

## AI WEIWEI

Beijing, China, 1957

Lives and works in Beijing, China

Ai Weiwei is one of the most influential artists in China. His work has always maintained a personal approach, shunning fashions and trends. Although he confesses that his real, unfulfilled vocation is a poet, the manner in which he articulates spaces, the radical nature of his installations, and the pure force of his provocative arguments creates poetry in his work.

His father, Ai Qing, one of the leading Chinese poets of the 20th century, was sent to a labour camp a small desert town in western China, where he was forbidden from writing for twenty-two years during the Cultural Revolution and where Weiwei spent his childhood. He and his brothers were forbidden to read or even have books, as doing so could have incriminated them. Nevertheless, throughout his life and career he has been strongly influenced by the poetry of his father and the works of Rimbaud, Walt Whitman, Tagore, Baudelaire and other contemporary international poets who visited Ai Qing.

### RECENT BIOGRAPHICAL EVENTS

2012

Nine million RMB are raised through social media platforms as bail for the fabricated tax evasion charges from the Chinese government.

2011

Prohibited from leaving Beijing without permission for one year.

Detained at the Beijing Capital International Airport, imprisoned without reason for 81 days.

Co-director of the 2011 Gwangju Design Biennale, Gwangju, Korea.

2010

Placed under house arrest for two days by the Chinese police in order to prevent the planned party marking the forthcoming demolition of his newly built Shanghai studio.

2008

Begins the 'Citizens' Investigation' project, researching information about students who died in the Sichuan earthquake.

### EDUCATION

1982

Parsons School of Design, New York, USA

1978-81

Animation, Beijing Film Academy, Beijing, China

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2017

*Good Fences Make Good Neighbours*, Public Art Fund, New York, USA

*Always the Others*, Cantonal Museum of Fine Arts, Lausanne, Switzerland

Sakıp Sabancı Museum, Istanbul, Turkey

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*Trace*, Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, D.C., USA  
*Soleil Levant*, Kunsthall Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*Maybe, Maybe Not*, Israel Museum, Israel, Jerusalem  
*Mountains and Seas*, Château La Coste, Le Put-Sainte-Réparate, France  
*Law of the Journey*, National Gallery in Prague, Prague, Czech Republic  
*Natural State*, Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA

## 2016

*Fondation*, Lisson Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
*Ai Weiwei 2016: Roots and Branches*, Lisson Gallery, New York, USA  
*Ai Weiwei 2016: Roots and Branches*, Mary Boone Gallery, New York, USA  
*Laundromat*, Jeffrey Deitch, New York, USA  
*Liberio*, Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Italy  
*Around Ai Weiwei: Photographs 1983-2016*, Centro Italiano per la Fotografia, Turin, Italy  
*S.A.C.R.E.D.*, Cuenca Cathedral, Cuenca, Spain  
*Cubes and Trees*, The Heong Gallery, Downings College, Cambridge, United Kingdom  
*Er Xi*, Bon Marché, Paris, France  
*Ai Weiwei's Circle of Animals / Zodiac Heads*, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, California, USA; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA; National Gallery of Prague, Prague, Czech Republic  
*Translocation-Transformation*, 21er Haus, Vienna, Austria  
*Fault Line*, San Juan Islands Museum of Art, Friday Harbout, Washington, USA  
*Ai Weiwei at Cycladic*, Museum of Cycladic Art, Athens, Greece  
*#SafePassage*, Foam, Amsterdam, Netherlands

## 2015

*Ai Weiwei*, Helsinki Art Museum, Helsinki, Finland  
*Ai Weiwei: Tiger, Tiger, Tiger*, Chambers Fine Art, Beijing, China  
*Ai Weiwei*, Tang Contemporary Art and Galleria Continua—Beijing, Beijing, China  
*Ai Weiwei's Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads: Gold*, Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs; Portland Art Museum, Portland, USA  
*Ai Weiwei*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, United Kingdom

## 2014

*Ai Weiwei: According to What?*, Brooklyn Museum, New York, USA  
*Ai Weiwei: Evidence*, Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin, Germany  
*Sunflower Seeds*, Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Germany  
*Ai Weiwei*, Lisson Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
*Ai Weiwei: New York Photographs 1983-1993*, Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada  
*On the Table*, La Virreina, Barcelona, Spain

## 2013

*Ai Weiwei: Ordos*, Galleria Continua—Les Moulins, Boissy-le-Châtel, France  
*Ai Weiwei Disposition*, 55th International Biennale di Venezia (collateral event), Zuecca Project Space, Venice, Italy  
*Ai Weiwei: According to What?*, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, Perez Art Museum, Miami, USA; Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada  
*Ai Weiwei: Circle of Animals/ Zodiac Heads*, Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, USA  
*Baby Formula*, Michael Janssen Gallery, Berlin, Germany  
*Ai Weiwei: Resistance and Tradition*, Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo (CAAC), Sevilla, Spain  
*Interlacing*, Museu da Imagem e do Som, São Paulo, Brazil

## 2012

*Ai Weiwei: According to What?*, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C., USA  
*Ai Weiwei*, De Pont Museum, Tilburg, Netherlands  
*Entrelacs*, Jeu de Paume, Paris, France; De Pont Museum, Tilburg, Netherlands

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*Interlacing*, Kistefos-Museet, Jevnaker, Norway; Magasin III, Stockholm, Sweden;  
Mary Boone Gallery, New York, USA

2011

*Ai Weiwei: Absent*, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan  
*Ai Weiwei: New York Photographs 1983–1993*, Asia Society, New York, USA  
*Circle of Animals*, Pulitzer Fountain, New York, USA  
*Interlacing*, Fotomuseum Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland

2010

*The Unilever Series: Ai Weiwei*, Turbine Hall, Tate Modern, London, United Kingdom  
*Dropping the Urn, Ceramics 5000 BCE–2010 CE*, Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, USA  
*Mermaid Exchange*, Langelinie, Copenhagen, Denmark

2009

*With Milk Find Something Everybody Can Use*, Pavelló Mies van der Rohe, Barcelona, Spain  
*So Sorry*, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany  
*According to What?*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan  
*Ways beyond Art*, Ivorypress, Madrid, Spain

2008

*Under Construction*, Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation and Campbelltown Arts Center, Sydney, Australia

2007

*Traveling Landscapes*, AedesLand, Berlin, Germany

2006

*Fragments*, Galerie Urs Meile, Beijing-Lucerne, Beijing, China

2005

The 2nd Guangzhou Triennial, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China  
*Misleading Trails*, Fine Arts Gallery, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, USA

2004

*Ai Weiwei*, Kunsthalle Bern, Bern, Switzerland

2003

*Ai Weiwei*, Galerie Urs Meile, Beijing-Lucerne, Lucerne, Switzerland

2002

*China: Tradition und Moderne*, LUDWIGGALERIE Schloss Oberhausen, Germany

2001

*Take Part II*, Galerie Urs Meile, Beijing-Lucerne, Lucerne, Switzerland

1999

*DAPERTUTTO*, Venice Biennale, 48th International Art Exhibition, Venice, Italy

1998

*Double Kitsch: Painters from China*, Max Protetch, New York, USA

1997

*A Point of Contact: Korean, Chinese, Japanese Contemporary Art*, Daegu Art & Culture Hall, Daegu, South Korea

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1993

*Chinese Contemporary Art: The Stars 15 Years*, Tokyo Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

1989

*The Stars: Ten Years*, Hanart Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan, China

*The Stars: Ten Years*, Paris, France

1988

*Old Shoes: Safe Sex*, Art Waves Gallery, New York, USA

1987

*The Star at Harvard: Chinese Dissident Art*, Fairbank Center for East Asian Research, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA

1986

*China's New Expression*, Municipal Gallery, New York, USA

*Avant-Garde Chinese Art*, Albany University Art Museum, New York, USA

1982

Asian Foundation, San Francisco, USA

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2017

*Age of Terror: Art Since 9/11*, Imperial War Museum, London, United Kingdom

*Everything at Once*, The Store Studios, London, United Kingdom

*How to Say It the Way It Is!*, Rua Red, Dublin, Ireland

*Constellation by Contemporary Artists from China*, Georgian National Gallery, Tbilisi, Georgia

*Kneaded Knowledge: The Language of Ceramics*, National Gallery in Prague, Prague, Czech Republic

*10 Years Old*, Fondazione Fotografia, Modena, Italy

*Watched! Surveillance, Art & Photography*, C/O Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Yokohama Triennale 2017, Yokohama, Japan

*Red-Hot and Newly Acquired*, Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, North Carolina, USA

*Chinese Summer*, Astrup Fearnley Musset, Oslo, Norway

*Glasstress: 2017*, Palazzo Franchetti, Venice, Italy

*Primary Structures and Speculative Forms*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

*Luther and the Avant Garde*, Atles Gefängnis, Wittenberg, Germany

2016

*Five / Fifty / Five Hundred*, Lisson Gallery, Milan, Italy

*Terra provocata*, Fondazione del Monte, Bologna, Italy

*Performing for the Camera*, Tate Modern, London, United Kingdom

*Daily Formalism*, BANK, Shanghai, China

*Utopias / Heterotopias*, Wuzhen International Contemporary Art Exhibition, Wuzhen, China

*Autoportraits: de Rembrandt au selfie*, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon, Lyon, France

*Gardens of the World*, Museum Rietberg, Zürich, Switzerland

*Facing the World: Self-Portraits Rembrandt to Ai Weiwei*, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland

*Post Resettlement*, Aedes Architecture Forum, Berlin, Germany

*Wir nennen es Ludwig—Das Museum wird 40!*, Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany

*The Silent Echo*, Archaeological Site Museum of Baalbek, Baalbek, Lebanon

*Northern Land, Southern Seas*, Tang Contemporary, Bangkok, Thailand

*Kneaded Knowledge: The Language of Ceramics*, Kunsthaus Graz, Graz, Austria

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*Invisible Threads: Technology and Its Discontents*, NYU Abu Dhabi Gallery, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
*Dragons*, Stadsmuseum Gent, Gent, Belgium  
*Andy Warhol / Ai Weiwei*, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA  
*Chinese Whispers: Recent Art from the Sigg & M + Sigg Collections*, Kunstmuseum Bern, Germany  
*Landscapes after Rusking: Redefining the Sublime*, Hall Art Foundation, Reading, Vermont, USA  
*Towards a Larger World*, Moderna Museet, Malmö, Sweden  
*Illumination*, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark  
*Art from Elsewhere*, Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, Bristol; Towner, Eastbourne, United Kingdom  
*Black Chamber*, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Rijeka, Croatia  
*Megacities Asia*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA  
*Nervous Systems: Quantified Life and the Social Question*, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany  
*CERMIX. Art et Céramique de Rodin à Schütte*, Cité de la céramique, Sevres, France; La Maison Rouge, Paris, France  
*East Asian Video Frames: Shades of Urbanization*, Pori Art Museum, Pori, Finland

## 2015

*Go East*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia  
*Andy Warhol / Ai Weiwei*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia  
*Thing Nothing: Art and Design in Dialogue*, Van Abemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands  
*28 Chinese*, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco; San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, USA  
*Facts & Figures*, 6 Fotofestival Mannheim-Ludwigshafen-Heidelberg, Zephyr der Reiss-Engelhorn-Museen, Mannheim, Germany  
*The Order of Things*, The Walther Collection, New Ulm, Germany  
*Il Giardino Incantato*, Palazzo Te, Mantova, Italy  
*Mármakos*, Galerie Urs Meile, Lucerne, Switzerland  
*When Now Is Minimal*, Sammlung Goetz, Munich, Germany

## 2014

*1 + 1 = 1: When Collections Collide*, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Canada  
*Grip friheten! Take Liberty!*, The Museum of Contemporary Art Oslo, Norway  
*KUB Sammlungsschaufenster-Neuerwerbungen von Ai Weiwei bis Zobernig*, Museum of Art of Bregenz, Austria  
*Genius Loci – Spirit of Place*, Biennale Architettura di Venezia, Venice, Italy  
*Trace: Performance and Its Documents*, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia  
*Beyond and Between*, Leeum Samsung Museum, Seoul, South Korea  
*Damage Control: Art and Destruction Since 1950*, Kunsthaus Graz, Austria  
*Ceramix: Ceramic Art from Gauguin to Schütte*, Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht, Netherlands

## 2013

*When Now Is Minimal, The Unknown Side of the Sammlung Goetz*, Museion, Bolzano, Italy  
*55th Venice Biennial, German Pavilion China China*, PinchukArtCentre, Kiev, Ukraine  
*Taiping Tianguo*, SALT Beyolu, Istanbul, Turkey  
*More Real? Art in the Age of Truthiness*, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, USA  
*Moving: Norman Foster on Art*, Carré d'Art, Musée d'art contemporain de Nîmes, France

## 2012

*Taiping Tianguo, A History of Possible Encounters: Ai Weiwei, Frog King Kwok, Tehching Hsieh, and Martin Wong in New York*, Para/Site art space, Hong Kong, China; Art + Press, New York, USA; Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin, Germany  
*Arsenale 2012, Ukrainian Biennale of Contemporary Art*, Kiev, Ukraine  
*More Real? Art in the Age of Truthiness*, Site Santa Fe, Santa Fe, USA  
*The Art of Deceleration: Motion and Rest in Art from Caspar David Friedrich to Ai Weiwei*, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany  
*No Borders*, Arnolfini, Bristol, United Kingdom

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*Lifelike*, New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, USA

*Regarding Warhol: Sixty Artists, Fifty Years*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA

*Lifelike*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, USA

2011

*Measuring the World, Heterotopias and Knowledge Spaces in Art*, Kunstmuseum Graz, Austria

*The Art of Deceleration*, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, Germany

*Shanshui*, The Museum of Art Lucerne, Lucerne, Switzerland

2010

29th São Paulo Biennial, Brazil

12th Venice Architecture Biennale, Italy

*The State of Things: Contemporary Art from China and Belgium, Bruselas / Pekín*, National Museum of Art China, Beijing, China

*Taking a Stance, 8 Critical Attitudes in Chinese and Dutch Architecture and Design*, OCAT Shenzhen Sculpture Biennale, Art & Design Gallery, Shenzhen, China

2009

*Map Games: Dynamic of Change*, Centro Arti Opificio Siri (CAOS), Terni, Italy

*Garbage*, AfterGallery, projectroom, Moscow, Russia

*Fairytale*, Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Herzliya, Israel

2008

*Earthquake*, Art Channel, Beijing, China

*Half-Life of a Dream: Contemporary Chinese Art from the Logan Collection*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, USA

*China Power Station: Part III*, Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, Luxembourg, Luxembourg

2007

*China Now*, Cobra Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands

documenta 12, Kassel, Germany

2006

*Mahjong: Chinesische Gegenwartskunst aus der Sammlung Sigg*, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany

## WORKS OF ARCHITECTURE (SELECTION)

2012

Pabellón de la Serpentine Gallery, in collaboration with Herzog & de Meuron, London, United Kingdom

2009

Guest house for the Tsai Residence, in collaboration with HHF, New York, USA

2008

Red Brick Art Galleries, Caochangdi, Beijing, China

2007

Jiangnanhui Seven Villas, Hangzhou, China

2006

Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, Caochangdi, Beijing, China

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2005

Tsai Residence, in collaboration with HHF, New York, USA

2004

Jinhua Architectural Art Garden & Designer of garden landscape, curator, Jiangsu, China  
Go Where Restaurant, Beijing, China

2003

National Stadium for Beijing's 2008 Olympics junto con Herzog & de Meuron, Beijing, China

2002

Landscape garden for Yiwu River Bank, Jinhua, Zhejiang, China  
Stokota Special Purpose Vehicle Premise, Jiangsu, China

2001

Bar Jia 55, Beijing, China

2000

China Art Archives and storehouses, Caochangdi, Beijing, China  
Landscape garden for el SOHO Contemporary City, Beijing, China

1999

Ai Weiwei Studio, Caochangdi, Beijing, China

## AWARDS

2015

Ambassador of Conscience Award by Amnesty International

2012

Honorary fellowship from the Royal Institute of British Architects, London  
Vaclav Havel Prize for Creative Dissent of the Human Rights Foundation

2011

The Art Review Power 100

2010

The Art Review Power 100  
The Prism of Reason, Kassel Citizen Award, Kassel, Germany  
Honorary Doctorate, Faculty of Politics and Social Science, University of Ghent, Belgium

2009

GQ Men of the Year, Moral Courage, Germany  
The Art Review Power 100

2008

Lifetime Achievement Award, Chinese Contemporary Art Awards, China

## COLLECTIONS

Centre Pompidou, Paris, France  
De Pont Museum, Tilburg, Netherlands



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Essl Museum, Klosterneuburg, Austria  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, USA  
Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Dinamarca  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, USA  
Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA  
Museen Dahlem, Berlin, Germany  
Museum DKM, Duisburg, Germany  
Museum für Asiatische Kunst, Berlin, Germany  
Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, USA  
Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA  
Rubell Family Collection, Miami, USA  
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, USA  
Tate Collection, London, Reino Unido  
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia  
Walther Collection, New Ulm, Germany

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Monographs (selection)

2014

*Weiwei, Ai*, Assouline Publishing, London

2011

*Ai Weiwei: Art, Architecture*, Kunsthau Bregenz, Bregenz

2009

*Ai Weiwei*, Phaidon, London

### Books and Catalogues (selection)

2016

*Andy Warhol / Ai Weiwei*, Yale University Press, Connecticut

2014

*Ai Weiwei: On the Table*, La Fábrica, Madrid

*Ai Weiwei: Disposition*, Walther König, Cologne

*Ai Weiwei: Spatial Matters*, Art Architecture and Activism, Tate, London

*Ai WeiWei Conversaciones*, Editorial Gustavo Gili, Barcelona

2013

*Weiwei-isms*, Princeton University Press, New Jersey

2012

*According to What?*, Prestel, New York

*Fairytale: A Reader*, Jrp Ringier, Zurich

*The Art of Not Making*, Thames & Hudson, London

2011

*Ai Weiwei Speaks with Hans Ulrich Obrist*, Penguin, Florida

*Ai Weiwei Interlacing*, Steidl, Gottingen

*Ai Weiwei: Evidence*, Prestel, New York



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*Ai Weiwei: So Sorry*, Prestel, New York  
*Ai Weiwei Architecture*, Daab, Cologne  
*Ai Weiwei: Circle of Animals*, Prestel, New York

2010

*Sunflower Seeds: Ai Weiwei*, Tate, London  
*Ai Weiwei: Find Something Everybody Can Use*, Actar, Barcelona  
*Ai Weiwei: Works 2004-2007*, Jrp Ringier

2009

*Contemporary photography from the far east*, Skira, Milan  
*Becoming: Images of Beijing's Air Terminal 3*, Ivorypress, Madrid  
*Ways Beyond Art*, Ivorypress, Madrid  
*Becoming (edición limitada)*, Ivorypress, Madrid, Spain; Timezone8, Beijing

2008

*After the Wall*, Dewi Lewis Publishing, Stockport  
*Art Now. Vol. 3*, Taschen, Cologne

2006

*C International Photo Magazine Issue 2*, Ivorypress, Madrid

2005

*Mahjong: Contemporary Chinese Artist from the Sigg Collection*, Hatje Cantz Verlag, Berlin