

Asia Extra

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Undergraduates Curate Exhibition on Contemporary Chinese Art

by Kathleen Fields

This spring, three undergraduate Washington University students curated an exhibit, *Wōmen* (我们): *Contemporary Chinese Art*, at the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum on the Washington University campus. The students are the inaugural recipients of the Arthur Greenberg Curatorial Fellowship, a competitive program that offers upper-level art history majors the opportunity to curate an exhibition in the museum's Teaching Gallery. The fellowship was established in honor of the late Arthur Greenberg, who graduated with a degree in art history in 1982, and who along with his colleague James Cohan, now a gallery director in New York, curated an exhibition on the work of Joseph Cornell as a senior project in the Kemper (then the Washington University Gallery of Art). The experience launched both men in lifelong careers in arts administration.

The Greenberg Curatorial Fellows were Samantha Allen, Arts & Sciences Class of 2014; Elizabeth Korb, Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts Class of 2014; and Danielle Wu, Arts & Sciences Class of 2014. Faculty advisers were Kristina Kleutghen, assistant professor in the Department of Art History & Archaeology in Arts & Sciences, and Meredith Malone, associate curator, Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum.



Top: Yin Xiuzhen, *Portable City—Hangzhou*, 2011. Suitcase, clothes, magnifying glass, map, and sound element, 11 x 59 13/16 x 34 5/8." Courtesy of Pace Beijing. © Yin Xiuzhen.

Student curators at the opening reception for *Wōmen* (我们): *Contemporary Chinese Art*. From left are Elizabeth Korb, Danielle Wu, and Samantha Allen.

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The trio turned to the East for their first exhibition, showcasing the works of nine female contemporary artists. "We really wanted to highlight very current, very relevant events that are happening in China," Danielle Wu says. With regard to the show's title, she says, "We chose the name "wōmen," which means "us" or "we" in Chinese but may be mistakenly read as "wōmen" in English, [because it] synthesizes the theme of how these women speak for those outside of their gender and outside gendered politics."

Two prints by Chinese-born American Hung Liu from the Kemper's permanent collection anchored the exhibition. Hung's work attempts to recover the erased history of China (a result of the Cultural Revolution) and dwell on such issues as Westernization and feminist identity politics. Recent artworks by a generation of female artists born in the 1960s and 1970s, which comprise the majority of work in this exhibition, demonstrate an investment in the effects of a homogenized, capitalized and globalized China. With topics

including the impact of global mobility (Yin Xiuzhen) and standardized urban housing (Xing Danwen), the performative online construction of a virtual city (Cao Fei), loneliness and identity struggles stemming from China's one-child policy (Chen Ke and Cui Xiuwen), and the radical merging of high and low art through forms of digital photography (Chen Man), the artworks in this exhibition share an aesthetic of artificiality and fictionality, all of which variously respond to a country that in a very short period of time completely reinvented itself.

Several community events were hosted alongside the exhibition, including a lecture, "Women Artists in China Today," given by Melissa Chiu, museum director and senior vice president of global arts and cultural programs at the Asia Society; a gallery talk by the curators; and a panel discussion, "China's Women in Interdisciplinary Context: Literature, Anthropology, History and Art History," featuring WUSTL faculty members from those disciplines. 🌐



Top left: Xing Danwen, *Urban Fiction*, image 19, 2008. C-print, 31 5/8 x 40 5/8." Courtesy of the artist and Haines Gallery, San Francisco.

Top right: Chen Ke, *With You, I'll Never Feel Lonely—Toy Piano*, 2008. C-print, 11 13/16 x 11 13/16." Courtesy of Star Gallery, Beijing.

Bottom right: Cui Xiuwen, *Angel No. 11*, 2006. C-print, 47 x 39 3/8." Courtesy of Eli Klein Fine Art, New York. © Cui Xiuwen.

Alumni Profile

Ling gift for business inspires students to 'be brave and chase after their dreams'

by Cynthia Georges

When Lin-Kuei Jackson Ling, EMBA '04 (Shanghai), enrolled in the Washington University–Fudan University Executive MBA program, he already had achieved great success. He had raised himself out of poverty in southern Taiwan to become a highly educated businessman and the founder and CEO of Enhance Holding Company, a multinational conglomerate of businesses.

But Ling was passionate about education and knew he could benefit from Olin's world-class business program. "Long-term success cannot rely on chance," he says. "It is important to strive for perfection, be responsible and practice continuous improvement."

As a youth, Ling was determined to do well. He served eight years in the Taiwanese military before taking a job as a sales representative at Singer Sewing Machine Co. He excelled in sales, entered the international trading market, and went on to run a small

lighting manufacturing company in Taipei. In 1993, he founded Enhance Neon in Shanghai, the largest neon sign manufacturer in the world. In 2002, the company expanded into the real estate, hospitality, entertainment and biomedical industries.

While an Olin student, Ling restructured his company. He and a classmate also formed a new company that invests in stem-cell therapies.


The Olin School honored Ling with a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2006. Today, he serves as an adviser on both the school's national council and the university's International Advisory Council for Asia.

Ling, whose daughter, Kathy, earned a bachelor's degree from the Olin School in 2008, has committed \$1 million to Washington University for support of the school. The gift will fund the annual Lin-Kuei Jackson Ling Scholarship and also will



Lin-Kuei Jackson Ling, EMBA '04, is the founder and CEO of Enhance Holding Co.

name an 80-seat classroom in the Knight and Bauer halls complex.

"The purpose of putting my name on the Lin-Kuei Jackson Ling Classroom is a reminder of posterity," Ling says. "It is to encourage others to inspire Olin students to be brave and chase after their dreams. I hope my name and my story will be remembered." 

Washington University Admissions Goes to India

by Kathleen Fields

Last year, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton and Washington University leaders traveled to India to develop important relationships for the university. Julie Shimabukuro, director of undergraduate admissions, also traveled to India to raise awareness about the university and to inform prospective freshmen about opportunities on campus. Traveling to Mumbai, Bangalore and New Dehli, Shimabukuro visited high schools to talk with students and build relationships with high school counselors.


International students are an integral part of the Washington University community, Shimabukuro says. "The enrichment that goes on inside and outside the classroom because of these varying perspectives and life experiences has a far-reaching impact." At the same

time, international students appreciate the flexibility and multidisciplinary possibilities afforded by a Washington University education.

Another important aspect to recruiting students from India was connecting with current Washington University students and alumni from India. "They are our most important ambassadors," Shimabukuro says. "They extend our reach and spread the word about Washington University much farther than we ever could on our own."

As one recent freshman from India explains it, Shimabukuro's efforts are welcome. "I know there are a lot of confused high-schoolers out there, wondering what to do with themselves," says Abhishek Swain, a sophomore in the School of Engineering & Applied Science from Bangalore. Swain says he

was one of them not too long ago. But a conversation with a classmate about Washington University set him on the perfect path for him, he says. "I was enthralled when I heard about how Wash. U. is so different, and perplexed when I learned it was not in D.C.," he says. But after his first brush with the university, "it did not take much convincing to apply," he says.

After his freshman year, Swain was inspired to share what he had learned about Washington University with young people back in India. After contacting Shimabukuro, he became an official ambassador for the school. His message to current high school students: "I would like to let them know that there is a school out there that will allow them to make mistakes and find their passion." 

News Briefs

New Book on the Japanese Judiciary

David S. Law, professor of law in the School of Law and professor of political science in Arts & Sciences, has published a groundbreaking book on the Japanese judiciary and constitutional adjudication in Japan, titled *The Japanese Supreme Court and Judicial Review* (Gendaijinbunsha, 2013).

"The book explores why the Japanese Supreme Court has largely failed to enforce Japan's constitution," Law says. "It also examines the practical consequences of how the judiciary is organized for the development of Japanese constitutional law, and the relationship between democracy and judicial review."

Although the book is in Japanese, it draws heavily on articles published in English in the *Texas Law Review* and *Washington University Law Review*. The translator, Shin-ichi Nishikawa, is a distinguished political scientist at Meiji University who specializes in the study of the Japanese judiciary and bureaucracy.

Japan's postwar constitution, the Nihonkoku Kenpō, has been the subject of recent attention as the ruling Liberal Democratic Party has renewed efforts to amend the provisions that prohibit Japan from militarizing. While popular among the Japanese people, the 1947 constitution has long been attacked by conservatives for having been "imposed" by the United States, Law observes.

By global standards, the Japanese Constitution is now considered relatively old at 66 years, yet it remains "one of the most up-to-date" and "squarely in the mainstream of global constitutionalism," according to Law. He points out that while the Japanese Constitution protects 19 of the "most popular constitutional rights" in the world, the U.S. Constitution includes only 12. For example, unlike the U.S. Constitution, the Japanese Constitution explicitly prohibits discrimination based on sex or social status, protects academic freedom, and contains a right to education.

Although Japan is among the growing number of countries that entrust their courts with special responsibility for upholding democracy and the rule of law by enforcing the constitution, Japan's Supreme Court has fallen short of discharging this important responsibility, Law argues. Despite the Nihonkoku Kenpō's modernism and popularity, Law writes that "it is difficult to think of any constitutional court in the world that is more reluctant to exercise the power of judicial review ... than the Japanese Supreme Court." In its history, the Supreme Court of Japan has struck down only eight statutes on constitutional grounds.



Wash. U. Nightmarket

About 20 student groups participated in Nightmarket, an annual spring open-air event organized by the Washington University Asian American Association that recalls the night bazaars popular throughout Asia. Most were Asian culture groups, but there has been an increasingly diverse representation, including a booth this year staffed by the International Prehealth Society.

Hundreds of students flocked to the event throughout the night, listening to musical performances by student groups and indulging in the main attraction: food. The Japan Club served beef curry, and the Hong Kong Student Association sold pork buns. Other goodies included potstickers, fish balls, sticky pork rice, shaved ice, mango yogurt drinks and samosas.

"Night Market is popular because it's a food event, and our student groups sell a variety of Asian foods that you can't otherwise get on campus," says Stacey Lou, BSBA '13, who served as the event's senior adviser and who is also a current Olin Business graduate student. "College students love food and so we always get a huge turnout. Another factor is the cultural aspect. Since Wash. U. has such a large international population, Nightmarket is also a reminder of home."

Law's research in Japan was supported by an International Affairs Fellowship awarded by the Council on Foreign Relations and sponsored by the Hitachi Corporation.

New Muslim Indian Dialect

Washington University Indian linguist Mohammad Warsi has discovered a new dialect spoken by the minority Muslim community in some districts of Bihar, a state in northwest India bordering Nepal, that has no written record or name.

Warsi says the main language for communication in the districts of Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur, Begusarai and Muzaffarpur is Maithili. But when Muslims speak among themselves, they speak a dialect that is different from the most common languages of Maithili, Hindi and Urdu. The dialect

does not have its own script or literature, he says, which might be the reason that it went unnoticed to linguists so far.

While doing a comparative study, Warsi, a native of Darbhanga district in Bihar, found that this new dialect, which he has termed "Mithilanchal Urdu," is completely different from Hindi, Urdu and Maithili and their verb conjugation and sentence structure, is quite different from each other.

"Dialects are the contact languages of particular regions, and they have a deep impact on their cultural heritage," Warsi told the *Times of India*. "Slowly with time these dialects begin to take shape of languages."

The development of a dialect into a language is a symbol and pride of the people who speak it, Warsi says, and he suggests the inclusion of the new dialect in a recently initiated nationwide linguistic survey. 🌐

Glimpses

Jerry Naunheim Jr.

Aparna Kalyanaraman, AB '08, a teacher, performer and choreographer with Dances of India, returned to campus in February 2012 to lead an African-Indian fusion dance workshop for students. The event was held in collaboration with Ashoka, the South Asian student association.



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Alumni, parents and friends of the university often help identify students who would benefit from a Washington University education. Refer names and addresses of talented prospective students to:

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