

PORTER

A close-up portrait of Emma Watson, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. She has blonde hair tied back and is wearing a striped shirt. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

Winter Escape 2015
Issue 12 £5

Emma Watson

On female power,
facing her fears
& love without rules

21st Century Spas

The definitive
global guide

Bright & Brilliant

Stripes, prints
pops of color for
chic, modern style

A celebration of INCREDIBLE WOMEN

PORTER salutes the 100 *forces of nature* who rocked 2014

WINTER ESCAPE 2015
ISSUE 12 £5



Chinese New Year

As an exciting new generation of contemporary Chinese artists are showcased in Paris, cultural connector **YANA PEELE**, the Hong Kong-based CEO of *Intelligence Squared*, explains why this marks such a milestone

*Standing beneath the grand and glittering Bicycle Chandelier by Ai Weiwei in the Main Galleries of London's Royal Academy this fall, I was reminded of the day in 2011 when my husband and I marched through the streets of Hong Kong in solidarity with our newly adopted community, while our toddler son carried a placard that read: "Yesterday him, Today me, Tomorrow you." A similar message of support spanned London's Tate Modern, reading: "Release Ai Weiwei", as part of the global campaign to end the artist activist's imprisonment. Five years on from his landmark exhibition *Sunflower Seeds* at the Tate, Ai has emerged from the house arrest that followed his 81-day incarceration and remains the most famous Chinese artist of our time.*

But as a new show of Chinese contemporary artists – planned by one of the world's most celebrated curators, Philip Tinari (UCCA Beijing director) – opens in Paris, it is notable how far the generation presented departs aesthetically and ideologically from Ai's influence, revealing a change from the more market-conscious painting or overt political posturing that preceded it. Those artists who came of age during the Chinese Cultural Revolution (1966–1976), when Mao Zedong dictated that art must serve the state, eventually exploded with indelible imagery: Most memorably Zeng Fanzhi with his iconic portraits, Yue Minjun's ominous smiling faces and Wang Guangyi and his subverted propaganda posters. These artworks came under the spotlight, then the auction gavel, when both cultural and commercial assets were booming in China over recent years. But their vivid colors may be somewhat muted by what is coming next.

The generation of artists that now speaks for China most resoundingly emerged from shows that were underground and spoken of in hushed tones, most notably 1999's Post-Sense Sensibility show in Beijing. Artists like Liu Wei and Qiu Zhijie – now admired globally – were initially only seen by small domestic audiences who defied Chinese authorities to see their landmark, and often shocking, projects. Excitingly, new female talent has also emerged in this new wave: Lu Yang, Guan Xiao, Cui Jie, Hu Xiaoyuan, Fang Lu and Vivien Zhang. One of the most significant artists of her time is Cao Fei, whose multimedia projects explore the lost dreams of a generation of young Chinese.

So how does one explain the global relevance of these artists, largely locally based? No longer bearing the burden of a nation on their shoulders, they are moving away from grand statements on inequality, social welfare or consumerism, towards the introspective moments of everyday life. Indeed, it is through a local lens that the current generation of Chinese artists chooses to reflect the state they're in – and it may be at street level that the magic happens. Liberated by a changing political landscape, many feel the shifting zeitgeist in Chinese art is overdue the attention.

11 Exhibition/Collection: Contemporary Chinese. Art at Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris, from January 26, 2016, until the end of April 2016; fondationlouisvuitton.fr

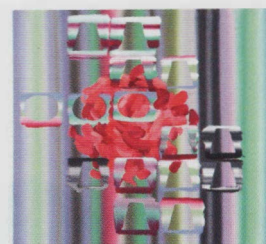
Changing Faces

A new show at the Louis Vuitton Fondation celebrates the exciting wave of new contemporary Chinese artists



YUE MINJUN *Sky, 1997*

The ominous smiling masks the subversive artist is famed for



VIVIEN ZHANG *Space Viscera, 2013*

An artist expert Hans Ulrich Obrist cites as 'urgent' to watch



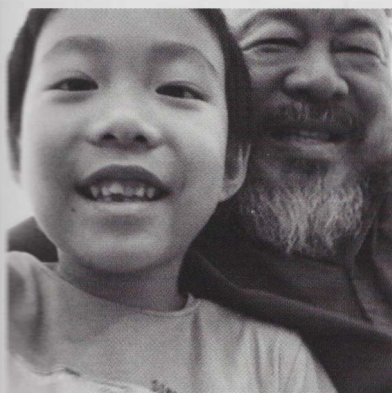
YANG FUDONG *Seven Intellectuals in Bamboo Forest, Part IV, 2004*

The show's curator Philip Tinari says, "This generation does not have to bear the burden of speaking for a nation"



GUAN XIAO *Slight Dizzy, 2014*

One of many exciting new female talents to emerge from China



ON SOCIAL MEDIA

I think it is a very direct and efficient tool for learning and communication. Yet, I think true knowledge comes from doing things and learning from reality, and social media is only a reflection of the reality.

ON BECOMING A FATHER

I never think of an artist as an abstract form, it could be a mother, a father or a prisoner. But, of course, becoming a father brings different meanings.

ON ACTIVISM

My activism began once I realized that it is a necessary part of life to announce to others what you believe in and to reach out to the people who share the same beliefs. Activism is essential for society as well as for individual artists.

Ai Weiwei and Elisabetta Cipriani's jewelry collection, Rebar in Gold, is at Elisabetta Cipriani, London, until January 16, 2016; elisabettacipriani.com