



**BIRMINGHAM CITY**  
University



**Centre for**  
**Chinese Visual Arts**

**LEVERHULME**  
**TRUST**

**CENTRE FOR CHINESE VISUAL ARTS 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**23<sup>RD</sup>-24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

***Magical Metropolis: The Shanghai Surreal***

Venues:

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

24<sup>th</sup> 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 **Weiyang 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