass on a wide range field around the world.

Meanwhile the exhibition of “Words in Characters; Books as Vehicle” will run from October 12th this year to January 5th 2018 at the East Asia Library at Stanford University. As the most recent project created by our the Forum of Across the Divide members. In 2018, the exhibition will continue at BIOLA University.

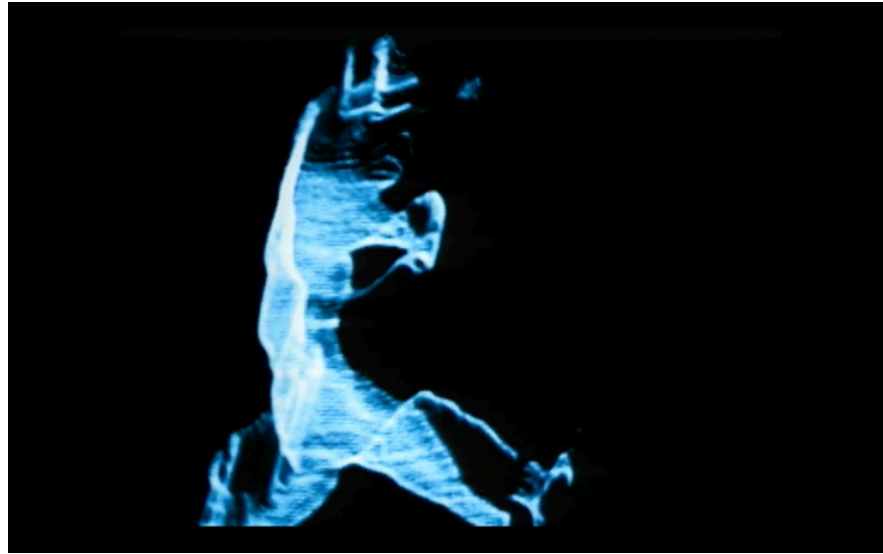
Welcome to the 2017 newsletter from Forum of Across the Divide - Association of Chinese Artists in American Academia (CAAAA)!

Editor
Zhe Ren

Wenhua Shi

Assistant Professor of Art
College of Liberal Arts
University of Massachusetts Boston

is presently working on a series of short visual poems, Sense(s) of Time, which deals with the notion of stillness, disappearance, ruins and decay. Most recently his video work Walking Cycle was screened at LA Film Forum, Catone Film Festival in Rome, Italy, Hamburg International Short Film Festival in Germany, Festival Silhouette in Paris, France and 25 FPS festival in Zagreb, Croatia. His latest installation Water Walk will be installed at Waterwork Museum, Boston and featured during Boston Hubweek 2017 (Oct. 10 - 17).



Video Still from Walking Cycle



Film Still from Sense(s) of Time

Rebecca Ruige Xu

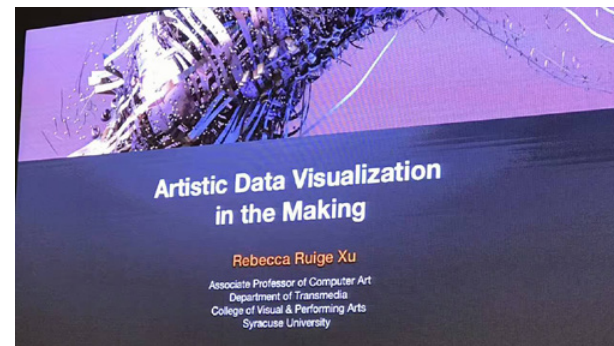
Associate Professor of Computer Art & Animation
Department of Transmedia
Syracuse University

Rebecca Ruige Xu organized and curated the inaugural Arts Program for the China Visualization Conference, which took place in Qingdao, China from July 17 to 19. China Visualization Conference is the most recognized and prestigious conference in the field of visualization and visual analytics in China. This year's Arts Program included an art exhibition and a special topics panel titled Art and Visualization.

Xu was also one of the curators for Intangible Expedition, an exhibition ran from September 23 to 30 at the Beijing Museum of Visual Art that features artists and curators from the United States and China. This project attempts to construct a platform for artists from both sides to promote dialogue, exchange

ideas and cultivate collaboration.

This year, Xu's films have been screened at the following international venues: Phenicien International Film Festival, France; MADATAC, Madrid, Spain; Chinese Women Artists Video Art Festival, Mexico; NOFEST 2017, Milan, Italy; ALCHEMIC BODY, International photography, painting, installation, video-art and performance art festival, Argentina; as well as at these venues within the U.S.: Kansas International Film Festival, Atlanta Underground Film Festival, SPE Media Festival, and Electronics Alive IX Digital Art Exhibition. Over the summer, Xu also gave talks in Peking University Visualization and Visual Analytics Group and Beijing Industry University Gengdan College.



Shaoqian Zhang

Associate Professor of Art History
Department of Art
Graphic Design and Art History
Oklahoma State University

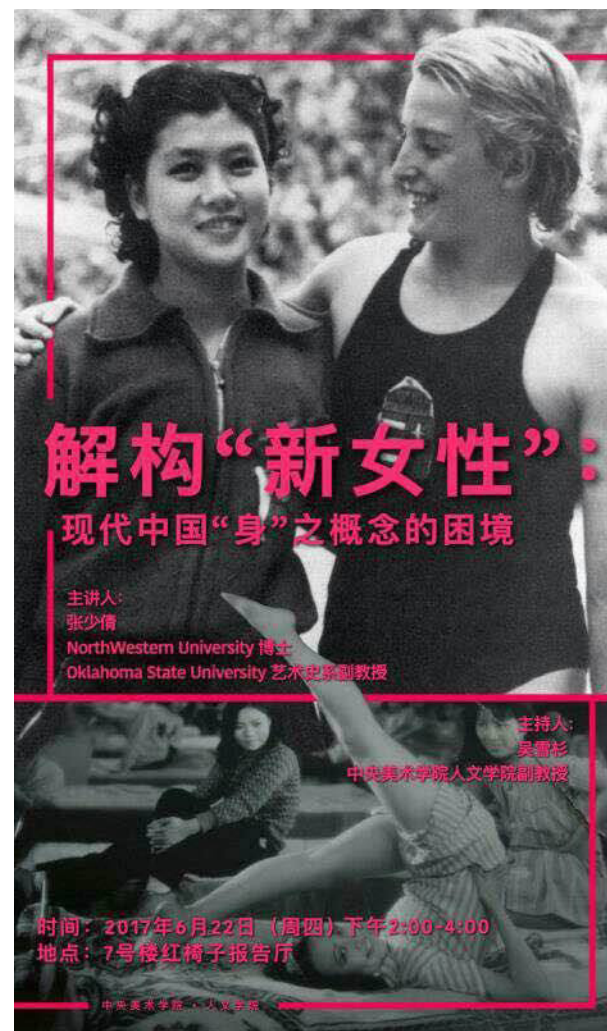
From Jan to Sep 2017, Prof. Zhang has three articles accepted: “Spatial Strategies of the Grid: A Comparative Study of Urban Planning in Traditional China and the American West.” In *Architext*’s Special Issue “The Urban Grid in Planning and Architectural Cultures: From Global South to North and Back Again”; “Reshaping the New Woman: The Dilemma of Shen in Modern China,” in *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy*; and “Political Art and Posters,” in an edited volume of *Oxford Bibliographies in Chinese*



Studies (Oxford University Press). She keeps working on the exhibition “WORDS IN CHARACTERS WITH BOOKS AS VEHICLES,” and the exhibition had its successful opening at Oklahoma State University Museum of Art in April 2017. She is also working as the editor for the exhibition catalog: *Words in Characters; Books as Vehicles*. In June 2017, Prof. Zhang gave a talk at the Central Academy of Fine Arts, titled “Reshap-

ing the New Woman: The Dilemma of Shen in Modern China.”

Prof. Zhang successfully passed her tenure review and was officially promoted to associate professor with tenure in June 2017. She won the Oklahoma Humanities Council Individual Research Grant in March 2017. She also won the 2017 Oklahoma State University Junior Faculty Award for Scholarly Excellence.



Xia Gao

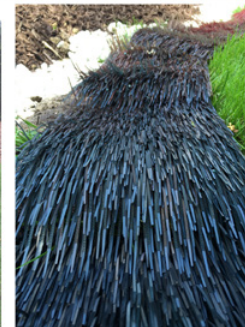
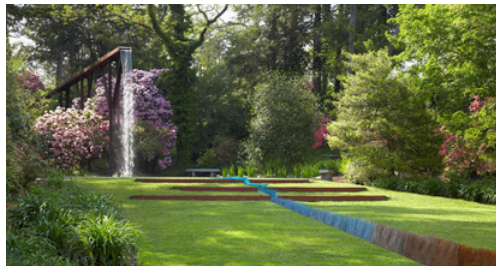
Associate Professor
Department of Art, Art History, and Design
Michigan State University



My 2017 summer started with a mix feeling: both exhausted and exciting as I had to install my new work “Rinse” outdoor at Heritage Museum and Garden in Sandwich, Massachusetts and attend a special residency for 2017 Site-Responsive Art Biennale at I-Park foundation in East Haddam, Connecticut right after the final week of spring semester. Both venues presented me as opportunity and challenge to extend my work from indoor to outdoor, which meant working with nature mother under

varied weather conditions, in rainy, windy, cold, and certainly sunny days outside! These new environment installations intended to engage nature as both content and setting. “Rinse” was originally developed to engage Flume Fountain at Heritage Museum and Garden and address water use and pollution as part of “Point of View” outdoor exhibition. While the work proposed for I-Park 2017 Site-Responsive Art Biennale was personal contemplations to life happenings. This project was

constantly shaped by chosen sites, available materials, technical trials and obstacles in the making process, it evolved to find final forms for concept



expression. I wished that my reflections on life, its strength, shortness, connection, and isolation can come through the work and reach viewers, but often amazed by different responses and interpretations that enriches what I originally hoped for.

In addition to these large scale outdoor installations, my works appeared at other group exhibitions in 2017 summer, including:

“The 8th International Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary Mini Textile Art-Scythia” in Kherson/Ivano-Frankiv’sk, Ukraine;

“Shifting Landscapes” at Form & Concept Gallery in Santa Fe, NM;

“Spectacular Skies” at Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center in Dowell, MD;

“2017 Waterloo Arts Fest Juried Exhibition” in Cleveland, OH;

“Words in Characters, Books as Vehicle” at Oklahoma State University Museum.

Yu Ji

Professor,
School of Art
California State University Long Beach

During the 2016-17 academic year, Yu Ji was invited by the Ryman Art Foundation for its Young Artist Program as a visiting artist for lectures/workshops. In the winter 2016, Yu Ji participated in the organization of an international panel on Foundation Teaching in Drawing held at Beijing Normal University in China. During the Spring semester 2017, Yu Ji visited the exhibition organized by the Chinese Artists in American Academia in the Art Museum of Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK. Returning to China in preparation for his research in late May, Yu Ji also conducted a workshop at the Fu Ren campus of Beijing Normal University. As an artist member of the Association of Chinese Artists in American Academia, he joined Professor Chi Xun, Professor

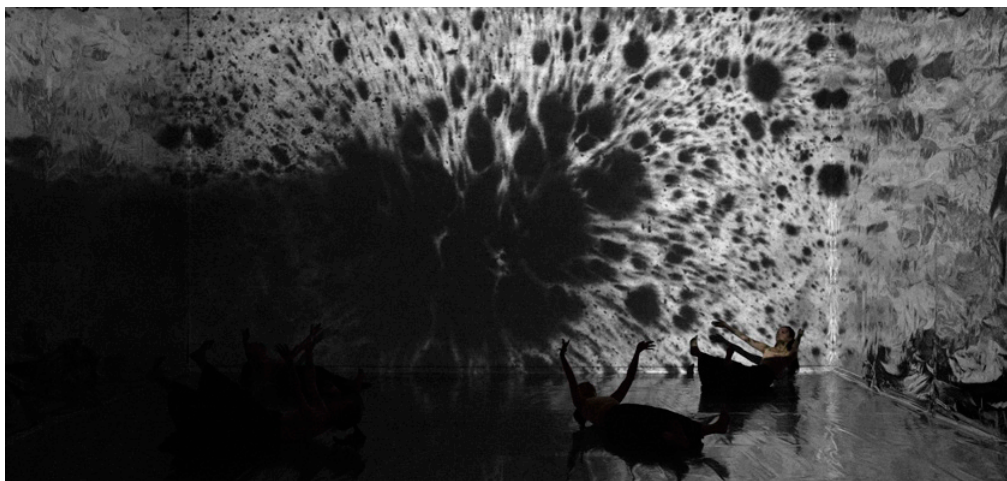
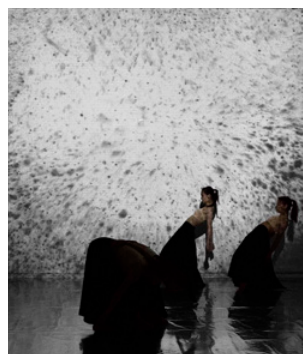
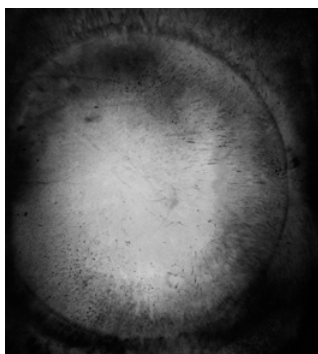
Rebecca Xu, Dr. Shaoqian Zhang, and Professor Xiao Yong in a visit to the Gengdan College of Beijing University of Technology in late June. In addition, Yu Ji visited Tianjin Academy of Fine Art in selecting exchange students for the Study Abroad Program and held a lecture at art colleges at Hebei Normal University, and Beijing Institute of Technology.

Returning to Los Angeles, Yu Ji has completed the construction of his new studio. While teaching life drawing and painting courses this fall, Yu Ji has participated in an exhibition at Dishman Art Museum at Lamar University in Texas. As a milestone in the development of Forum Across the Divide, the exhibition of Words in Characters; Books as Vehicle was officially opened at the East Asia Library at Stanford University. Yu Ji is a participation in this exhibition.



Lampo Leong

Professor of Art
Department of Art
Painting/Drawing/Calligraphy
University of Missouri-Columbia



Professor Lampo Leong's paintings were featured in the following national and international exhibitions and auctions in 2017:

Chinese Contemporary Ink, Christie's Spring Auction, Hong Kong; *Modern and Contemporary Asian Art: Ravenel Autumn Auction 2017 Taipei*; Taipei International Ink Painting Exhibition, Bo Ai Art Gallery, National Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hall, Taiwan; *Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts North*

America Alumni Exhibition, GAFA Art Museum, Guangzhou, China; *37th Annual Spring Photography Contest*, *Photographer's Forum* magazine, Santa Barbara, CA (winners in hardcover book *Best of Photography 2017*); *Ink Global 2017*, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibit Centre; *The Art of Asian Languages*, Oklahoma State University Museum of Art, Stillwater, OK; *Asia Contemporary Art Show*, *Spring 2017*, Hong Kong; *Paper in Particular National Exhibition*, Columbia College, MO; *Singapore Contemporary Art Show*, *Suntec Convention and Exhibition Centre*, Singapore.

Leong's solo exhibitions were held at Houghton College in New York and Tanghu Museum of Art in Wuhan, China, where his latest multimedia

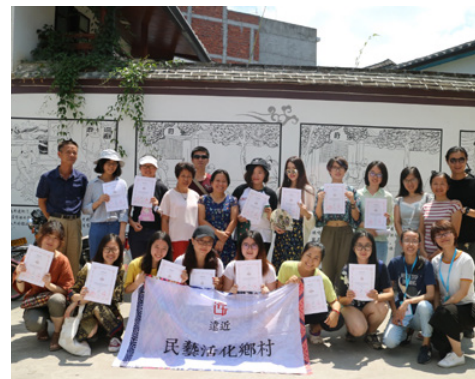
performances *Dancing Marks* (<https://vimeo.com/230832564>) and *Chanted Poetry* (<https://vimeo.com/231917121>) were featured.

Professor Leong has also been invited for lectures in many universities, including Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan University of Science and Technology, Hubei University, Hubei University of Technology, South-Central University for Nationalities, Jinghan University, Zhengzhou University, Zhongyuan University of Technology, Henan University of Technology, South China University of Technology, Guangdong University of Technology, Jinan University, South China Normal University, Beijing Union University, and Sichuan University, etc.

Tao Huang

Assistant Professor
Industrial Design
School of Art and Design
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

Dr. Huang spent the summer of 2017 conducting research relating to design for sustainable agriculture in the US and China. She presented at Shandong University of Architecture, South China University of Agriculture, and The Tongji – Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology forum on Ecological Wisdom Inspired Urban and Rural Ecological Practice to share her research on sustainable design. She then was invited to teach a week-long workshop in Songkou, Fujian Province. Together with young women from around China and several different professions (including industrial design, fashion design, architecture, social work, accounting, etc.), Dr. Huang worked with Open Union Cultural & Creative Co. (Taiwan) and Far-Near Team (Guangzhou) to use design thinking and design research methods to investigate strategies to revitalize rural area in China. Besides Songkou, Dr. Huang also visited three other historical villages: Hushan (in Fujian Province), Phonex, and Auoshang (both in Hunan Province). In addition, Dr. Huang visited several urban farms in Shenzhen and Hong Kong to understand their business and design strategies.



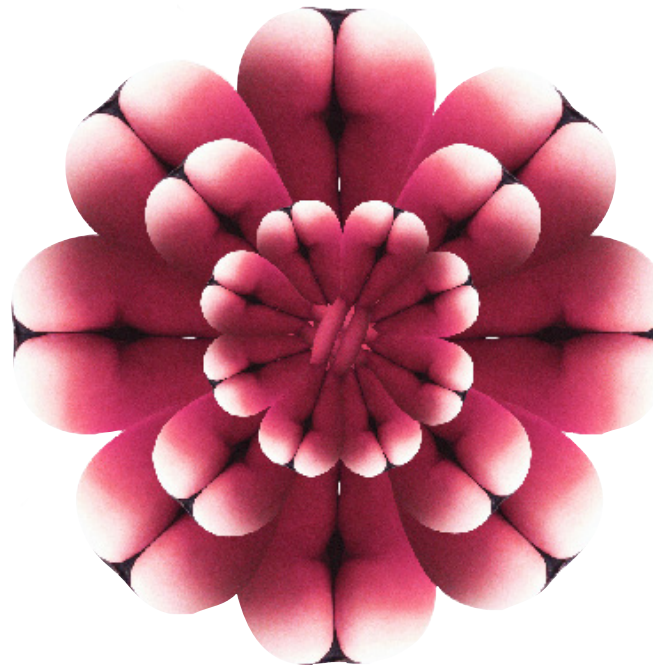
Zhe Ren

Assistant Professor
Digital Arts and Design
Dakota State University

In late May, 2017, I exhibit my collaborate work lollipop - Bloom at art fair Suomi 2017 - International Contemporary Art Festival in Helsinki, Finland.

Art Fair Suomi is an international contemporary art festival, organized now for the 11th time. The festival gathers altogether 1000 works of contemporary art from performance and photography to installations and sound art.

Art Fair Suomi is a unique meeting point of art for the public, artists and other art professionals. It is an international contemporary art festival consisting of sales exhibitions and various art events: discussions, screenings etc.



Amy Cheng

Professor
Art Department
State University of New York at New Paltz

I spent Spring 2017 in Beijing as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar in the Graduate Painting Program at Renmin University of China. I taught a half-seminar, half-studio course to a group of oil painting and Chinese painting graduate students. I also held Open Hours every week that undergraduate and graduate students interested in having me come to their studio could sign up for. I learned a lot teaching in China and I have been thinking about the differences I perceived between American and Chinese art education. I am currently writing a chapter for a book of essays by the 2016-2017 Fulbright Scholars teaching in China to be published by Routledge.

Fulbright also encouraged us to lecture at other universities.

They asked for four titles of lectures we were willing to give which they advertised to colleges across China. (Fulbright covered our travel expenses to any city where we managed to give two lectures.) I took advantage of this program to lecture at Yunnan Normal University in Kunming, The Wuhan Conservatory of Music and Hubei Academy of Art in Wuhan, New York Institute of Technology in Nanjing, China Academy of Art and Hangzhou Vocational and Technical College in Hangzhou, Xinjiang University in Urumqi, and Ocean University in Qingdao. I gave variations on two lectures: Public Art in the USA: A Growing Field, and How I Reconciled my Western Art Education with an Asian Visual Sensibility.



Xun Chi

Associate Professor of Visual Communication
Laguna College of Art + Design

In summer 2017, Professor Xun Chi has organized an international art and design workshop at Beijing Industry University - Geng Dan school, together with Prof. Xiao Yong and Prof. Lin Zijie. The workshop was consisted of a five-day studio work, 3 invited lectures and a final student exhibition. ACAA members Prof. Yu Ji, Prof. Rebecca Xu, Prof. Yvette Shen and Prof. Bonnie Mitchell participated this event. Other recent updates from Prof. Chi include the following:

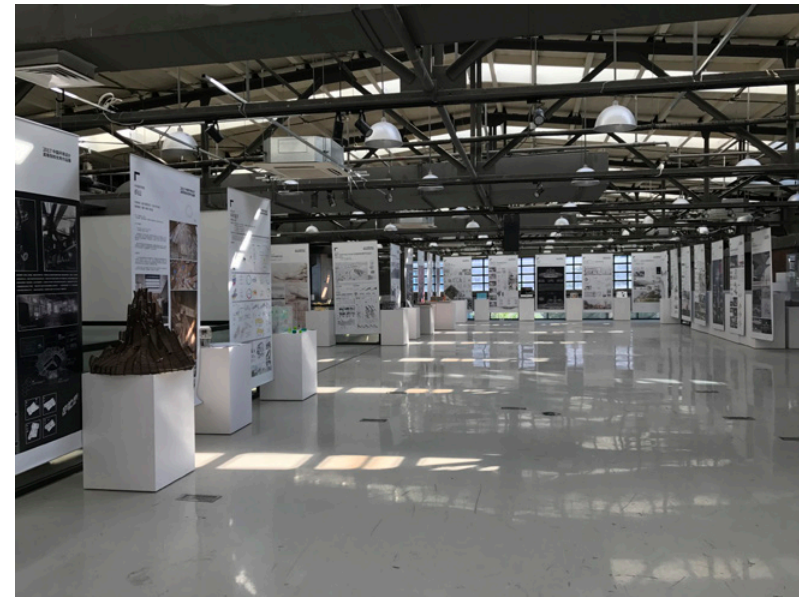
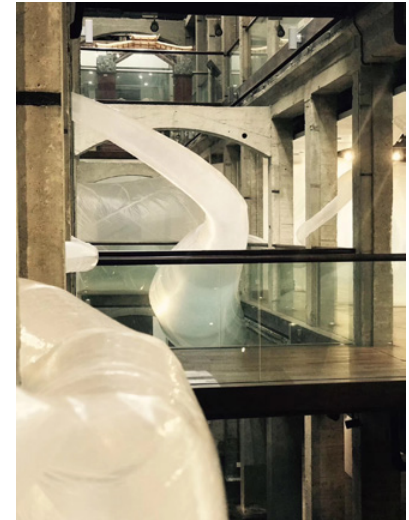
- Gave guest lectures at Hebei Technology University and Beijing Design School.
- Presented in a AIGA panel discussion “From Design Thinking to Divergent Thinking” which was organized by Prof. Yvette Shen.
- Co-edited a book “Fusion and Evolution - The Teaching and Learning of Design in American and Chinese Academia” with Prof. Li Yan. The book is currently under final revision and will be published in 2018.
- Organized an color theory study event “COLORientation”. A paper based on the project is accepted by CAA and Prof. Chi will present at CAA annual conference in Feb 2018.
- Interviewed by “LA living” (a TV show) to address issues related to art and photography exhibitions. Interviewed by Baidu Education, discussing art and design education in the U.S.



Hongtao Zhou

Professor
Director of Innovation Field
College of Design and Innovation (D&I), Tongji University

Hongtao Zhou held his solo installation exhibition at Tongji University Museum as a section of China Design Week program in Shanghai. Hongtao Zhou also curated an Exhibition of Excellent Environmental Design by College Student at Tongji University Gallery. His textscape work is on exhibition at China Visual Art Museum in Beijing.



Weimin Zhang

Professor
School of Cinema
San Francisco State University

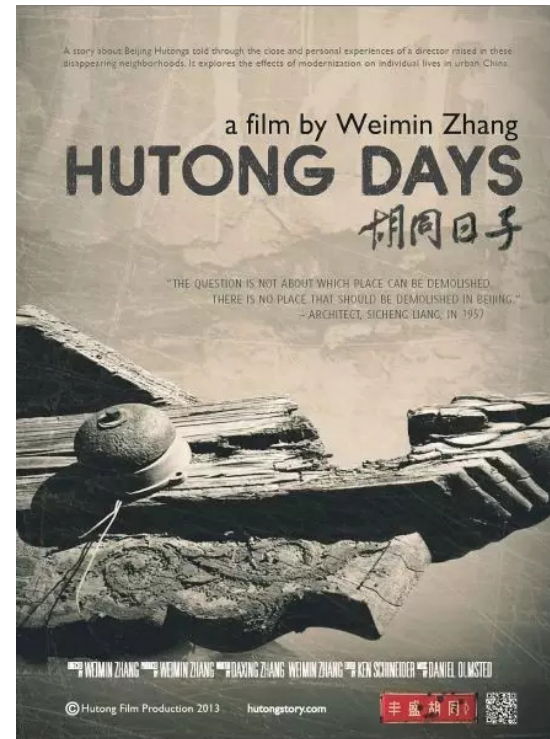
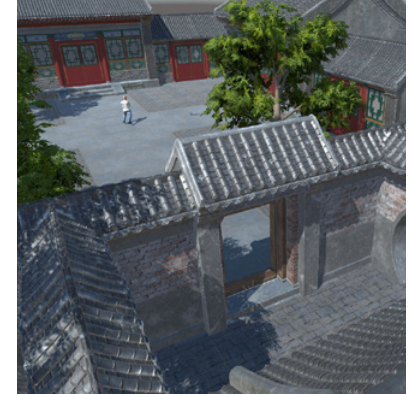
Hutongs in Life – An immersive experience in hutongs¹

This multimedia project integrated with multiple cutting-age technologies including AR/VR/MR. It will weave together the rich array of multimedia materials including 360VR documentary film scenes, archival film footage, 3D animation, music and sound tracks to examine the boom-and-bust of a historical capital city and experience the changes from 1949 to today. The innovative Light Field technology, along with VR (Virtual Reality) and AR (Augmented Reality) technology will provide the audience with an immersive experience to explore the virtual hutongs from a first-person perspective, highlighting the ways that the real-world landscape was designed to tell complex stories. The digital interactive elements in the virtual environment will provide various

opportunities for users to access and interact with and manipulate objects, trigger sound descriptions of area significance, and watch film clips woven with the intimate footage and stories of former hutong residents. The AR technology will bring the now destroyed hutongs back to life under the modern city structure, in which the users with AR devices will be able to explore and experience the immersion environment.

The ultimate goal of this project is created an interactive virtual reality digital museum on multi-platforms: a gallery based light field digital installation exhibition and mobile-based applications.

¹ A hutong is an ancient city alley or lane typical in Beijing, where hutongs run into the several thousand, surrounding the Forbidden City, many were built during the Yuan (1206-1341), Ming(1368-1628) and Qing(1644-1908) dynasties



Xiaohong Zhang

Professor
Department of Art & Design
University of Wisconsin Whitewater

Xiaohong Zhang was selected to have a solo exhibit in Wriston Art Galleries at Lawrence University. Her creative focus has been on the Traversing Medium and Re-appropriating Motifs in Contemporary Art with continuous investigation of traversing traditional art form of Chinese landscape ink wash painting through the concept of contemporary western art setting. She has focused on exploring digital 2D, 3D skills. I want to blur the institutional and historical boundaries between traditional Chinese ink wash painting and Western graphic practices by using western 2D, 3D graphic skills to re-figure the traditional Chinese ink mountain painting. She has used the 3D software Maya to recreate the mountains and water.

March 2016, Xiaohong Zhang was invited to “Intangible Expedition – International Exhibition” in Beijing Museum of Visual Art, Beijing, China.



Nan Liu

Associate Professor
Florida A&M University

This year I am the juror and judge of the Sumi-e Society of America's 54th Annual Juried Exhibition. I also taught a three-day portrait and figurative ink painting workshop for this national juried exhibition from July 7-9.

This year I also hold two solo art exhibitions: One exhibition titled "FAMU Students' Life Series-Figurative Paintings by Nan Liu" at Social Sciences Building Art Gallery, Savannah State University, Savannah, Georgia, in October, 2017. In this exhibition I included 10 life size oil paintings I created recently. Another exhibition titled "Still Life Paintings by Liu Nan" at the Artport Gallery, Tallahassee International

Airport, Florida, August 22-November 6, 2017. This exhibition there were 25 pieces of still life paintings I created during past 10 years. In 2017, I also participated 8 group shows, published 3 papers, and was invited by 7 different universities and institutes as a guest artist demonstrating Chinese brush paintings and calligraphy. My book "Art Education in the United States-美国美术教育" will be published by Hu Nan Fine Arts Publishing House in China in 2018. This is the first comprehensive book introducing American art education theory and practice to China.





Forum of Across the Divide

Association of Chinese Artists in American Academia

2017

NEWSLETTER

Executive Commttee

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Yingxue Zuo

Xiaohong Zhang

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Rebecca Ruige Xu

Hongtao Zhou