



Chinese Contemporary Art as Social and Political Commentary

“In every culture, in every time, artists have always
been the weather vanes, the truth-tellers . . . the ones
who make visible the invisible.”

-Cay Lang, artist

Censorship and Exile

Sheng Qi

Memories (me)

2000

Chromogenic Print

120 X 80cm



Urban Demolition and New Construction



Zhang Dali

*Demolition: Forbidden
City, Beijing, 1998*

From the series *Dialogue
with Demolition*

Chromogenic print
35 3/8 x 23 3/4 in

Political Dissent



Tang Zhigang

Children's Meeting, 2000; from the series *Children's Meetings Series*

Oil on Canvas

Cultural Conflict: Increase in Materialism and Westernization

Wang Guangyi

Prada, 2005;
from the series
Great Criticism

Oil on Canvas



Conformity: One Child Policy



Zhang Xiaogang

Bloodline: Family Portrait II, 1994; from the series *Bloodlines*

Oil on canvas 150 x 180 cm

Urbanization and Alienation

Gao Brothers

*Sense of Space:
Pain, 2000*

From the Series
*Sense of
Space*

Photograph



Environment: Pace of Industrialization



Fan Lijun

2006.5.5, 2006

Oil on Canvas

Media Censorship

Wang Du

No Comment, 2001

Installation:
Newspapers, TV
Sets, Computers



Cultural Change: Generation Gap

Zhong Biao

Shanghai, 1998

Charcoal and
Oil on Canvas



Conformity: Pressure for Success



Weng Fen

Family Aspirations: Academic Degree and Patriotism,
2003

Photograph

Role of Women

Lin Tianmiao

*Bound-
Unbound,*
1995-1997

Installation:
Video, White
Thread,
Household
Objects



Human Endurance: Poverty and Living Conditions

Zhang Huan

*12 Square
Meters, 1994*

Performance
Installation



Migrant Workers



Zhang Dali
Chinese Offspring, 2005

Installation

Pollution and Water Scarcity

Yin Xiuzhen

*Washing the
River, 1995*

Performance
Installation



Displaced Communities – Three Gorges Dam



Liu Xiadong

Three Gorges: Newly Displaced Population, 2004

Large Scale Scroll Painting

Female Suicide



Zhong Biao

*Don't Let Me Be the
Last to Know,
2004*

Acrylic on Canvas

References for Art Images (In order of appearance in slides)

First Image is a photograph taken at the National Art Museum of China, Beijing by Clare Sisisky, July 2007.

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