



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University



**Centre for
Chinese Visual Arts**

**LEVERHULME
TRUST**

CENTRE FOR CHINESE VISUAL ARTS 16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
23RD-24TH NOVEMBER 2023

Magical Metropolis: The Shanghai Surreal

Venues:

23rd November: School of Jewellery Lecture Theatre, Birmingham City University, Vittoria Street B1 3PA

24th November: School of Art Lecture Theatre, Birmingham City University, Margaret Street B3 3BX.

23rd November, School of Jewellery Lecture Theatre

9.00-09.50 Registration

09.50-10.00 Introduction from Dr. Lauren Walden and Professor Jiang Jiehong.

KEYNOTE

10.00- 11.00 am **Dr. Paul Bevan (University of Oxford)**
Surrealism and the Manhua artists of Liuyi (The Six Arts)

Break: 11.00 am -11.30am

PANEL ONE

Surrealism in Republican Shanghai: individual desire and collective revolution.

Chair: Dr. Lauren Walden, Birmingham City University

11.30-11.50 **Dr. Elizabeth Emrich-Rougé (University of Cambridge)**
Flies and other signs of rot: Surrealism and Social Critique in the pages of Manhua Shenghuo, Manhua he shenghuo, and Shenghuo manhua (1934-1936)

11.50-12.10 **Rachel Seah (Birmingham City University)**
Negotiating the *neiwai* of the Chinese female body in early 'art' photography and contemporary Chinese private photography

12.10-12.40 Panel discussion

12.40-14.00 Lunch

PANEL TWO

Past and Present: Surrealising Shanghai's Literati and Modern legacies in Contemporary Chinese Art.

Chair: Dr. Federica Mirra, Birmingham City University

14.00-14.20 **Dr. Mariagrazia Costatino (Dante Alighieri University, Reggio Calabria, Italy)**
A Kind of multiverse? Traces of a forgotten modernity inside Yang Fudong's black and white work.

14.20-14.40 **Dr. Daniela C. Zhang (Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia)**
Deconstruction of Calligraphy: Gu Wenda and his Universe of Surreal Art.

14.40-15.00 **Zhou Yang (Birmingham City University)**

A Space for Imagination: The Surreal experience of Shanghai's Yu Garden.

15.00-15.30 Panel discussion

15.30-16.00 Break

PANEL THREE

The Shanghai Cityscape: alternative realities and the marvellous everyday

Chair: Dr. Charlotte Stevens, Birmingham City University

16.00-16.20 **Alexandre Ouairy (School of Oriental and African Studies, London)**

Haipai Surreal: The Light Spectrum and Shanghai's Futurities

16.20-16.40 **Dr. Karolina Pawlik (Xi'an Jiaotong Liverpool University)**

Shanghai and the Unconscious: China's Hidden Dreams, Fears and Desires.

16.40-17.00 **Dr. Rafael Ortiz Martínez de Carnero (O + R Studio Shanghai/Seville)**

Hybrid, Polymorphic and Borderline, The Contemporary Urban Experience of Shanghai from Domestic to Territorial.

17.00-17.30 Panel discussion

Conference Dinner: (provided for keynotes, presenters, and chairs) 6 pm in the Jewellery Quarter

24 November School of Art Lecture Theatre

09.30am-10am Registration and Introduction (Dr. Lauren Walden and Professor Jiang Jiehong)

PANEL FOUR

Exhibiting the Magical Metropolis.

Chair: Dr. Jieling Xiao, Birmingham City University.

10.00-10.20 **Dr. Ellen Larson (University of Chicago)**

Art for Sale: Early Video Art in Shanghai

10.20-10.40 **Dr. Hongwei Bao (University of Nottingham/CCVA Research Associate)**

Queer Screen Culture in Shanghai: The Development of a Magical, Queer City.

10.40-11.00 **Anqi Li (University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong)**

The Rise and Fall of Shanghai's West Bund

11.00-11.20 **Weiyong Yu (Hong Kong Polytechnic University)**

Islanding Media and Infrastructure: Ecological Space, Submarine Cable and the Aesthetics of Chongming Island.

11.20-12.00 Panel Discussion

12.00-13.00 Lunch

KEYNOTE

13.00-14.00 **Shi Hantao (Shanghai-based Curator) Shanghai Spring: photographic perspectives during the 2022 Covid lockdown.**

PANEL FIVE

Everyday life in present-day Shanghai

Chair: Dr. Hongwei Bao, University of Nottingham/CCVA Research Associate

14.00-14.20 **Lan Xiao (University of Oxford)**

The Aesthetics of the Magic City

14.20-14.40 **Dr. Nick Stember (University of Cambridge)**

Visual ASMR for the Big City Blues: Wang XX, YesSealLife and the “cozy” aesthetics of consumptive self-care in post-socialist Shanghai.

14.40-15.00 **Dr. Yan Wu (Swansea University)**

Social Media Testimonies of Shanghai Elderly during the 2022 Covid Lockdowns: collective memory, surrealist solidarity and digital resistance.

15.00-15.30 Panel discussion

15.30-16.00 Break

KEYNOTE

16.00-17.00 **Professor Jiang Jiehong (Birmingham City University)**

Shanghai: Sleepless Theatre

17.00-18.00 Wine Reception

18.00 Optional Conference dinner – all welcome (Self-funded)

This conference is kindly supported by the Leverhulme Trust