

TIME LINE

YEAR	ARTIST	ART WORLD	HISTORY
1942	Born—Li Shan		
1949			October 1, founding of the People's Republic of China (New China)
1953		The first Chinese artists are sent to study oil Painting at the Repin Academy Moscow, in the Soviet Union	
1955	Born—Xu Bing		
1956			Mao Zedong launches Let One Hundred Flowers Bloom, Let a Hundred Thoughts Contend campaign
1957	Born—Wang Guangyi		
1958	Born—Zhang Xiaogang, Wang Jianwei and Zhang Peili		Great Leap Forward launched People's communes are founded
1959			A bad winter exacerbates the impact of the Great Leap Forward and signals the beginning of wide spread famine, 1960-2
1962	Born—Geng Jianyi and Gu Dexin		
1964	Born—Fang Lijun Li Shan enters Shanghai Drama Academy		
1966			August, Cultural Revolution begins

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1968	Li Shan completes studies at the department of stage design at Shanghai Drama Academy		Mao decides to send secondary and high school students to the countryside for re-education from the peasants
1972			Richard Nixon visits China and signs the historic Sino-American Joint Communiqué
1974	Xu Bing sent down to the countryside in Hebei		
1976			July, an enormous earthquake strikes Tangshan, 450 km from Beijing, killing 400,000 people Mao Zedong dies on September 9 precipitating the end of the Cultural Revolution. October, the arrest of the Gang of Four led by Mao's widow Jiang Qing
1977	Xu Bing enters the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing		Deng Xiaoping consolidates his power; Universities begin to reopen
1978			Deng Xiaoping announces the "reform and opening" policy
1979		First Stars Group exhibition takes place in Beijing	January 1, diplomatic relations with the US are normalised
1980		Second Stars Group exhibition takes place in Beijing	The one-child policy is officially enforced; Trial of the Gang of Four begins in Beijing

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1981	Xu Bing graduates from the printmaking department of the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, and joins the teaching faculty		
1982	Zhang Xiaogang graduates from the department of oil painting at Sichuan Academy of Fine Arts		
1983			October, Anti-Spiritual Pollution campaign is launched
1984	Wang Guangyi and Zhang Peili graduate from the oil painting department of Zhejiang Academy	National Fine Arts Exhibition takes place and is deemed a return to overly politicised aesthetic values, disappointing the progressive elements of the art world	
1985	Geng Jianyi graduates from the oil painting department of Zhejiang Academy	The birth of avant-garde art in China is marked by the emergence of the New Art Movement, which includes numerous artists' collectives such as the Northern Art Group led by Wang Guangyi; The new art magazines <i>Art Trends (yishu chaoliu)</i> is launched in Wuhan; Robert Rauschenberg has a major solo show at the China Art Gallery, Beijing	
1986		Wang Guangyi organises a conference on new art at Zhuhai Painting Institute	

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1988	Wang Jianwei completes post-graduate studies at Zhejiang Academy of Fine Arts; Xu Bing presents his controversial <i>Book from the Sky</i> for the first time in a solo exhibition at the China Art Gallery	Conference on new art is held in Huangshan, Anhui province, at which Geng Jianyi and Zhang Peili present challenging art works	
1989	Fang Lijun graduates from the Central Academy in Beijing. Later that year, he moves into a rented farm house in a village near the old Summer Palace (Yuanmingyuan); Gu Dexin participates in the exhibition <i>Magiciens de la Terre</i> in Paris; Forced to leave Zhuhai, Wang Guangyi relocates to Wuhan	February 5, the exhibition <i>China/Avant-Garde</i> opens at the China Art Gallery, Beijing. It includes from Wang Guangyi, Zhang Xiaogang, Geng Jianyi, Fang Lijun, Gu Dexin, Li Shan	Student protests in Tiananmen Square in Beijing culminate in the government Crackdown on June 4; Jiang Zemin becomes chairman of the Chinese Communist Party Military Committee, a post formerly held by Mao
1990	Xu Bing moves to the US; Gu Dexin, together with Chao Shaoping, and Wang Luyan, forms the New Analyst Group (XinKeDu)	The Yuanmingyuan Artists' Village is established	
1991		New Generation, an exhibition organised by artist Wang Youshen and <i>Beijing Youth Daily</i> , is held at the Museum of Chinese History in Beijing	

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1992	Wang Guangyi moves to Beijing; Wang Jianwei moves to Beijing	The First Guangzhou Biennial: Oil Painting in the 1990s is held in Guangzhou	
1993	December, an iconic Fang Lijun painting makes the cover of <i>The New York Times Magazine</i>	Ten Chinese artists debut at the 45 th Venice Biennale, including Wang Guangyi, Geng Jianyi, Zhang Peili, Fang Lijun, Li Shan, and Xu Bing; The exhibition China's New Art Post-1989 takes place in Hong Kong before embarking on an extended world tour; The exhibition China Avant-Garde opens its tour at the House of World Culture in Berlin, Germany	Jiang Zemin becomes State president
1994	Fang Lijun holds his first solo exhibition, at the Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan	Zhang Xiaogang, Li Shan and Beijing painter Liu Wei are the first Chinese avant-garde artists to participate in the Sao Paulo Bienial	
1995	Geng Jianyi spends a year in Beijing	The New Analyst Group announces its dissolution following a triumphant showing of a new work in Erfelt, Germany; The Yuanmingyuan is finally closed down	China formulates a policy on eugenics
1996		The First Shanghai Biennial is held in Shanghai; The first exhibition of video art is shown in the gallery of the China National Academy of Fine Arts (formerly Zhejiang Academy)	

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1997	Catherine David invites Wang Jianwei to participate in her controversial take on Documenta, the influential survey of cutting-edge art that takes place in Kassel, Germany every five years		February, Deng Xiaoping dies
1998	Fang Lijun has a second solo exhibition, this time at the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam		March, Hu Jintao becomes vice-president of the PRC
1999	Xu Bing receives the MacArthur Award, and a purse of US\$319,000		May, the NATO bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade
2000		Artist Ai Weiwei causes a storm at the Shanghai Biennale with his off-biennial event, an exhibition irreverently titled Fuck Off	
2001	Zhang Peili is appointed head of China's first department of new media, at the China National Academy; Wang Jianwei wins the Video Cube Award at FIAC, Paris	Under the auspices of a China Culture Festival in Berlin the Ministry of Culture sanctions the exhibition titled Living in Time, featuring the work of cutting-edge young Chinese artists	September, China gains access to the World Trade Organisation

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2002	Xu Bing has a solo exhibition at the Sackler Museum in Washington	Fourth time round, the Shanghai Biennial becomes a biennale and goes fully international. The curatorial team includes PS1's Alana Heiss and Klaus Biezenbach, Yuko Hasegawa from Japan. The theme is Urban Creation; The work of Wang Guangyi, Zhang Xiaogang and Fang Lijun is the subject of a major retrospective titled Image Is Power, held at He Xiangning Art Museum in Shenzhen	
2003		The First Triennial of Contemporary Art is held at Guangdong Art Museum The First Beijing Biennial is held in the capital; The first official China pavilion at the Venice Biennale is cancelled due to SARS	Jiang Zemin steps down from office; Hu Jintao becomes State president
2004	Xu Bing wins the inaugural Artes Mundi Art Prize, Wales	The video works of Zhang Peili and Wang Jianwei are each made the subject of a week-long screening at MoMA, New York	

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2005		Xu Bing, Zhang Peili, Wang Guangyi, Wang Jianwei are appointed to the advisory board of the OCT Contemporary Art Terminal (OCAT) in Shenzhen (a contemporary art centre established by He Xiangning Art Museum in Shenzhen); Wang Guangyi, Zhang Xiaogang and Fang Lijun are commissioned to produce a mural to be displayed in each of three subway stations in Shenzhen	
2006	Zhang Xiaogang is the first artist to have a painting fetch more than one million US dollars at an auction sale	March, the first auction of Chinese contemporary art takes place in New York	
2007	July, CNN dedicates a 30-minute programme to a profile of Zhang Xiaogang; August, the municipal government of Dujiangyang, Sichuan province, awards ten artists with their own private museum. Recipients include Zhang Peili, Wang Guangyi, Zhang Xiaogang and Fang Lijun	November, the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) opens in 798 Dashanzi Art District in Beijing, with an exhibition titled '85 New Wave, curated by Fei Dawei. It includes numerous examples of early works by Wang Guangyi, Gu Dexin, Geng Jianyi, Zhang Peili, Xu Bing, Li Shan, and Zhang Xiaogang. It is the first time these works have been shown in China since they featured in the China/Avant Garde exhibition in Beijing in 1989	