



Gu Xiong, *Red River*, installation, paper boat, dimensions variable, 2008

Generously supported by



Canada Council
for the Arts

WATERSCAPES

Gu Xiong

Richmond Art Gallery

September 17 – November 14, 2010

Opening Reception: Thursday September 16, 7–9 pm

Waterscapes explores the potential of using waterways; seas, ocean basins, and river networks as frameworks of historical analysis, highlighting the central role of trans-oceanic relationships and exchanges in the shaping of world regions and identities. It creatively explores the contemporary and historical meaning of waterscapes in the context of large-scale migrations in/to China and Canada.

The installation consists of photography, paintings and over 1000 paper boats suspended from the gallery ceiling. The exhibition also features video interviews with people whose lives have been affected by the of the Fraser and Yangtze Rivers.

Gu Xiong, a multi-media artist from Vancouver works with painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, photography, video, digital imagery, text, performance art and installation. He has exhibited both nationally and internationally. Gu Xiong's practice centres on the creation of a hybrid identity arising from the integration of different cultural origins. Through the critical angle of visual art, his work encompasses sociology, geography, economics, politics, and literature, as well as the dynamics of globalization, local culture and identity politics, through which he constitutes an amalgamation of multiple cultural histories and seeks to create an entirely new identity.

A publication will be available with essays written by Chris Lee, Jennifer Chun, and Rita Wong. Richmond Art Gallery would like to thank the Canada Council for their support of the publication.

The artist gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Canada Council, BC Arts Council, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the Research Team: Chris Lee, Jennifer Chun, and April Liu.

The exhibition continues until November 14.

RELATED EVENTS

Swimming the River, a panel discussion with Gu Xiong, Dr. Glenn Deer, Parm Grewal and Justin Tse about migration, change and globalization will be held Thursday, October 28 at 7:30pm.

There will be a **free film screening of Up the Yangtze**, an award winning documentary that follows a luxury cruise boat and a family (over one million residents were displaced) whose lives are changed forever due to the building of the largest hydroelectric dam in history. Screenings are Wednesday, October 20 at 1:30pm and Thursday, October 25 at 7pm.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Renato da Silva

Curator
Richmond ArtGallery
604.247.8315
rsilva@richmond.ca

Paula Hickey

Exhibition & Gallery Coordinator
Richmond Art Gallery
604.247.8312
phickey@richmond.ca

Gallery Hours

Monday to Friday, 10am to 6pm
Weekends, 10am to 5pm
Closed for statutory holidays

Richmond Art Gallery

www.richmondartgallery.org
180-7700 Minoru Gate
Richmond BC V6Y 1R9
phone: 604.247.8300
fax: 604.247.8368
gallery@richmond.ca

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gu Xiong, a multi-media artist from China now lives in Canada, works with painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, photography, video, digital imagery, text, performance art and installation. He has exhibited nationally and internationally including more than 35 solo exhibitions and three public art commissions. He has participated in over 70 prominent national and international group exhibitions including the Shanghai Biennale (2004), where he was one of four Canadian representatives; MultipleCity (Panama, 2003); Le Mois de la Photo (Montréal, 2001); the Montréal Biennale (2000), the Kwangju Biennale (Korea, 1995); and the ground-breaking exhibition "China Avant-Garde" at the China National Museum of Fine Arts (Beijing, 1989). His work is represented in the collections of the National Gallery of Canada, the China National Museum of Fine Arts, and the Vancouver Art Gallery, among many other museums and private collections.

Gu Xiong has done three large public art projects in Canada and United States, such as the Safeco Field, Washington State Major League Baseball Stadium, Seattle and the Seattle Public Library Columbia City Branch, Seattle, WA, USA; the MacDonald Stewart Art Centre Donald Forster Sculpture Park, University of Guelph, ON, Canada.

Gu Xiong has published two books and nine solo exhibition catalogues. His writing and art works are published in art catalogues, magazines and newspapers. His art work has received significant critical recognition including reviews in the international art magazines, Flash Art and Art in America, and The New York Times. The documentary "The Yellow Pear: The Story of Gu Xiong" from the series A Scattering of Seeds: The Creation of Canada was broadcast on The History Channel in March, 2001. In the capacity of curator, Gu Xiong has organized critically-acclaimed exhibitions of work by emerging artists in Canada and China.

Gu Xiong's practice centres on the creation of a hybrid identity arising from the integration of different cultural origins. Through the critical angle of visual art, his work encompasses sociology, geography, economics, politics, and literature, as well as the dynamics of globalization, local culture and identity politics, through which he constitutes an amalgamation of multiple cultural histories and seeks to create an entirely new identity. The construction of a new level of being is Gu Xiong's primary interest.

Gu Xiong received his BFA and MFA degrees from the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute in Chongqing, China. In Canada, he twice attended the Banff Centre for the Arts as artist-in-residence, and in addition to many other colleges and universities in Canada, the United States and China. He has served on Canada Council The Governor General Awards Jury for Visual Arts, Media Art and Architecture, Canada Council Visual Art Grant Jury, Seattle Arts Commission Jury, BC Arts Council Jury, and Vancouver Foundation Jury. As Associate Professor in the Department of Art History, Visual Art, and Theory at the University of British Columbia, Gu Xiong is engaged in the disciplines of installation, painting, drawing, photography and contemporary art theory.

WRITERS

An Associate Professor in Critical and Cultural Studies, **Rita Wong** investigates the relationships between contemporary poetics, social justice, ecology, and decolonization. She is currently researching the poetics of water, supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. A recipient of the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize and the Asian Canadian Writers' Workshop Emerging Writer Award, Wong is the author of *sybil unrest* (Line Books, 2008, with Larissa Lai), *forage* (Nightwood, short-listed for the Asian American Literary Award for Poetry in 2008), and *monkeypuzzle* (Press Gang, 1998).

Jennifer Jihye Chun is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at UBC. She obtained her PhD in sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. Her research interests center on questions about the dynamics of power, inequality and social change under global capitalism. Her areas of specialization include labour, culture and politics; intersections of race, class and gender; transnational migration; social movements, contemporary Korean studies, ethnography and social theory.

Chris Lee is Assistant Professor of English and Associate Principal of St. John's College at UBC. His teaching and research focuses on the cultures of the Asian diaspora and he is completing a book on the aesthetics of post-identity politics. Along with Gu Xiong and Jennifer Chun, he is a co-investigator in the collaborative project "Waterscapes: Mapping Migrations on the Yangtze and Fraser Rivers," supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.