

As part of Europäische Kulturtage [European Cultural Days] 2016  
Karlsruhe

Sun, 10/04/2016–Sun, 21/08/2016

## The Modernization Process of Chinese Art

ZKM\_Atrium 9

**Pan Gongkai's project traces the development of Chinese modernism from the period of the First Opium War (1839–1842) to 1999. Pan Gongkai was the President of the Central Chinese Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) in Beijing until 2014. In this project, he has assembled an illustrated history of Chinese modern art in more than 1000 photographs, plus commentary, taking art as a case study for the development of Chinese society as a whole. This history presents the Chinese investigation of Western modernism, as well as the different lineages within Chinese art, including strains of traditionalism, syncretism, Occidentalism, and populism. Pan Gongkai's changing of perspectives shows situations of foreignness, situations of suffering, but also how throughout translation something foreign turns into something of one's own – thereby he reflects the theme of the European Cultural Days 2016 *MIGRATIONS – HAPPINESS | MISERY | FOREIGNNESS [WANDERUNGEN – GLÜCK | LEID | FREMDHEIT]*.**

Pan Gongkai presents the philosophies, movements, propaganda and art practices of nineteenth- and twentieth-century China from his own personal perspective, and illustrates how they were motivated and influenced by nationalist strivings, social conditions and their historical context. Along with this detailed presentation of the process of »secondary modernization«, the exhibition also uses side notes and examples to examine paths of modernization in Japanese and Indian cultural traditions. In one discussion of the East-West intercultural dialogue, for instance, video installations and interviews examine the example of Rabindranath Tagore.

**Pan Gongkai** (\* 1947) is the former president of the Chinese Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) in Beijing. As an ink painter he was represented not only in the *San Diego Museum of Art*, at the headquarters of UNESCO in Paris and in Hongkong, but also in the Chinese Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2011 and 2015. He is the editor of *Tracing the Past, Drawing the Future* which deals with ink painting in the 20th century.

### Exhibition Events

Sun, 04/10/2016, 2 pm

#### Curators' talk

With Pan Gongkai, Birgit Hopfener, Hans Belting and Peter Weibel

### Press Release

March 2016

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Place  
ZKM\_Atrium 9

Period  
Sun, 10.04.2016–Sun, 21.08.2016

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As part of Europäische  
Kulturtage 2016 Karlsruhe

**EKT:2016**  
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