

**ART 379**  
**Topics in Contemporary Asian Art**

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Course meetings: Tuesday (section 1) OR Thursday (section 2) from 2:00-4:30  
Location: 285 NFAC

**Course Description**

ART 379 is a special topics course on contemporary Chinese art from the mid-20th century. During the first half of the semester, students will have the unique opportunity to help organize and workshop a cutting-edge exhibition on our campus curated by UWSP Art History alumni Ellen Larson. The exhibition, *Intermediary: Video Art from China*, will be shown in the Edna Carlsten Gallery from February 14 through March 5. Before the opening of the exhibition on February 13, students will work on compiling supplemental research materials for the exhibition audience and on the promotion of the exhibition to our campus and local community. Ellen Larson will arrive the week before the exhibition opening to install the exhibition. The class will be involved in the installation for a hands-on experience and the opportunity to network with an alumna who has worked as a successful curator in China in the five years since she graduated from UWSP.

During the month-long exhibition, two of the featured artists, Ye Funa and Ju Anqi, will come to our campus for lectures and student workshops. Our class will have the unique opportunity to meet with the artists. Overall, the class will not be your typical lecture course, but rather a more hands-on opportunity to work on and participate in the exhibition in the first half of the semester, and then, in the second half, to participate in focused discussions on specific artists and issues in the contemporary Chinese art world. During the second half of the semester, students will also work on an exhibition proposal of their own design based on the content of the course and outside research on contemporary Chinese art.

This course will be led similar to an undergraduate seminar focused on discussion and analysis. The course requires project collaboration, extensive discussion, outside event participation, scholarly writing, and student presentations.

**Course Objectives**

1. Identify significant works of contemporary Chinese art
2. Discuss works of contemporary Chinese art with an educated basis
3. Analyze art in its cultural, social, and historical context
4. Demonstrate an ability to think, speak, and write critically about works of contemporary Chinese art
5. Develop an understanding, awareness, and appreciation of the varying approaches to human expression in the arts

**Course Website**

This class uses Desire2Learn (D2L), UWSP's Online Learning Management System. Your course syllabus, study sheets, study images, grades and additional activities will be posted here. **You are responsible for keeping up to date with the course** by logging into D2L frequently. You can log into D2L at, <https://uwsp.courses.wisconsin.edu/>, with your UWSP logon. D2L can also be found on your MyPoint Portal, <https://mypoint.uwsp.edu>, on the Academics tab.

After you have logged in to D2L, look below "My Stevens Point Courses" in the middle of the screen. Click the plus sign in front of the current semester to access the link to our class.

## **Course Textbooks and Other Items**

**Text Rental:** *Total Modernity and the Avant-Garde in Twentieth Century Chinese Art* by Gao Minglu

**Text Purchase:** *Contemporary Chinese Art: Primary Documents*

## **Other required readings**

All other books and articles will be made available on reserve at the library, on e-reserve, or will be handed out in class. Reading assignments will be given in class or on D2L.

## **Course Requirements**

1. Attendance and participation in lectures, exhibition activities, and required special events
2. Class discussions
3. Reading assignments
4. *Intermediary:Video Art from China* exhibition booklet
5. Film Review of *Poet on a Business Trip*
6. Film Review of *Ai Weiwei Never Sorry*
7. Exhibition proposal and presentation

## **Attendance, Participation, Discussion**

Below is an abbreviated list of events related to the exhibition *Intermediary:Video Art from China*. Attendance at dates highlighted in bold is mandatory and will be considered when calculating your grade for attendance/participation. If you have a schedule conflict please let me know by February 2. Otherwise, please add these dates to your calendar. **Overall, attendance/participation/class discussion will be worth 20% of your final grade.**

### **Intermediary-Video Art from China**

**February 9-February 13:** Ellen Larson arrives to install the exhibition. Student participation is highly encouraged.

**February 13: Exhibition Opening Reception 4-6PM, Edna Carlsten Gallery**

**February 14: Ye Funa Presentation 7PM, DUC Theater**

**February 14-15:** Ye Funa two day artist workshop

**March 2: Ju Anqi's *Poet on a Business Trip* film screening and Q&A, 7PM, NFAC 221**

**March 5: Intermediary Closing Reception, 2-4PM, Edna Carlsten Gallery**

## **Intermediary-Video Art from China Exhibition Booklet**

The first three weeks of class will be dedicated to compiling an exhibition booklet for *Intermediary*. Each class will compose one unique booklet, which should include a title page and a page for each artist represented in the exhibition featuring her/his brief biographical information, education, past exhibitions, and publications. A separate page for each artist should give a brief description of the work(s) featured in the exhibition. **This is a collaborative class project worth 20% of your final grade.** An example of an exhibition booklet is on D2L, which you may use as a template. Students will work in teams to prepare the artist pages to be included in the booklet, and one student in each section will be asked to serve as the lead compiler/designer/editor.

## **Film Reviews**

Students will be required to write two scholarly film reviews. The first will be a review of Ju Anqi's film *Poet on a Business Trip* and the second will be a review of Ai Weiwei's film *Ai Weiwei Never Sorry*. **The first film review is due on March 14/16 and the second one will be due April 11/13. Each will be worth 15% of your final grade.**

## **Exhibition Proposal and Final Presentation**

For your final semester project, you will be asked to write a collaborative museum exhibition proposal using Ellen Larson's proposal for *Intermediary: Video Art from China* as a template. Students will be broken down into groups of 3 and 2, depending on the class size. Each student in the group will choose one artist to work on for your collaborative exhibition. You should show from 6-9 works total, with at least 3 works per artist. The proposal should include a title and exhibition description followed by a list of works with a short description and artist biography for each work. The works should be illustrated with captions. An "About the Curator" section, giving a brief biography of the compiler(s) should appear at the end.

Your exhibition should be related to the course content of ART 379, but can include works of contemporary Chinese art beyond those we study in class. During finals week, you will submit your exhibition proposal (both a written document and a powerpoint presentation) to the D2L dropbox and present your materials to the class. Each group will have 10 minutes to present your exhibition proposal. At the end of the class, students will rank the proposals.

Your exhibition proposal will be graded on creativity, thoughtfulness, persuasiveness, and professionalism. Your role will be that of a museum curatorial team. Your exhibition description should describe the theme of your exhibition and its significance. What about your exhibition will draw crowds to the museum/gallery or interest the community to attend?

We will go over a more detailed list of what you need to submit to D2L for this project and what you need to prepare for your in-class presentation later in the semester. **All proposals will be due to the D2L dropbox by Monday, May 15 at 9AM. Presentations will then take place during your designated final exam period. The total project will be worth of your 30% final grade.**

## **Class Schedule**

**Week 1 (Jan. 24/Jan. 26):** Introduction to the course

**Week 2 (Jan. 31/Feb. 2):** Lab Day-Compile exhibition booklet

**Week 3 (Feb. 7):** Lab Day-Compile exhibition booklet

**Week 4 (Feb. 14/Feb. 16):** In lieu of class, attend the opening gallery reception on Monday Feb. 13 from 4-6PM and Ye Funa's evening presentation, February 14, 7PM DUC Theater

**Week 5 (Feb. 21/Feb. 23):** Gallery Discussion

**Week 6 (Feb. 28/March 2):** In lieu of our regular class meeting, attend Ju Anqi's film screening and Q & A, March 2, 7PM, 221 NFAC

**Week 7 (March 7/March 9):** *Poet on a Business Trip* Class Discussion and Film Review

**Week 8 (March 14/March 16):** Topics in Contemporary Chinese Art

**Week 9 (March 28/March 30):** Topics in Contemporary Chinese Art

**Week 10 (April 4/April 6):** Topics in Contemporary Chinese Art

**Week 11 (April 11/April 13):** Lab Day-Exhibition Proposal

**Week 12 (April 18/April 20):** Topics in Contemporary Chinese Art

**Week 13 (April 25/April 27):** Topics in Contemporary Chinese Art

**Week 14 (May 2/May 4):** Lab Day-Exhibition Proposal

**Week 15 (May 9/May 11):** Lab Day-Exhibition Proposal

### **Final Exams**

**Section 1:** Tuesday, May 16, 12:30-2:30

**Section 2:** Wednesday, May 17, 2:45-4:45

### **Grading**

Attendance, Participation, Discussion	20%
<i>Intermediary: Video Art from China</i> Exhibition Booklet	20%
<i>Poet on a Business Trip</i> Film Review	15%
<i>Ai Weiwei Never Sorry</i> Film Review	15%
Final Exhibition Proposal	30%

The grading distribution is as follows:

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

### **General Policies**

1. All classes begin promptly, and attendance will be taken every day. Please do not miss class as your grade relies heavily on your active participation.

2. You must complete all course requirements stated above to pass the course, including mandatory extracurricular activities.

3. Please make an appointment by email to meet with me if you are struggling with the course. I am more than happy to help.

**4. All electronic gadgets are banned in lectures, including cell phones, laptops, net-books, PDAs, Wi-fi surfer devices, iPods/MP3 players, etc. Please turn off your cell phones in class. Text messaging or instant messaging during class lectures is disruptive and distracting, and is therefore prohibited. I reserve the right to reduce your grade, fail you, or ask you to leave the class if you are engaging in disruptive social activities during lecture.**

5. Chitchatting with your classmates during lecture is discourteous. I reserve the right to ask you to leave the classroom if you are disrespectful to the professor or to your classmates. Disruptive behavior, in general, will not be tolerated and may result in class expulsion.

6. The University will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. If you have a learning or physical challenge which requires classroom accommodation, please contact the UWSP Disability and Assistive Technologies Office with your documentation as early as possible. They will then notify me, in a

confidential memo, of the accommodations that will facilitate your success in the course.

7. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point values academic honesty and integrity. Each student has a responsibility to understand, accept, and comply with the university's standards of academic conduct, as well as policies established by the schools and colleges. Cheating, collusion, misconduct, fabrication, and plagiarism are serious offenses. Violations will not be tolerated and may result in penalties up to and including expulsion from the University.