

JCCA 8.2/3

The World, Two Metres Away

At the end of 2019 or the beginning of 2020, when the coronavirus first emerged, Wuhan became the first city worldwide affected by this deadly disease. It then rapidly spread to the entire country, and further on to Europe, America and the rest of the world. China, a country with a population of almost 1.5 billion, has to implement the strictest measures to rapidly and efficiently control the situation in its own way. We envisage, however, a tension between the Chinese government's official narrative and public discussions emanating from social media; and we have seen light shows in Wuhan as a display of collectivism in overcoming the crisis, Chinese visual propaganda relating to the pandemic, dancing patients in the coronavirus hospitals, and mask-wearing in conformity.

This special issue invites researchers and scholars at all stages of their careers to revisit their experiences and perceptions in this pandemic, to discuss and speculate its impacts, and to make a contribution to our understanding of the COVID-19 in the context of contemporary China, arts and culture in China and beyond. Possible keywords and perspectives to be re-examined during the lockdown include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Art and community
- Spatialising the everyday and social distancing
- Collectivism and conformity
- Surveillance, censorship and quarantine
- Isolated private and public spaces
- Visual information, disinformation and spectacle online
- Artists, art institutions and museums' responses
- Post-Covid-19.

Publication Timeline

30 November 2020 abstracts due (300 words)

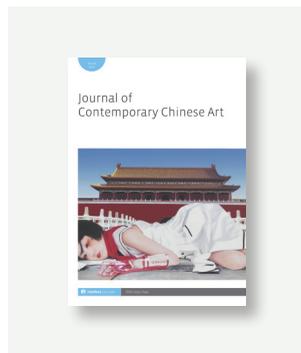
1 March 2021 full manuscripts due (7–8000 words)

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