ART OF THE MOUNTAIN

THROUGH THE CHINESE PHOTOGRAPHER’S LENS

Organized by
China Institute Gallery

Curated by
Willow Weilan Hai, Jerome Silbergeld, and Rong Jiang

A traveling exhibition available through summer 2023
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In Chinese legend, mountains are the pillars that hold up the sky. Mountains were seen as places that nurture life. Their veneration took the form of rituals, retreat from social society, and aesthetic appreciation with a defining role in Chinese art and culture.

Art of the Mountain will consist of three sections: Revered Mountains of China will introduce the geography, history, legends, and culture that are associated with Chinese mountains and will include photographs by Hou Heliang, Kang Songbai and Kang Liang, Li Daguang, Lin Maozhao, Li Xueliang, Lu Hao, Zhang Anlu, Xiao Chao, Yan Shi, Wang Jing, Zhang Jiaxuan, Zhang Huajie, and Zheng Congli. Landscape Aesthetics in Photography will present Wang Wusheng’s photography of Mount Huangshan, also known as Yellow Mountain, to reflect the renowned Chinese landscape painting aesthetic and its influence. New Landscape Photography includes the works of Hong Lei, Lin Ran, Lu Yanpeng, Shao Wenhuan, Taca Sui, Xiao Xuan’an, Yan Changjiang, Yang Yongliang, Yao Lu, Zeng Han, Gao Hui, and Feng Yan, who express their thoughts on the role of mountains in society.

The exhibition is curated by Willow Weilan Hai, Director, China Institute Gallery; Jerome Silbergeld, P. Y. and Kinmay W. Tang Professor of Chinese Art History at Princeton University, Emeritus; and photography critic and photographer Jiang Rong.
China Institute and China Institute Gallery

China Institute advances a deeper understanding of China through programs in education, culture, business and art in the belief that cross-cultural understanding strengthens our global community. Founded in 1926 by a group of American and Chinese educators, China Institute in America is the oldest bicultural, non-profit organization in America to focus exclusively on China.

China Institute Gallery, established in 1966, is distinct among the museums of New York City. It was the first in the United States to showcase Chinese art exclusively and on a regular basis, exhibiting the finest Chinese works of art, including painting, calligraphy, ceramics, bronzes, decorative art, folk art, architecture, photography and textiles from all periods. Today, China Institute Gallery is New York's only non-commercial exhibition space solely dedicated to Chinese art and is known for its innovative thematic and scholarly exhibitions, publications and related art education programs.

For further information, please contact:

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*Please note that all information in this document is tentative and subject to change without notice.
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FACT SHEET

Number of Works
63

Space Required
2,000–3,000 sq. ft.

Exhibition Period
4–8 weeks, longer durations considered on a case-by-case basis

Educational Materials
Wall panel texts, object labels, video introduction, press kit and set of digital images for publicity and educational purposes only. Additional images by request.

Publications
Catalogue of approximately 272 pages with full color plates of all exhibition pieces.

Loan Fee
$7,500 a month, $13,500 for two months. Includes didactic text, crating, packing, admin costs, and 20 catalogues with additional copies available at discount.

Shipping Costs
The hosting institution is responsible for round-trip shipping.

Insurance Costs
Covered by hosting institution. The hosting institution will provide a Certificate of Insurance naming the lender as additional insured (in domestic transit, in storage, and at the premises).

Couriers’ Costs
No couriers required

Security
Moderate

Exhibition Dates
China Institute Gallery Feb 2018 – August 2019
Available now – June 30, 2023

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SELECTED IMAGES
Section 1:
Revered Mountains of China

This section introduces Chinese legends and civilization through photographs of the historically renowned Three Mountains and Five Sacred Mountains, Kunlun, and Tibetan Mountains.
Yan Shi 闫实

The Patriarch of the Five Sacred Mountains on Mount Tai

Artist Biography:

Yan Shi was born 1982 in Tai’an, Shandong. He holds master’s degrees in both photographic arts and business management and is a teacher at Shandong University of Finance and Technology and a guest lecturer in photography at several colleges. In addition, he is an avid world traveler, using his lens to reflect on human geography. He strives to capture the vicissitudes of the natural world and to put what he has learned through the lens to practice in real life. A participant in many provincial, national, and international exhibitions, he has earned awards at home and abroad. Some of his Mount Tai photographs have been used as promotional images and public service posters for the Chinese Cultural Exhibition at the Olympic Games in China, the Eleventh National Sports Competition, and the Shandong Provincial Pavilion at the World Expo in Shanghai. His affiliations include the China Photographers Association (CPA); board member of Shandong CPA; and deputy secretary of Shandong College Photographers Association.
Artist Biography:

Born in Beijing, Zhang Jiaxuan came to the United States in 1981 to study cinema at New York University. After completing his master’s degree in cinema studies, he went on to teach Chinese language, Chinese calligraphy, Chinese film, Chinese drama and Chinese history at educational and cultural institutions across New York, including China Institute, Hunter College, New School University and Queens College. In addition to his experience as an educator, Zhang is an accomplished photographer, film critic and calligrapher. In 2009 he was recognized in the volume 100 NEW YORK PHOTOGRAPHERS, and will also be included in the upcoming 2015 volume 100 NEW YORK CALLIGRAPHERS.
Wang Jing 王静

View from the Roof of the World

Artist Biography:

As the Co-founder of Beijing Toread Outdoor Products Co., Ltd. and an adventure mountaineer, Ms. Wang Jing successfully conquered the snow mountain peaks of 8000 meters above the sea level for nine times, including stepping on the summit of Mount Everest three times, hiking expeditions to both the South Pole and the North Pole. She was the first Chinese to reach the Nuzi Peak (without oxygen tank during the entire expedition) and she also became the first person in accomplishing 7 + 2 in the shortest time by successfully conquering the nine poles on earth in consecutive 143 days. The TV documentary The Road Ahead became the candidate for the 31st Milano International Film Week. She was selected as the Ambassador of Antarctic Marine Union for the promotion of marine protection. In 2014, the government of Nepal awarded her as International Mountaineer of the Year and she was again granted the title of Ambassador of Sino-Nepalese Friendship by the Nepalese government in 2015.
Artist Biography:

Zhang Anlu was born in Shandong Province. An experienced photographer, he is a member of China Photographers Association, and is listed in “The Famous Figures of the Contemporary Arts Circles in China” and “Chinese Photographers Dictionary.” Many of his works have been awarded or featured in provincial, national and international photography exhibitions, beginning with his first joint black-and-white photography exhibition in 1986, and the first individual black-and-white photography exhibition in 2003. Since 1997, he has taught photography courses at School of Fine Arts of Nanjing Normal University, particularly black-and-white photography and the traditional gelatin silver printing process. Although digital photography has long eclipsed analog, Zhang continues to use the gelatin silver process to create his black-and-white landscape photography, many of which feature western China as well as famous Chinese mountains and rivers.
Section 2:

Landscape Aesthetics in Photography

This section explores the aesthetics of Chinese landscape painting with Wang Wusheng’s Mount Huang (Yellow Mountains) photography.
Artist Biography:

Wang Wusheng was born in the Wuhu City Anhui Province in China. He graduated from the faculty of Physics at Anhui Normal University and worked as a photographer of The Anhui Newspaper and Pictorial in 1973. A year later, he began taking photos of Mt. Huangshan, or the Yellow Mountains. In 1981, he relocated to Tokyo, Japan and two years later, began studying at the Art Institution Nihon University in Tokyo where he was recognized as a fellow of the Japan Foundation of Japanese Art. In 1986, he studied at The Tokyo Arts University; and in 1989, he became a visiting researcher of the Institute for Comparative Studies of culture in Tokyo Women’s Christian University. Shortly after, he relocated to New York for a year and has since been working as a photo-artist based in Shanghai, Tokyo, and New York.
Wang Wusheng 汪芜生

Huangshan W25
Section 3:
The New Landscape Photography

The final section reflects on contemporary landscape photographers’ understandings of traditional Chinese literature and art, as well as their thoughts on social phenomena, environmental changes, and the future.
Yang Yongliang 杨泳梁

Travelers among Mountains and Streams

**Artist Biography:**

Yang Yongliang was born 1980 in Shanghai. He graduated in 2003 from the China Academy of Fine Arts, where he majored in visual communication. Currently he lives and works in Shanghai. In 2005, he started artistic multimedia experiments with photography, video, painting, and installations. Inspired by China’s history, culture, legends, customs, and social phenomena, he embarked on a mission to fuse the vocabulary learned from historical landscapes with leading-edge technology using his own narrative style of presentation. The result is an outpouring of works that are reminiscent of traditional painting formats with a hint of literati taste but full of contemporary elements and post-modernist expression. His works have been showcased in several big exhibitions, including those at the Moscow Biennale, the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing, and the National Gallery of Victoria. They are also in the collection of the British Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In 2015, his Artificial Wonderland series was shortlisted for the Prix Pictet, the global award for photography and sustainability.
Taca Sui 塔可

Mountains under the Sun

Artist Biography:

Taca Sui was born in Qingdao, Shandong Province. He began studying at China Central Academy of Fine Arts in 2003 and at the School of Photography at Rochester Institute of Technology in 2006. In 2008, he transferred to Art Students League of New York and began working with abstract painter, Ronnie Landfield. Now he lives and works in both Beijing and New York.
Hong Lei 洪磊

After the Painting “Autumn Colors in the Que and Hua Mountains”

Artist Biography:

Hong Lei was born 1960 in Changzhou, Jiangsu. He graduated from Nanjing Academy of Fine Arts in 1987, and in 1993 he went on to study printmaking at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing. Currently, he resides in Changzhou, Jiangsu. He has been active in both national and international group and solo exhibitions, and his works have been shown in Europe, the United States, Japan, and South Korea, as well as in quite a few international biennials.
Artist Biography:

Yao Lu is an emerging Chinese artist and teacher at the photography department of the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing. His work has been shown in numerous festivals and collective exhibitions around China, including Lianzhou International Photo Festival in 2007, New China Occidentalism – China Contemporary Art in Beijing in 2006, and the Pingyao International Photography Festival in 2004.
Artist Biographies:

**Yan Changjiang**, a native of Meixian, Guangdong, was born 1968 in the town of Zigui on the Yangzi in Hubei. He graduated from the Department of Journalism at Wuhan University in 1990 and now lives in Guangzhou. His photographs have been shown in many exhibitions across China and internationally. His important photography series include *Paper Men*, *Zoo at Night* (which won the China Contemporary Photographers Bronze Medal at the Pingyao International Photography Festival), *The Three Gorges, Black Box of the Three Gorges* (which won the award for best work at the Exhibition of New Art by Young Artists of Guangdong), *Sandong Bridge in Chongqing, China News*, and *Shenzhou* (or *This Land of Ours*). His published books include *Guangdong Fission*, *Final days of the Three Gorges, Paper Men*, and *Diary of the Three Gorges*.

**Xiao Xuan’an** was born 1960 in Wuhan. He graduated as a photography major from the Journalism Department of Wuhan University in 1989. Currently, he works as a researcher at the Municipal Arts and Crafts Center in Yichang, Hubei. He also serves as a visiting professor at the Art Department of the Three Gorges University and the School of Tourism and Cultural Heritage at Yunnan University. For the past thirty years, he has been engaged in performance art and conceptual photography. His ground-breaking work *Boat Haulers* was a winner in the 1986 national photography exhibition *Ten Years Caught in a Snapshot*, a retrospective of China’s first decade after opening its doors to the outside world. It was also the first nude photograph allowed to be displayed since 1949. His other prize-winning works in both domestic and international contests include *Sinking Buddha* (Best Photographer award), *Wailing Arhats* (Top Ten of Asia award), *Two Big Rivers*, and *Return to Mountains* (a joint project with Yan Changjiang).