



Underground Art During Mao's Cultural Revolution

14:00-15:45, Thursday, June 01, 2023

University of Zurich, Room ZUB 416, Zürichbergstrasse 4, 8032 Zürich

Guest Lecture by Assoc. Prof. Aihe Wang, University of Hong Kong

This lecture focuses on underground art and artists' collectives during China's Cultural Revolution. Centered on the *Wuming* (No Name) painting group active in the 1970s, it explores the interconnections between art practice and community formation, and between the artists' individual subjectivity and the group dynamics of their collective. As a *history*, it formed a fresh critique and innovative response to China's radical revolutionary modernity. As an artists' *community*, it facilitated transformation of a militant society, giving birth of a modernist art and modern subjectivity. And as *art*, it discloses an alternative modernism, bridging western modernism and Chinese aesthetics. This lecture re-evaluates the conventional narratives of modern art history in a global and comparative context.

Aihe Wang is Honorary Associate Professor at the University of Hong Kong. She is currently working on her book on underground art during China's cultural revolution. This project began in 2013 with her membership at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and has been supported by The French National Research Agency (ANR) and Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC) Joint Research Scheme. Her representative works include *Cosmology and Political Culture in Early China* and *Wuming (No Name) Painting Catalogue*. Her recent articles on modern China are published in *Society, China Perspectives, Twenty-First Century*, and *Modern Chinese History*.

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