

Meiqin Wang
Curriculum Vitae

Work address: Department of Art, California State University, Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff Street,
Northridge, CA 91330-8300

Phone: (818) 282-3482 Email: meiqin.wang@csun.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Art History, 2007

State University of New York at Binghamton / Dissertation advisor: Nancy Um

Dissertation: *Confrontation and Complicity: Rethinking Official Art in Contemporary China*

M.A., Art History, 2002

Chinese National Academy of Arts, Beijing, China / Thesis advisor: Wang Yong

B.A., Art Education, 1998

Fujian Normal University, Fuzhou, China

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Professor, Department of Art, California State University, Northridge, 2017–present

Associate Professor, Department of Art, California State University, Northridge, 2012–2017

Assistant Professor, Department of Art, California State University, Northridge, 2007–2012

Adjunct Professor, Department of Visual Arts, Union College, winter 2026–spring 2007

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Wang, Meiqin. *Socially Engaged Art in Contemporary China: Voices from Below*. New York: Routledge, 2019.

———. *Urbanization and Contemporary Chinese Art*. New York: Routledge, 2015.

———. *Klee on Art*. Beijing: The People's Fine Arts Publishing House, 2002. (In Chinese)

Edited and Co-edited Books and Journal Issues

Wang, Meiqin, ed. *Contemporary Art and Ecological Transformation in East and Southeast Asia*. London: Manchester University Press, forthcoming 2026.

Wang, Meiqin, and Yanhua Zhou, eds. *Art in Action: The Discursive Practices of Chinese Socially Engaged Art in the 21st Century*. Beijing: Culture Relics Publishing House, 2023. (In Chinese)

Wang, Meiqin, ed. *Socially Engaged Public Art in East Asia*. Wilmington, DE: Vernon Press, 2022.

Wang, Meiqin, and Minna Valjakka, eds. *Visual Arts, Representations and Interventions in Contemporary China: Urbanized Interface*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2018.

Wang, Meiqin, and Minna Valjakka, eds. Special issue, "Visual Arts and Urbanization." *China Information* 29, no. 2 (2015).

Book Chapters

- Wang, Meiqin. "Aesthetics as Ethics: The Politics of Arts-led Rural Reconstruction in Contemporary China." In *Socially Engaged Art and Ethics: Power, Politics and Participation*, edited by Anthony Schrag, 128–144. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2025.
- . "Socially Engaged Art and Pedagogical Experiments from Contemporary China." In *Pedagogical Art in Activist and Curatorial Practices*, edited by Izabel Galliera and Noni Brynjolson, 212–225. New York: Routledge, 2025.
- . "Curating Human Togetherness: Artivism and the Remaking of People and Place in Mainland China." In *Rethinking Displays of Chinese Contemporary Art*, edited by Paul Gladston, Lynne Howarth-Gladston, Johnson Tsong-zung Chang, and Jason Kuo, 161–198. Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan, 2024.
- . "Dare to Fail: Socially Engaged Public Art and Its Challenges in Contemporary China." In *The Failures of Public Art and Participation*, edited by Cameron Cartiere and Anthony Schrag, 238–257. New York: Routledge, 2023.
- . "Art in Rural Placemaking." In *Rural Quality of Life*, edited by Pia Heike Johansen, Anne Tietjen, Evald Bundgård Iversen, Henrik Lauridsen Lolle, and Jens Kaae Fisker, 179–197. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2023.
- Wang, Meiqin, and Minna Valjakka. "Engagement with the Urban: Visual Arts as a Form of Cultural Activism in Contemporary China." In *Visual Arts, Representations and Interventions in Contemporary China: Urbanized Interface*, edited by Minna Valjakka and Meiqin Wang, 13–31. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2018.
- . "Shadow of the Spectacular: Photographing Social Control and Inequality in Urban China." In *Visual Arts, Representations and Interventions in Contemporary China: Urbanized Interface*, edited by Minna Valjakka and Meiqin Wang, 115–145. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2018.
- . "The Art World of Post-Deng China." In *Contemporary Chinese Art and Film: Theory Applied and Resisted*, edited by Jason C. Kuo, 37–65. Washington, DC: New Academia Publishing, 2013.
- . "On Xue Guoping's Art." In *Chinese Artists Books for International Art Exchange*, no. 5, 6–10. Beijing: China Federation of Literary and Art Circles Publishing House, 2007. (In Chinese)

Peer-reviewed Articles

- Wang, Meiqin. "Tracing Urban Transformations: Ni Weihua's Playful Intervention in China's Evolving Sociospatial Landscape." *Global Media and China* 10, no. 1 (2025): 19–45.
- . "Ecology, Environmental Art, and Sustainable Community Building: The Meinung Yellow Butterfly Festival as a Case of Environmental Activism in Taiwan." *The International Journal of Social Sustainability in Economic, Social, and Cultural Context* 19, no. 2 (2023): 75–101.
- . "Performing Eco-Public Art: Tseng Chi-ming and His Embodied Environmental Artivism." *Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art* 10, no. 1–2 (2023): 157–182.
- Wang, Meiqin, and Li Zhu. "The Paradigm Shift of Theory of Participatory Art in a Cross-Cultural Context." *National Arts* no. 5 (2022): 25–33. (In Chinese)
- . "Pandemic, Censorship and Creative Protests via Grassroots Visual Mobilization." *Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art* 8, no. 2–3 (2021): 167–191.
- . "Walking the City: Handshake 302 and Reinventing Public Art in Shenzhen." *Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art* 7, no. 2–3 (2020): 177–200.
- . "Village Transformed: Jin Le and Community Development through Contemporary Art." *Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art* 5, no. 2–3 (2018): 193–213.

- . “Power, Capital, and Artistic Freedom: Contemporary Chinese Art Communities and the City.” *Cultural Studies* 33, no. 4 (2018): 657–689.
- . “Place-Making for the People: Socially Engaged Art in Rural China.” *China Information* 32, no. 2 (2018): 244–269.
- . “The Socially Engaged Practices of Artists in Contemporary China.” *Journal of Visual Art Practice* 16, no. 1 (2017): 15–38.
- . “Advertising the Chinese Dream: Urban Billboards and Ni Weihua’s Documentary Photography.” *China Information* 29, no. 2 (2015): 176–201.
- Wang, Meiqin, and Minna Valjakka. “Urbanized Interfaces: Visual Arts in Chinese Cities.” *China Information* 29, no. 2 (2015): 139–153.
- . “Invisible Body and the Predicaments of Existence in an Urbanizing China.” *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs* 44, no. 1 (2015): 163–197.
- . “Art, Culture Industry and the Transformation of Songzhuang Artist Village.” *The International Journal of the Arts in Society* 5, no. 1 (2010): 187–205.
- . “Officializing the Unofficial: Presenting New Chinese Art.” *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture* 21, no. 1 (2009): 102–140.

Editor-reviewed Articles and Essays

- Wang, Meiqin. “Mass Burial: A Case of Activism in Taiwan.” *FIELD: A Journal of Socially-Engaged Art Criticism*, no. 22 (2022). <https://field-journal.com/category/issue-22/>.
- . “A Case of Eco-Public Art in Taiwan: The Meinung Yellow Butterfly Festival.” *The Newsletter – International Institute for Asian Studies*, no. 93 (2022): 8–9.
- . “Documentary Activism and ‘Art as Journalism’ in a Chinese Urban Village.” In *Asian Studies, The Twelfth International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 12)* 1 (2022): 743–752.
- . “Breathing.” *Post: Notes on Modern & Contemporary Art Around The Globe*, MoMA, February 12, 2020. https://post.at.moma.org/content_items/1426-breathing.
- . “Entering the Scene: On Socially Engaged Art.” *Bishan* 10 (2017): 194–197. (In Chinese)
- . “Waste in Contemporary Chinese Art.” *The Newsletter – International Institute for Asian Studies*, no. 76 (2017): 32–33.
- . “Urbanization and Its Artistic Discontent: Yang Yongliang’s Urban Dystopia.” *University of Nottingham Blogs / China Policy Institute Blog*, July 6, 2016.
- Wang, Meiqin, and Minna Valjakka. “Urbanized Interfaces: Chinese Visual Arts in the Age of Urbanization.” *Asia Pacific Memo*, no. 346 (2015), November 2.
- Wang, Meiqin. “The Primitive and Unproductive Body: He Yunchang and His Performance Art.” *Yishu: Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art* 13, no. 4 (2014): 6–25.
- . “To Demolish: Thinking About Urbanization in China Through a Collaborative Art Project in the Countryside.” *Yishu: Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art* 11, no. 4 (2012): 30–42.
- . “Everyone Curates: From Global Avant-garde to Local Reality.” *Yishu: Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art* 8, no. 6 (2009): 20–32.
- . “Reflecting on International Biennials and Triennials in Asia.” *Asia Art Archive Perspectives (Dialaologue)*, October 2008. (Web-based publication)
- . “The Beijing Biennale: The Politics of Chinese Characteristics.” *Yishu: Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art* 7, no. 4 (2008): 20–31.

Exhibition Catalogues and Catalogue Essays

- Wang, Meiqin. "Mountain in Full Bloom: Yicong Guo." In *UNESCO Art Collection: Selected Works*, 98–99. Paris: UNESCO, 2021.
- . *Ex/Ordinary: Wen Fang and the Power of Image Making*. Art Galleries of California State University, Northridge, 2019.
- . *Shadow of the Spectacle: Urban China in Ni Weihua's Conceptual Photography*. Art Galleries of California State University, Northridge, 2015.
- . "Will Life Become Better?: The City and the Crowd in Zhao Shuo's Painting." In *Zhao Shuo Works*, 84–88. Shanghai: Zhao Shuo Contemporary Art Center, 2013.
- . *Liu Bolin: The Sociology of the Invisible Body*. Art Galleries of California State University, Northridge, 2012.
- . *Tales of Our Time: Two Contemporary Artists From China*. Art Galleries of California State University, Northridge, 2011.
- . "Portraying China: Urbanization in Progress." In *Tales of Our Time: Two Contemporary Artists From China*, 4–8. Art Galleries of California State University, Northridge, 2011.

Reviews

- Wang, Meiqin. "Book Review: On the Edge: Feeling Precarious in China." *China Perspectives* 138 (2024): 97–98.
- . "Review of Mary Bittner Wiseman: A Grand Materialism in the New Art from China." *sehepunkte* 21, December 15, 2021. <http://www.sehepunkte.de/2021/12/35925.html>.
- . "Experimental Beijing: Gender and Globalization in Chinese Contemporary Art by Sasha Su-Ling Welland." *The China Quarterly* 239 (2019): 841–43.
- . "A Review of Responding to the World: Contemporary Chinese Art, Exhibitions, and Criticism in the 1990s, by Peggy Wang." *Dissertation Reviews*, 2013. (Web-based publication)

PRESENTATIONS

Panels Organized and Chaired

- 2023 — "Public Art, Ecological Crisis, and Environmental Activism in East and Southeast Asia," Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Boston, March 16–19.
- 2022 — "Reconstructing the Relationship between Human Society and Nature," Annual Conference of the Association for Taiwan Social Studies (virtual), November 11–12.
- 2019 — "Public Art and Public Space: Cases from Contemporary China and Japan," Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Denver, March 21–24.
- 2016 — "Socially Engaged Art in Rural China," San Diego Chinese Historical Museum, October 9.
- 2016 — "Revitalizing Rural China Through Artistic and Cultural Production," 58th Annual Conference of the American Association for Chinese Studies, Pepperdine University, October 7–9.
- 2016 — "Intervention, Engagement, and Transition: The New Artistic and Creative Practices in East Asia," Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Seattle, March 31–April 3.
- 2014 — "Building the City Image: Culture, Creativity, and Contemporary Art," Asia and Europe in a Global Context, Heidelberg University, October 8–10.
- 2012 — "Urbanization and Contemporary Art in Asia," 100th Annual Conference of the College Art Association (CAA), Los Angeles, February 22–25.

2009 — “International Exhibition in East Asia,” 97th Annual Conference of the College Art Association (CAA), Los Angeles, February 25–28.

Paper Presentations, Invited Talks, and Keynotes

2025 — “Transformative Pedagogies in Chinese Socially Engaged Art,” 113th Annual Conference of the College Art Association (CAA), New York, February 12–15.

2024 — Keynote: “Her Artivism: Engendering Social and Ecological Transformation in East Asia,” Art, Activism and Intersectionality in East Asia Conference, University of Oxford (UK), December 5–6.

2023 — “On the Ground of the Discarded: Ecological Materialism and Socially Engaged Public Art in Chongqing,” (Re)Made in China: Material Dis:connections, Art and Creative Reuse Symposium, Käte Hamburger Research Centre global dis:connect, Ludwig Maximilian University Munich (Germany), May 4–5.

2023 — Panelist, “Ecoart in Sinophone Sphere,” Brooklyn Rail Series (virtual), March 27.

2023 — “Healing Garden: A Case of Ecological Artivism in Mainland China,” Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Boston, March 16–19.

2023 — “Art, Energy, and the Recent Development of Ecological Art in East Asia,” Energy in Asia Conference, EnviroLab (Claremont McKenna College) and UCLA Center for Korean Studies, Los Angeles, February 23–24.

2023 — “Performing Eco-Public Art: Tseng Chi-ming and His Environmental Artivism,” 111th Annual Conference of the College Art Association (CAA), (virtual), February 15–18.

2023 — “Ecology as Method: Meinung Yellow Butterfly Festival and Community-Based Environmental Activism,” 19th International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability (virtual), February 1–3.

2022 — “From Social Justice to Ecological Justice: The Birth of the Ecological Multitude,” Annual Conference of the Association for Taiwan Social Studies (virtual), November 11–12.

2022 — Panelist, “Realisms in Chinese Visual Cultures and Aesthetics,” Brooklyn Rail Series (virtual), April 25.

2022 — Discussant, “Rural Reconstruction through Art in Contemporary China: Tensions and Voices,” 110th Annual Conference of the College Art Association (CAA), (virtual), March 3.

2021 — Invited Talk, “Artivism in Taiwan,” China Institute and College of Humanities, California State University, Northridge (virtual), October 22.

2021 — “Documentary Activism and ‘Art as Journalism’ in a Chinese Urban Village,” 12th International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 12), Kyoto (Japan) (virtual), August 24–28.

2021 — Invited Talk, “Socially Engaged Art: Chinese Experiences,” 23rd Meinung Yellow Butterfly Festival (Taiwan) (virtual), August 7.

2021 — Forum Participant, “Social Practices of Contemporary Art: Interdisciplinary, Environmental Aesthetics, and Ecological Art,” International Forum for Inter-School Exchange, National University of Tainan (Taiwan), May 12.

2021 — Invited Talk, “Artivism: Socially Engaged Art in Progress,” Chinese National Academy of Arts (Beijing, China) (virtual), May 10.

2021 — “Creative Intervention in Cultural Heritage Preservation,” U.S.A.–Taiwan Marine Sustainable Development International Conference, Magong (Penghu, Taiwan), May 7.

2021 — “Curating Human Togetherness,” Rethinking the Curation of Chinese Contemporary Art, University of Maryland (US) and University of New South Wales (Australia) (virtual), April 28.

- 2021 — Invited Talk, “The Practice of Socially Engaged Art in East Asia,” National University of Tainan (Taiwan), April 21.
- 2021 — Invited Talk, “Art in Action: Socially Engaged Art from Contemporary China,” National Taipei University of Education (Taiwan), April 16.
- 2021 — “Art That Makes Life Viable: Ecology, Community, and Activism in Chongqing,” Fulbright Seminar, Fulbright Taiwan, Taipei (Taiwan), March 20.
- 2020 — “Tracing the Vestiges of Urban Transformation: Ni Weihua and His Public Art,” Critical Spatial Practices in China Lecture Series, University of Applied Arts Vienna (virtual), December 4–5.
- 2020 — Distinguished Visiting Scholar Lecture, “Art in Action: Socially Engaged Art from Contemporary China,” Humanities Center, University of Tennessee Knoxville (virtual), November 16.
- 2020 — “Pandemic, Censorship, and Grassroots Visual Mobilization,” 13th Annual Conference, Centre for Chinese Visual Arts at Birmingham City University (virtual), November 9–10.
- 2020 — “Curating Rural Reconstruction: Zuo Jing and Art for Community Development,” 108th College Art Association Annual Conference, Chicago, February 12–15.
- 2019 — Keynote: “Walking the City: New Approaches to Urban Public Art,” 12th Annual Conference, Centre for Chinese Visual Arts at Birmingham City University, Tate Liverpool (UK), November 11.
- 2019 — Invited Talk, “Socially Engaged Art in Contemporary China,” Longtan Museum, Longtan Village (Ningde, China), June 22.
- 2019 — Invited Talk, “Socially Engaged Art in Contemporary China,” Sichuan Fine Arts Institute (Chongqing, China), June 12.
- 2019 — Invited Talk, “Socially Engaged Art in Contemporary China,” Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts (Guangzhou, China), June 12.
- 2019 — Invited Talk, “Socially Engaged Art in Contemporary China,” University of San Diego, April 5.
- 2019 — Invited Talk, “Voices from Below: Socially Engaged Art in Contemporary China,” York University (Toronto, Canada), March 26.
- 2019 — “Documenting Social and Environmental Injustices in Contemporary China: Visual Images as Forms of Civic Participation,” The Living Past: Disaster, Trauma, and Visual Art in East Asia, York University (Toronto, Canada), March 28–29.
- 2019 — “Public Art in Rural China: Dongtou Village Graffiti Festival and the Possibility of Bottom-Up Public Space,” Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Denver, March 21–24.
- 2018 — “From ‘Chinese Symbol’ to ‘Chinese Problem Situation’: Wang Nanming and the Theory of Critical Art,” 106th College Art Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, February 21–24.
- 2017 — “The Right to the Countryside: From Contemporary Art to Alternative Place Construction,” 105th College Art Association Annual Conference, New York, February 15–18.
- 2016 — “Alternative Place Construction: Socially Engaged Art in Rural China,” 58th Annual Conference of the American Association for Chinese Studies, Pepperdine University, October 7–9.
- 2016 — “Rural Reconstruction through Art: The Social Intervention of the Artists,” Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Seattle, March 31–April 3.

- 2015 — “Waste in Contemporary Chinese Art: Byproducts of China’s Urban Development and Consumerism,” Annual Conference of the American Association of Chinese Studies, Houston, October 9–11.
- 2015 — “The Intervention of the Artists: Socially Engaged Art in Contemporary China,” 9th International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 9), Adelaide (Australia), July 5–9.
- 2014 — “Power, Capital, and Creative Freedom: Art and the City in Contemporary China,” Asia and Europe in a Global Context, Heidelberg University (Germany), October 8–10.
- 2014 — “The Reign of Things: Consuming Everyday Life in Urban China,” Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (WCAAS), Arizona State University, October 3–4.
- 2013 — “Invisible Body, Little Men, and the Predicaments of Existence in an Urbanizing China,” 8th International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 8), Macao (China), June 24–27.
- 2012 — “To Demolish: Thinking about Urbanization in Rural China Through a Collaborative Art Project,” 100th Annual Conference of the College Art Association (CAA), Los Angeles, February 22–25.
- 2011 — “From Vagrants to Cultural Elites: Artist Migration in Contemporary China,” Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Honolulu, March 31–April 3.
- 2010 — “The Artist and the Art World in Contemporary China,” Annual Meeting of the Art Historians of Southern California, Los Angeles, December 4.
- 2010 — “Urbanization and Its Representation in Contemporary Chinese Art,” Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (WCAAS), California State University, Northridge, October 22–23.
- 2010 — “Developing Learner-Centered Teaching: A Showcase of Classroom Strategies,” Center for Innovative and Engaged Learning Opportunities, California State University, Northridge, September 7.
- 2010 — “Culture Industry, Political Tolerance, and the Transformation of the Song Zhuang Artist Village,” 5th International Conference on the Arts in Society, Sydney (Australia), July 22–25.
- 2010 — “Embracing New Pedagogical Paradigms: Learning to Learn Art History,” 13th CSU Symposium on University Teaching, California State University, San Bernardino, April 24.
- 2010 — Panelist, “Contemporary Art Conversations #4,” Couturier Gallery, Los Angeles. Organized by Peter Frank (art critic) and Betty Brown (art historian); co-sponsored by AICA (International Association of Art Critics), February 20.
- 2009 — “Everyone Curates: From Global Avant-garde to Local Reality,” Negotiating Difference: Contemporary Chinese Art in the Global Context, Berlin (Germany), October 22–24.
- 2009 — “Nationalism via Globalism: The Third Beijing International Art Biennale,” 97th Annual Conference of the College Art Association (CAA), Los Angeles, February 25–28.
- 2008 — Invited Talk, “New Movements from China: Contemporary Art Turns Official,” University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), April 23.
- 2008 — “From Underground Art to International Touring Art: Chinese Contemporary Art on the Move,” Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, Honolulu, January 11–14.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- 2023–2024 — Instructionally Related Activity Grant, California State University, Northridge
- 2022–2023 — College Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award, California State University, Northridge
- 2020–2021 — Fulbright Scholar, Taiwan

2020–2021 — University Competition for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award, California State University, Northridge

2019–2020 — Instructionally Related Activity Grant, California State University, Northridge

2018–2019 — College Competition for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award, California State University, Northridge

2018 — College Research and Creative Activity Travel Grant, California State University, Northridge

2016–2017 — Provost Research Fellow, California State University, Northridge

2015–2016 — University Competition for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award, California State University, Northridge

2015–2016 — Instructionally Related Activity Grant, California State University, Northridge

2015 — China Institute Outstanding Contribution Award, California State University, Northridge

2014–2015 — College Faculty Research/Creative Activities Award, California State University, Northridge

2013–2014 — American Research in the Humanities in China Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)

2012–2013 — Instructionally Related Activity Grant, California State University, Northridge

2012–2013 — China Institute Faculty Development Grant, California State University, Northridge

2011–2012 — Instructionally Related Activity Grant, California State University, Northridge

2011–2012 — China Institute Faculty Development Grant, California State University, Northridge

2010–2011 — University Competition for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award, California State University, Northridge

2010–2011 — College Professional Development Grant, California State University, Northridge

2010–2011 — Probationary Faculty Support Program Grant, California State University, Northridge

2010–2011 — Instructionally Related Activity Grant, California State University, Northridge

2010–2011 — Judge Julian Beck Learning-Centered Instructional Projects Award, California State University, Northridge

2009–2010 — College Research and Creative Activities Grant, California State University, Northridge

2009–2010 — Wang Family Faculty Fellowship, California State University International Programs

2009–2010 — University Competition for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award, California State University, Northridge

2008–2009 — China Institute Faculty Development Grant, California State University, Northridge

2008–2009 — University Competition for Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award, California State University, Northridge

2007–2008 — College Research and Creative Activities Grant, California State University, Northridge

2007 — University Award for Student Excellence, State University of New York at Binghamton

2007 — Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Teaching, State University of New York at Binghamton

2007 — Dissertation Year Fellowship, State University of New York at Binghamton