

Ringvorlesung „Control and Security in Modern and Premodern Asia“
Wintersemester 2020/21

Invisible Power - Arts and Freedom in China

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China has gone through radical change over the past few decades, from its economy to society, its culture to individual life. This paper aims to do a historical review on Chinese contemporary art, which happened during the most transformative period of modern Chinese and world history, extending from the end of the Cold War to the rise of globalization. I would like to examine how Chinese artists bravely make their voice on socio-political issue locally and globally.

This paper focuses on the case studies of some individual artists such as Ai Weiwei, Xu Bing, Xiao Lu, Suijian Guo, Zhan Wang, Gen Xue and Qiu Zhijie. During the major social-economic transformation, these artists have negotiated through internal polemics of history, oppression, endurance, and freedom. Their work retains a connection to the nation's past, yet unequivocally beckon for hope as it moves ahead in breakneck speed.