Urban Transformations and Contemporary Art in China

This issue invites researchers, curators, artists, designers and architects in the fields of art, design, visual culture and urban studies at all stages of their careers worldwide to reassess the significance of the urban transformations in China, and to reflect upon their impacts on everyday experience and in particular, artistic and curatorial practices.

In the recent decades, China has experienced a revolutionary urban development. The incessant changes have shaped a moving reality, almost illusive, beyond the normal and tangible environment of daily life. The rapidity of today’s urbanisation is a global issue, and yet the example of contemporary cities in China is singular, filled with excitement and anxiety. Histories have been destroyed, and heritage and memories are being reinvented for the future. How do we re-examine the triumph of the economic achievement and the urban development, or the loss, through sociological, anthropological, cultural and artistic perspectives? For those insiders – artists who are living through the accelerated development and its disturbance, how to capture and interpret the transient, to respond critically to such an urban existence, and to imagine a unique or almost surreal experience in China?

We encourage papers from a variety of subject areas to develop interdisciplinary perspectives and new understandings on the development of Chinese contemporary art in the context of social, cultural and urban transformations. The following set of areas is indicative, as examples, but not limited to the discussions:

- art and urban transformations
- art and its ecology in urbanised China
- art production, dissemination, participation and reception in public realm
- collective and private spaces: squares, streets and residences
- artists and lives at the edge of cities
- art districts: audience and tourists
- art and migration.

Timeline

30 September 2019, abstracts due (300 words)

1 February 2020, full manuscripts due (6–7,000 words)

Publication in Volume 7, Issue 2&3, Autumn 2020

Please send submissions and correspondence to:

Principal Editor Jiang Jiehong ccva@bcu.ac.uk with the subject ‘JCCA 2&3’. Please visit Intellect’s website www.intellectbooks.com to follow its house referencing guideline.

Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art is an associate journal of the Centre for Chinese Visual Arts at Birmingham City University.