

- socialism, 4; and self-styling, 11–13 (*see also* self-styling); and social class, 54, 192–93; status in Chinese society, 4; and tensions of *gaigekaiifang*, 28–29 (*see also* *gaigekaiifang*)
- Deng Xiaoping, 23, 24, 35, 114, 117, 194
Duara, Prasenjit, 31–32
- earthquake of 2008, 29, 31, 152, 153, 188, 190
economic transformation, 1–3, 7–9, 21–22, 122
education: and competition generated by overpopulation, 64, 68, 73, 195, 196; and cultivation of creativity, 8, 122–57; expansion of higher education beginning in 1997, 2–3, 68, 73, 195; families’ college preparation strategies, 66–76; and meritocratic values, 88–92; and social class, 115, 190, 194; test-oriented education and perception of creativity deficit, 6, 63, 122; tracking in early years, 70. *See also* art and design schools; art school entrance tests; art test prep schools; college entrance exam system
- “factism.” *See* social realism
families, 74–75; and art test prep schools, 19, 64, 83–85, 92; and “blindness” of preparation strategies, 72–75, 87; and college preparation strategies, 66–76; lack of attention to preparation for a profession, 71–72; and values, 65–66
Farquhar, Judith, 16, 113
fashion/clothing, 2, 11–12, 15, 22, 26, 148–49, 151, 164–65, 167, 183–85
film and television, 2, 32–39, 99, 114, 116. *See also specific films*
financial crisis of 2008, 28, 197–98
fine arts, 2, 4, 23, 27–28, 113, 117. *See also* oil painting; painting and drawing
Florida, Richard, 4
Foucault, Michel, 80, 81, 82
Fu Baoshi, 110
Fukuyama, Francis, 198, 199
Fu Xiaodong, 50–58
- Gaddafi, Muammar, 199
gaige (reform), 22
gaigekaiifang (reform and opening up), 1–2, 22–23; and class mobility, 54; and history of CAFA, 18, 22–29; and realist genres, 116; and retrospective exhibits of 2007 and 2008, 29–58 (*see also* Chen Xi; “Homesickness: Memory and Virtual Reality”; Xiao Yu); and self-styling, 11, 18; tensions affecting artists, 28–29; term meaning, 22–23; and values, 181
Gao* (professor at CAFA), 140–41
gender, 170–73
Goffman, Erving, 9, 126, 150
The Good Person of Three Gorges (*Sanxia Haoren*; film), 99
graphic design, 2, 17, 26
graphic novels (*lianhuanhua*), 109, 110, 113, 114
Great Leap Forward, 43
Guangxu, Emperor, 41
Guan Zhanyue, 110
guohua. *See* ink paintings
- Habermas, Jürgen, 173
Hanks, William, 9
He An, 56
Hebdige, Dick, 12
Hessler, Peter, 75
history painting, 109, 110, 116
“Homesickness: Memory and Virtual Reality” (group show of 2008), 30, 50–58, 52, 53, 57
Hu Jintao, 114, 117, 118, 181
- individualism, 14, 15, 16, 63, 125, 151, 158, 159, 174, 175, 181. *See also* creativity classes; self-styling
Industrial Art Academy, 26. *See also* Tsinghua Academy of Art and Design
ink paintings (*guohua*), 2, 107, 109, 110, 111
irony, 50
Irvine, Judith, 9
- Jiang Feng, 106, 108–9, 112
Jiang Laoshi* (teaching assistant at CAFA), 128, 131, 136
Jiang Qing, 107
Jiang Zemin, 23, 114, 117
Jia Zhangke, 95, 99, 100, 103, 104, 105, 117, 120
- kaiifang* (opening up), 22–23, 33, 35, 58, 59. *See also* *gaigekaiifang*
karaoke clubs, 171, 172

- Keane, Webb, 127, 135
Kelley, Jeff, 99–100, 103
Kipnis, Andrew, 63
Kollwitz, Kathe, 108
- labor theory of value, 101, 105, 120
landscape painting, 109, 110, 120
language, and critique of artwork, 126–39, 165–66
Lao Chen, 174–75, 184
Lao Gu* (artist), 178–79
Lei Feng, 111, 181–82
Li* (professor at CAFA), 128–57
Liang Yuanwei, 57
lianbuanhua. *See* graphic novels
liberalism, 1, 7, 16–17, 64, 101–2, 107, 125, 151–52, 155–56, 181, 190, 197–200.
See also neoliberalism
Lin Xu* (student), 68–69, 71, 75–77
Liu Chuang, 55–56
Liu Xiaodong, 95, 98–100, 103–5, 117, 118, 119, 120
Liu Xin, 7, 11
Liu Zhuoquan, 51–52, 55–58
Li Wuwei, 2, 156
Li Yue* (designer), 174, 175, 187
Lu Xun, 31, 108, 109
- magazines, 186
Maksimov, Konstantin, 109
Maoism, 4–5, 17
Mao Zedong, 1, 15, 34, 111–12, 154
market socialism, 2, 4, 15–16, 25–26.
See also postsocialism
Marx, Karl, 126, 153, 154
material culture, 11, 50–58, 52, 53
“Material Reality Play: The World, Chilling and Warming” (Xiao Yu installation), 30, 39–50, 45, 49
Mazzarella, William, 185
models for life drawing classes, 96, 103–4, 115
money, and values, 28, 72, 174, 175
moon landing. *See* spacewalk of 2008
music, 70
- Nakassis, Constantine, 6
neoliberalism, 16, 63, 64, 125, 151, 156
New Art gallery (Beijing), 30, 32–39
nianhua. *See* posters depicting workers
nostalgia, 17, 29–58, 176–77
- Obama, Barack, 156
oil painting: as most competitive department in art schools, 69; Western-style oil painting (*youbhua*), 107, 108, 111, 113
“Old Things” (*Jiuwu*; Liu Zhuoquan), 51–52, 52
Olympics, 37, 59, 117, 188, 189, 191–92, 198; Bird’s Nest stadium, 39, 48, 50, 189, 191
Ong, Aiwha, 63
Oxfam Hong Kong, 156–57
- painting and drawing: *guohua* (ink paintings), 2, 107, 109, 110, 111; history painting, 109, 110, 116; *lianbuanhua* (graphic novels), 109, 110, 113, 114; mural-scale landscape paintings, 109, 110, 112, 120; *nianhua* posters, 109, 110, 113, 114, 116; *secai* (impressionist still lifes), 68, 87, 93, 95, 106; *sumiao* (portraits in realist style), 80, 81, 90, 93, 95–97, 97, 106, 115; *suxie* (sketches of people in passive poses), 93–96, 106; *youbhua* (Western-style oil painting), 107, 108, 111, 113. *See also* art test realism; realist genres
- Pang, Laikwan, 6, 8
parody, 103
passivity, aesthetics of, 95–101, 105, 116–19
pedagogy: in art and design schools, 86, 126–47; in art test prep schools, 80–84, 86
performing arts, 70, 193
Platform China (gallery), 167
politics, 16–18, 39, 98, 105–15, 152–57
portraits in realist style (*sumiao*), 80, 81, 90, 93, 95–97, 97, 106, 115
posters depicting workers (*nianhua*), 109, 110, 113, 114, 116
postsocialism, 15–18; critiques of, 173, 175–76, 180–83, 199–200; and self-styling, 151–57; and social class, 190–96; and tensions in the culture industries, 180–83. *See also* market socialism
Povinelli, Elizabeth, 101, 104
practice communities, 17, 159; and Art Beijing, 162–63; relation to aesthetic communities, 14, 160; and social class, 192–93; and social networks, 168–80
propaganda, 93, 95, 102, 112, 114, 119, 120, 157, 181–82; “Reunion” (2008 propaganda video), 19–20, 189–96
prostitution, 192–93

- public/official culture, 17, 34, 65, 97–98
Pullum, Geoffrey, 126
- Qiu Xiaofei, 51–55, 53
- realist genres, 19, 93–121; and aesthetics of passivity, 95–101; and art school entrance exams, 60–64, 76; art test realism (*see* art test realism); avant-garde realism, 19, 95, 99, 114, 117, 119; and contemporaneity and futurity, 116–20; genres of socialist realism, 108, 116; history of realism in China, 93–94, 106–15; and politics, 104–15; and public/official culture, 19, 65, 97–98, 114, 119; revolutionary romanticism, 93–94, 111–13, 116; and the semiotics of vision and the aesthetics of recognition, 101–6; Soviet influences, 109, 113–14; and Western perceptions of Chinese art, 99–100, 104; *xianshizhuyi* (“factism”/social realism), 99, 106, 109, 112, 115; *xieshizhuyi* (technical realism), 99, 106, 108, 112, 115
- recognition, aesthetics of, 101–6
- Red Guards, 24, 111
- “reform and opening up.” *See gaigekaiifang*
- “Reunion” (2008 propaganda video), 19–20, 189–96
- revolutionary romanticism, 93–94, 111–13, 116
- Sanxia Haoren*. *See The Good Person of Three Gorges*
- secai*. *See* still lifes
- self-styling, 4, 9–13, 122–57; and aesthetic communities, 12, 147; and critique-style creativity classes, 19, 122–57; and *gaigekaiifang*, 11; and Liang Yuanwei’s photo-biography, 56–58, 57; and politics, 17–18, 152–57; and postsocialism, 15, 151–57; and speech, 126–39; and values, 180–82. *See also* individualism
- semiotic anthropology, 9, 101–6, 116–20
- “7:00” (Qiu Xiaofei), 51–52, 54
- Shang Wenjie, 37
- Silvio, Teri, 126
- sketches of people in passive poses (*suxie*), 93–96, 106
- social class: and aesthetics of recognition, 101–6; and art test prep schools, 88–90; class mobility and *gaigekaiifang*, 54–55; and education, 115, 190, 194; and examination system, 89–90; and postsocialism, 190–96; and “Reunion” (2008 propaganda video), 190–92; and self-styling, 12. *See also* workers
- social indexicality in visual media, 102–6
- socialist realism. *See* realist genres
- sociality, 168–83
- social networks, 65–66, 83–86, 168–80
- social realism (*xianshizhuyi*), 99, 106, 109, 112, 115
- spacewalk of 2008, 37–38, 47–48
- speech, and critique of artwork, 126–39, 165–66
- “Stars” exhibition (1985), 25
- Still Life* (film), 99, 103–4
- still lifes, 32, 33, 87; *secai* (impressionist still lifes), 68, 87, 93, 95, 106
- students: and art supplies and equipment, 79–80; backgrounds and preparation of, 3; at CAFA, 24, 27, 129–51; and choice of college and major, 66–67, 69–70, 73; clothing of, 148–49; and creativity classes, 129, 129–51 (*see also* creativity classes); lack of love for or interest in painting and drawing, 60, 72, 75, 78; and pursuit of money, 27–28; and social class, 88–90, 115; student-teacher relations in art and design schools, 28, 86, 129–30, 177; student-teacher relations in art test prep schools, 83–85; and values, 88–92. *See also* aesthetic communities; art test prep schools; college entrance exam system
- studios, 169–78
- sumiao*. *See* portraits in realist style
- Sunflowers* (2005 film), 67–68, 72, 85
- Sun Yat-sen, 151
- suxie*. *See* sketches of people in passive poses
- symbolism, 111–12, 135, 155
- Tambiah, Stanley, 127
- teachers: art and design professors as practicing professionals, 3, 17; at art test prep schools, 81, 83–85, 88–90; at CAFA, 24–25, 27–28, 128–57; and pursuit of money, 27–28; student-teacher relations in art and design schools, 28, 86, 129–30, 177; student-teacher relations in art test prep schools, 83–85. *See also* pedagogy
- technical realism (*xieshizhuyi*), 99, 106, 108, 112, 115

- television, 114, 116; and Chen Xi's "China Memories" series, 32–39, 33. *See also* film and television
- test prep schools. *See* art test prep schools
- This Land So Rich in Beauty* (Fu Baoshi and Guan Shanyue), 110
- Three Gorges Dam, 36–37
- "Three Gorges" paintings (Liu Xiaodong), 98–100, 103, 118, 119
- Tsai, Kellee, 4
- Tsinghua Academy of Art and Design (formerly Industrial Art Academy), 3, 26
- T-Space (Beijing), 30, 50–58
- 24 City* (film), 99, 103–4
- United States, 7, 8, 9, 71, 138
- values, 65–66, 88–92, 176, 180–83
- vision, envisioners, and the indexicality of images, 101–6, 120
- visual culture, 96–101, 104–15, 151. *See also* art exhibits; fashion/clothing; film and television; graphic design; graphic novels; painting and drawing
- visual language, 126–39, 165–66
- voice, 101–2
- Wang Jing, 36
- Wangjing (Beijing suburb), 26–27
- Wang Xi* (graphic designer), 73–75
- Wan Xiaoli, 184–85
- Warner, Michael, 161
- Wen Jiabao, 105, 152
- West, the: fine arts in, 117; and interaction modes in creativity classes, 129; popular types of Chinese art, 104; sociality in, 169, 173, 175–78; Western perceptions of Chinese art, 99–100
- Westwood, Vivienne, 11–12
- Wolf, Martin, 198
- Wong, Winnie, 76
- workers: "floating population" of cities, 195–96; and human costs of development, 105, 120; and models for life drawing classes, 96, 103–4, 115; and official/public culture, 97–98; and realist genres, 93–95, 94, 99–101, 109–10, 116–20; and the semiotics of vision and the aesthetics of recognition, 101–6, 120. *See also* passivity, aesthetics of
- Wu* (teacher at art test prep school), 81, 83–85, 88–90
- xianshizhuyi*. *See* social realism
- Xiao Yu, 24, 30, 59; "Material Reality Play: The World, Chilling and Warming," 39–50, 45, 49
- Xiaozhe Huashi* (art test prep school), 77–78
- xieshizhuyi*. *See* technical realism
- Xi Jinping, 16, 114, 117, 118
- Xiu Xiaofei, 51–52
- Xu Beihong, 106–11
- Xu Bing, 148, 174–75
- Xu Shun, 54, 55
- Yang Zhang, 67
- Yan Yunxiang, 16, 156
- Yin Xiuzhen, 146
- youbua*. *See* oil painting
- Zhang* (manager of art test prep school), 77
- Zhang Huan, 104
- Zhang Qinggang, 157
- Zhang Xudong, 23, 59
- Zhang Yimou, 31
- Zheli (café), 173–78
- Zhou Enlai, 108
- Zhuang Hui, 54–55
- Zibo, Shandong, technical high school in, 185–86