



# THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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## INSTITUTE FOR CHINESE STUDIES

part of the ICS "China and the International Mediasphere" Lecture Series

## The Market as Imaginary in Post-Mao China

**Friday, September 25, 2015**

**3:40—5:00 pm**

**Mendenhall Lab, Room 129**

**(125 S Oval Mall)**



### Jane DeBevoise

President and Chair

Asia Art Archive, USA

Jane DeBevoise is Chair of the Board of Directors of Asia Art Archive in Hong Kong and New York. Prior to moving to Hong Kong in 2002, Ms. DeBevoise was Deputy Director of the Guggenheim Museum, responsible for museum operations and exhibitions globally. She joined the Museum in 1996 as Project Director of *China: 5000 Years*, a large-scale exhibition of traditional and modern Chinese art that was presented in 1998 at the Guggenheim museums in New York and Bilbao.

Ms. DeBevoise has an MA from the University of California, Berkeley, and a PhD from The University of Hong Kong, both in art history. Her recent book *Between State and Market: Chinese Contemporary Art in the Post-Mao Era* was published in 2014 by Brill. She has been a Trustee of Asian Cultural Council, New York since 2009.

#### Abstract:

In 2007, a UK-based newspaper reported that five of the top selling contemporary artists worldwide were Chinese. Yet less than 10 years before Chinese contemporary art at auction was rare. Where did the market come from? Was its introduction a positive or negative agent of change? This paper considers the period from 1978 to 1989 and examines the impact of the institutional shift, from a centrally planned system to the introduction of economic reform, on the development of contemporary art in China.

The market for art both attracts and repels, and in the 1980s it triggered a vociferous debate. One artist captured the complexity of this paradigm shift. The last section of this paper focuses on Wu Shanzhuan's 1989 performance *Selling Shrimps* that not only comments on the enduring entanglements between the state and market, but also reveals art's new energy source.



*Renminbi*, by Yu Youhan, 1988, oil on canvas, 100 x 218 cm. Photograph by Carl Brunn. Courtesy of the artist and Ludwig Forum Aachen, collection Ludwig.

**Co-Sponsors:** Department of History of Art and East Asian Studies Center.

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**Free and open to the public**

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