



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EAST ASIAN STUDIES CENTER

8
MARCH

**2023 THE INSTITUTE FOR CHINESE
STUDIES AND WEXNER CENTER
FOR THE ARTS PRESENT:**

**"CONTEMPORARY ART AND
SHANGHAI'S MIDDLE CLASS"**

CHENG LI

**Director and Senior Fellow, John L. Thornton China Center, The Brookings
Institution**

Cheng Li discusses topics from his book with a focus on "what Shanghai's dynamic art scene reveals about the city's middle class." In his latest book, *Middle Class Shanghai*, the renowned scholar Cheng Li combines eclectic human stories with striking new data analysis to address the possibility that the development of China's class structure and cosmopolitan culture—exemplified and led by Shanghai—could provide a force for reshaping U.S.-China engagement. Li argues that American policymakers must not lose sight of the expansive dynamism and diversity in present-day China. The caricature of the PRC as a monolithic Communist apparatus set on exporting its ideology and development model is simplistic and misguided. In this talk, Li discusses the empirical research in the realm of avant-garde art to highlight the strong, constructive impact of bilateral exchanges and reflects on the connection between this research and his new observations on the changing landscape of Chinese politics in the context of Sino-U.S. relations.



Free and open to the public

<https://easc.osu.edu/events/ics-lecture-cheng-li-contemporary-art-and-shanghais-middle-class>

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