



Fang Lijun 方力钧

Fang Lijun is a contemporary Chinese painter and printmaker best known for his politically driven paintings which reflect on the history of 20th-century China. The artist is recognized for his contribution to the China's Cynical Realist movement, a group of artists critical of the Chinese Communist Party which also included artists Liu Wei and Zhang Xiaogang. His work tackles the issues of human rights, morality, and political oppression through colorful, surrealistic imagery. Many of his paintings feature a shaven head motif.

Born in 1963 in Handan, Fang Lijun received his formal training from the Central Academy of Fine Arts's Printmaking Department in 1989. He is one of the earliest Chinese avant-garde artists to garner international attention in the 1990s. Following a 1995 trip to Norway, Fang adopted Edvard Munch's technique of cutting his woodblocks into pieces like a jigsaw puzzle, inking them separately in different colors, and then reassembling them for printing. The scale of Fang's work, however, is virtually unprecedented in printmaking. This combination of the traditional Chinese scroll format with the bold figuration of Communist propaganda posters and a deliberate rawness inspired by modern Western woodcuts embodies an extraordinary moment of transition in Chinese art and culture.

As art critic Karen Smith points out, "Fang Lijun points to both the innocence of childhood that had denied him, and the sense of loss this engendered as he matured, mingled with the mass blindness of society." Through the howling, groping, laughing bald-headed protagonist, Fang's works search for something meaningful in the world on a personal and political level, challenging the orthodoxy in China in times of great turbulence.

He has exhibited internationally, including at the Venice Biennale and São Paulo Biennial. His work can be found in collections such as the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai; and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, among others.



2017

Engraving
60 x 80 cm
2017



2016
Engraving
60 x 80 cm
2016



2014
Engraving
122 x 163 cm
2014



2017
Engraving
122 x 163 cm
2017



2013-2015
Engraving
144 x 122 cm
2013-2015

Selected Exhibition

2020

Fang Lijun - Ceramics, Songzhuang Art Museum, Beijing

2019

Facial Recognition, Vermilion Gallery, Sydney

2018

40x40 - Shaped by 40 Artists Art History, Powerlong Museum, Shanghai

New Historical Drama, Tang Contemporary Art, Beijing

Fuck Off Generation: Chinese Art in The Post-Mao Era Part II, Ethan Cohen Gallery, New York, USA

Art Stage Singapore 2018, Linda Gallery, Singapore

2017

This All Too Human World, Hanart Gallery, Hong Kong

Gui Yang, Tang Contemporary Art, Beijing, China

ART021 Shanghai Art Fair, Triumph Art Space, Shanghai

ARCOLisboa 2017, ART & PUBLIC, Lisboa, Portugal

2016

Clues.3, Beijing Minsheng Art Museum, Beijing

Chinese Whispers: Recent Art from the Sigg & M+Sigg Collections, Kunstmuseum Bern, Bern

2015

Tempo, Opera Gallery, Monaco

2013

The Armory Show, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, New York, USA

2011

From Symbols to Analysis, Xi'an Museum, Xi'an, China

Fang Lijun Document into University, Southwest Jiaotong School of Art and Communication, China, Jakarta, Indonesia

2010

An Accidental Myth, Chongqing Contemporary Art Center, Chongqing, China

Fang Lijun, Art Museum of Shanxi University, Taiyuan, China

Fang Lijun, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China

2009

Fang Lijun: Thread of Time, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China

Fang Lijun: Sea and Sky, Kunsthalle Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany

Living Like a Wild Dog 1993-2008 Fang Lijun's Archive, Taipei Fine Art Museum, Taiwan

Fang Lijun, Arario New York, New York, U.S.A

2008

Chinese Painting: Zhang Xiaogang, Fang Lijun and Feng Mengbo, The Galerie Rudolfinum, Prague, Czech

The Reality: Chinese Contemporary Art, National Art Museum, Beijing, China

Out of Shape: Stylistic Distortions of the Human Form in Art, The Frances

Lehman Loeb Art Center, Poughkeepsie, NY

China macht Druck. Zeitgenössische Chinesische Druckgrafik, Stadtische Galerie Bietigheim - Bissingen, Bietigheim - Bissingen

2007

Chinese Relativity: Part 2, Stefan Stux Gallery, New York City, NY

China - Facing Reality, Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna

FANG LIJUN: PLACES TO PLACES TO PLACES, Alexander Ochs Galleries, Berlin

2006

A Point In Time-In Wuhan, Fine Arts Literature, Wuhan Fine Arts Literature Art Center, China

Change, Taibei Museum, Taiwan

Mahjong, Kunsthalle Hamburg, Germany; Guggenheim Bilbao, Spain

Kupferstichkabinett Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Germany (solo)

Life is Now, Galeri Nasional, Jakarta, Indonesia (solo)

Fang Lijun: Today, Today Art Museum Beijing, China (solo)

2005

National Galerie / China Art Museum, Beijing, China (solo)

Kinderszenen - Child's Play, Rohbaukunst, Groß Leuthen Brandenburg, Germany

Mahjong, Kunstmuseum Bern, Switzerland

New Work / New Acquisitions, MoMa New York, USA

Clues, WHITE SPACE, Beijing, China

Sammlung Hoffmann Berlin, Präsentation 2006/2007, Germany

Always To The Front-China Contemporary Art, Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts,

Taipei National University of the Arts, Taipei, Taiwan

China Contemporary Art, Nanjing Museum, Nanjing, China

2004

LEBEN IST JETZT, ALEXANDER OCHS GALLERIES, Berlin, Germany

2002

Fang Lijun: Between Beijing & Dali, Woodcuts & Paintings 1989 - 2002, Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst Aachen, Germany (solo)

2001

Fang Lijun, New Woodcuts & Paintings, Asian Fine Arts, Prüss + Ochs Gallery

2000

Visage: Painting & the Human Face in 20th Century Art, The National Museum of Western Art Tokyo, Japan
Between, Uprive Residence Kunming, Yunan
The Collection of Shang Hai Art Museum Shang Hai
Art Basel, Switzerland, Max Protetch, NYC, USA
Art Cologne, Asian Fine Arts, Berlin, Prüss+Ochs Gallery
Inside Out, Traveled New York, NY; San Francisco, CA; Seattle, WA

1999

d'APERTutto, 48th Venice Biennale Venice, Italy
Open Channels, Dong Yu Museum of Fine Arts Shenyang, China
Fanf Lijun, Max Protetch Gallery New York, NY
From Beijing to Amsterdam and Back, Stedelijk Museum / Galerie Serieuse Zaken Amsterdam, Netherlands
5000 +10, Chinese Contemporary (London) Bilbao, Spain

1998

Inside Out: New Chinese Art, Asia Society Museum, New York
Black & White: Chinese Contemporary, London

1997

CHINA!, Kunstmuseum Bonn (traveling to Vienna, Copenhagen, & Warsaw)

1996

Beijing/No Soap Opera?, Munich, Germany
Fang Lijun, Galerie Bellefroid Paris, France
Fang Lijun, Galerie Serieuse Zaken Amsterdam, the Netherlands

1995

Fang Lijun, Galerie Bellefroid Paris, France
Visions of Happiness - Ten Asian Contemporary Artists", The Japan Foundation
Unser Jahrhundert, Museum Ludwig Koln

1994

The 22nd International Biennale of San Paulo", Brazil

1993

The 45th Venice Biennale, Venice

1989

China Avant—Garde Art Exhibition, National Art Museum, Beijing