Zhang Jian-Jun
HUMAN TRACES
張健君 人跡

ONLINE RESOURCES

This kit is designed to provide context for the exhibition Zhang Jian-Jun: Human Traces, through a range of potential focus areas and curriculum links. It includes various materials about the artistic practice of Zhang Jian-Jun and the curatorial practice of Wu Hung. You can draw from the resources below to open up discussion and responses to explore and exchange with your peers your thoughts, ideas, observations and interpretations about the works and the exhibition.

Human Beings, Nature and Time
The resources below assist you in navigating your artistic exploration of the three core concepts in art history – the interaction between nature and humans, the traces people leave behind over the course of time, and the relationship between traditional and modern living.
ARTICLE

Intellect | Landscape without nature: Ecological reflections in contemporary Chinese art
Author: Chang Tan, Published: 2016, More info

BOOK

Chronicle Books | Traces of Time: The Beauty of Change in Nature an Exploratorium Book
Author: Pat Murphy, Published: 2000, More info

Oxford University Press | Anthropocene: A Very Short Introduction
Author: Erle C. Ellis, Published: 2018, More info

The Experiment | How to Read Nature: Awaken Your Senses to the Outdoors You’ve Never Noticed (Natural Navigation)
Author: Tristan Gooley, Published: 2017, More info

University of Michigan Press | Traces of the Past: Classics between History and Archaeology
Author: Karen Bassi, Published: 2016, More info

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ZHANG JIAN-JUN
ARTISTIC PRACTICE

From abstract art to figurative art, Zhang Jian-Jun is regarded as one of the pioneers of Chinese Abstraction. To recognise the formative period of his artistic practice, his involvement in the Chinese Avant-grade Artistic Movement and the evolution of his artwork, this section includes interviews and articles that illustrate his personal stories and experience intertwined with his exploration and interests in Eastern philosophy and human’s relationship with the environment.

ARTICLE

Asian American Arts Centre | Visual Experience of Time and Cultural Form Installations by Zhang Jian-Jun
Author: Britta Erikson, Published: 2002, More info

CoBo Social | Chinese Abstraction Series: Jian-Jun Zhang and Karen Smith in Conversation
Author: Karen Smitch, Published: 2019, More info

CoBo Social | The Human Experience Through Zhang Jian-Jun’s Cosmopolitan Vision of Art
Author: Jacob Dreyer, Published: 2019, More info

CoBo Social | Zhang Jian-Jun — A Pioneer of Chinese Abstraction
Author: Selina Ting, Published: 2019, More info (ENG) More info (中文)

CoBo Social | Zhang Jian-Jun’s Human Traces: Interview with the Artist
Author: Sonia Kolesnikov-Jessop, Published: 2019, More info

RADII China | Watch: Trailblazing Artist Zhang Jianjun on the Art of Seeing, and Learning Painting in Secret Under Mao
Author: Adan Kohnhorst, Published: 2017, More info

Sine Theta Magazine | Conversation: Zhang Jian Jun
Author: Emily Chen, Published: 2019, More info

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Yishu: Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art | More than Forms: Decoding Circles in the Works of Zhang Jianjun and Yu Youhan
Author: Li Yiqing, Published: 2021, More info

Yishu: Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art | Zhang Jian-Jun: Memory and the Process of Historical Time
Author: Robert C. Morgan, Published: 2007, More info

BOOK
Metropolitan Museum of Art | Ink Art: Past as Present in Contemporary China
Author: Maxwell K. Hearn, Published: 2013, More info

INTERVIEW
Asia Art Archive | Interview: Zhang Jianjun (Chinese subtitles)
Interviewee: Zhang Jian-Jun, Published: 2009, More info

RADII China | Zhang Jianjun: From Mao to China’s Modern Art Frontier
Interviewee: Zhang Jian-Jun, Published: 2017, More info

The Metropolitan Museum of Art | Zhang Jianjun Discusses His Work in “Ink Art: Past as Present in Contemporary China”
Interviewee: Zhang Jian-Jun, Published: 2014, More info

WEBPAGE
Asia Art Archive
83 Experimental Painting Exhibition, More info

Art Projects International
ZHANG JIAN-JUN, More info

The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Ink Art: Past as Present in Contemporary China Exhibition, More info
To discover the wonders of Chinese contemporary art and beyond, the academic writings and publication written by the curator Wu Hung below, provide context and critical analysis on the development of Chinese contemporary art in relation to social and political changes that had taken place over the years.

**ARTICLE**

*M+ | Negotiating with Tradition in Contemporary Chinese Art: Three Strategies*
Author: Wu Hung, published: 2013, [More info](#)

**BOOK**

*Chambers Fine Art | Variations of Ink: A Dialogue with Zhang Yanyuan*
Author: Wu Hung, Published: 2002, [More info](#)

*Lingnan Fine Arts Publishing House | Wu Hung on Contemporary Chinese Art: Art and Exhibition*
Author: Wu Hung, Published: 2005, [More info](#)

*Shanghai People’s Fine Arts Publishing House | History of Contemporary Chinese Art 1985-1986*

*Thames and Hudson | Contemporary Chinese Art: A History 1970s-2000*
Author: Wu Hung, Published: 2014, [More info](#)

*The David and Alfred Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago | Exhibiting Experimental Art in China*
Author: Wu Hung, Published: 2000, [More info](#)
EXTENDED RESOURCES & TEACHING MATERIALS

Tracing back the origin of Zhang Jian-Jun’s concepts in his artistic practice, it is inevitable to understand the Eastern philosophy in relation to Chinese contemporary art field. This section provides teaching materials for educators to ease into the complex concept and expand their understanding in art in Asia, highlighting the diversity in contemporary art practices of Asia.

Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia | Traces of Words: Art and Calligraphy from Asia
Published: 2017, More info

Guggenheim Museum Publications | Teaching Modern and Contemporary Asian Art
Published: 2018, More info

RMIT University | A Contemporary Interpretation of Daoism and Installation Art Practice
Author: Chui Lee; Published: 2014, More info