



UMCA 40: Celebrating Our 40th Year

PRESS RELEASE

Yun-Fei Ji: Migrants, Ghosts, and the Dam

January 22 – March 8, 2015

RECEPTION FOR THE ARTIST: February 17, 2015, 5 –7:00 P.M.

Yun-Fei Ji and Christine Ho (Assistant Professor, UMass Art History)
in conversation at 5:30 P.M.

The University Museum of Contemporary Art is pleased to present a solo exhibition of work by the artist **Yun Fei-Ji**, from January 21 to March 8, 2015. The artist will come to UMass Amherst for a one-week residency, February 16 – 20, 2015, in connection with the exhibition.

Yun Fei Ji, one of China's most celebrated contemporary artists, is known for his masterful use of traditional Chinese ink painting. His practice is rooted in travel and observation, and his interests frequently encompass the effects that grand infrastructural projects and natural disasters have on average people. Ji's paintings often deal with human displacement, sometimes adding a mythological dimension to recent events. This exhibition features a number of Ji's major works, including several scroll paintings more than ten meters long, which have never before been seen together. The works were created during the past decade; some of the pieces were made especially for this exhibition.

Trained at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, Yun-Fei Ji emigrated to the U.S. in the late 1980s and made his artistic name working in Brooklyn and showing in a thoroughly international context. His painterly lens switches freely between his two homelands, with some works addressing American disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina, while others look at the Three Gorges Dam and the North-South Aqueduct in China.

One of the key works in the exhibition is *Three Gorges Dam Migration*, a three-meter-long watercolor woodcut print in the form of a traditional Chinese hand scroll. Although created in the style of a Song Dynasty landscape painting, it depicts a very contemporary theme: the flooding and social disturbance caused by the construction of the Three Gorges Dam, located at the upper reach of China's Yangtze River. The print was commissioned in 2009 by the Library Council of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and hand-printed using more than 500 hand-carved woodblocks by the century-old printing and publishing house Rongbaozhai in Beijing.

Yun-Fei Ji's visit to UMass Amherst is supported by the Class of 1961 Artists Residency Program. During his residency, Ji will participate in a number of public talks and workshops. (Please see our website for times and dates.). For more information visit: umass.edu/umca

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