

Ai Weiwei

1957

Born in Beijing

Lives and works in Beijing, China

Selected Activities

- 2015 Chinese authorities return passport on July 22, 2015
Denied a six-month business visa by UK immigration officials on July 29, 2015, who claimed he had not declared a “criminal conviction” in his home country. British Home Secretary, Theresa May, reverses the decision after review.
Together with Anish Kapoor, walked eight miles on September 17, 2015, from the Royal Academy of Art to Kapoor’s ArcelorMittal Orbit sculpture in the Olympic park at Stratford, to show solidarity with refugees around the world.
Discovers listening devices installed in the electrical socket of his Beijing studio on October 4, 2015
Begins his position as Visiting Professor, at the Berlin University of the Arts (Universität der Künste Berlin), in October 2015. The position is for a period of three years.
- 2014 Name omitted from UCCA Beijing publication for their show celebrating work of late curator Hans van Dijk
Name removed from the Shanghai Power Station of Art show, *15 Years Chinese Contemporary Art Award*, due to pressure from local government cultural officials. The show chronicled the history of Uli Sigg’s art award, created in 1998, to help foster China’s contemporary art scene.
- 2013 Released first music album *The Divine Comedy* in June
Participated in the Venice Biennale
Subject of the documentary film *Ai Weiwei: The Fake Case*, directed by Andreas Johnsen, released at the International Film Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam in November.
Began placing fresh flowers, every morning, in the basket of the bicycle outside of his Beijing studio. This project, *With Flowers*, began on November 30, 2013, and will continue until he regains his right to travel freely.
- 2012 *WeiWeiCam*, a self-surveillance project involving live 24-hour online feeds from his house and studio, was shut down by Chinese authorities 46 hours after the site went live
Raised 9 million RMB over social media as deposit to appeal fabricated tax accusations 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
Shanghai studio was demolished in a surprise move by the local government on January 11th
- 2010 Placed under house arrest for two days by the Chinese police in order to prevent a party marking the forthcoming demolition of his newly built Shanghai studio
Selection of blog entries was published in Chinese, publications in English, German, Italian, and Portuguese followed
- 2009 Beaten by the police for trying to testify for Tan Zuoren, a fellow investigator of negligent construction and student casualties during the Sichuan earthquake and suffered from a cerebral hemorrhage, which was linked to the police attack
Blog shut down by Chinese authorities in May after names of victims and numerous articles documenting the Sichuan Earthquake investigation were published
- 2008 Launched “Citizens’ Investigation” project, researching information about students who died in the Sichuan earthquake. It also investigated government corruption and cover-ups, in particular the corruption scandal following the collapse of so-called “tofu-dreg schools” in the Sichuan Earthquake on May 12, 2008
Curator of the architecture project Ordos 100
- 2007 Participation in Documenta 12, Kassel, Germany. For his project “Fairytale” he invited 1001 Chinese citizens to Kassel

- 2006 Speaker at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2006: *Innovation and Design Strategy*
- 2005 Invited by Sina.com to start blogging
- 2003 – 2008 Commissioned to design the Beijing's 2008 Olympic Stadium together with Herzog & de Meuron, finished construction in 2008.
- 2003 Founded the architecture studio FAKE Design, Beijing.
- 2002 Curator of the project Jinhua Architectural Art Park, Jinhua, China.
- 2000 Co-curator of the exhibition *Fuck Off*, in Shanghai, together with Feng Boyi.
- 1999 Moved to Caochangdi in the northeast of Beijing and build the studio house, his first architectural project.
- 1997 Co-founder and Artistic Director of China Art Archives & Warehouse (CAAW), Beijing.
- 1994 - 1997 Published *Black Cover Book* (1994), *White Cover Book* (1995) and *Grey Cover Book* (1997).
- 1993 Returned to Beijing.
- 1981 - 1993 Lived in USA, mainly New York.
- 1978 Enrolled at the Beijing Film Academy.
- Member of the *Stars* movement.
- 1957 Born in Beijing, China.

Selected Awards and Honors

- 2015 Ambassador of Conscience Award by Amnesty International
ArtReview *Power 100*, rank 2
- 2014 ArtReview *Power 100*, rank 15
Asher B. Durand Award by Brooklyn Museum
- 2013 ArtReview *Power 100*, rank 9
- 2012 Václav Havel Prize for Creative Dissent of the Human Rights Foundation
Honorary fellowship from the Royal Institute of British Architects, London, UK
Art Review *Power 100*, rank 3
- 2011 TIME Magazine Person of the Year 2011, Runner-up
Foreign Policy Top Global Thinkers of 2011, rank 18
The Art Review *Power 100*, rank 1
Membership at the Academy of Arts, Berlin, Germany
- 2010 The Prism of Reason, Kassel Citizen Award, Kassel, Germany
The Art Review *Power 100*, rank 13
- 2009 The Art Review *Power 100*, rank 43

Solo Exhibitions

- 2015 *Ruptures*, Faurschou Foundation, Copenhagen, Denmark
Ai Weiwei, Galleria Continua, Beijing, China
Ai Weiwei, Tang Contemporary Art Center, Beijing, China
A.B. Blood Type, Magician Space, Beijing, China
Tiger, Tiger, Tiger, Chambers Fine Art, Beijing, China
Beijing 2003, Being 3 Gallery, Beijing, China
Ai Weiwei, Royal Academy of Art, London, UK
Ai Weiwei @ Helsinki, Helsinki Art Museum, Helsinki, Finland
Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads, Contemporary Art Centre Malagá, Malagá, Spain
- 2014 *@Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz*, Alcatraz Island, San Francisco, CA, USA
Ai Weiwei in the Chapel, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, England
Ai Weiwei, Lisson Gallery, London, England
According to What?, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY, USA
Evidence, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, Germany
Sunflower Seeds, Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Germany
Baby Formula, Ayala Museum, Makati City, Metro Manila, Phillipines
Ai Weiwei, Christine König Galerie, Vienna, Austria
- 2013 *According to What?*, Perez Art Museum Miami, Miami, FL, USA
Ordos, Galleria Continua, Les Moulins, France
Ai Weiwei: Screening Room, Hotel Bauer, Venice, Italy

- Baby Formula*, Galerie Michael Janssen, Singapore, Singapore
According to What?, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada
Ai Weiwei. Resistance and Tradition, Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo (CAAC), Seville, Spain
Interlacing, Museu da Imagem e do Som, São Paulo, Brazil
55th International Art Exhibition La Biennale de Venezia, German Pavilion, Venice, Italy
Disposition Zuecca Project Space, Complesse delle Zitelle, Giudecca, Chiesa di Sant' Antonin, Venice, Italy
According to What?, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN, USA
2012 *Forge*, Mary Boone Gallery, New York City, NY, USA
New York Photographs 1983-1993, Ernst Museum (in collaboration with Alexander Ochs Galleries, Berlin | Beijing), Budapest, Hungary
Ai Weiwei 'Rebar-Lucerne', Galerie Urs Meile, Lucerne, Switzerland
Ai Weiwei, Galleria Continua San Gimignano, San Gimignano, Italy
Ai Weiwei: According to What?, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C., USA
Perspectives: Ai Weiwei, The Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., USA
Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads: Gold, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, USA
A Living Sculpture, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, UK
Ai Weiwei: New York Photographs 1983-1993, Moscow House of Photography, Moscow, Russia
Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads, Hirshhorn Museum, Washington D.C., USA
Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads: Gold, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Montréal, Canada
Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads, The Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA
Ai Weiwei, Lisson Gallery, Milan, Italy
Ai Weiwei: Five Houses, Architecture Center Houston, Houston, TX, USA
Interlacing, Kistefos-Museet, Jevnaker, Norway
Ai Weiwei, De Pont Museum of Contemporary Art, Tilburg, the Netherlands
Interlacing, Jeu de Paume, Paris, France
Ai Weiwei, Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden
Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads, Hermann Park, Houston, TX, USA
Sunflower Seeds, Mary Boone Gallery, New York City, NY, USA
2011 *Louisiana Contemporary: Ai Weiwei*, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark
Ai Weiwei: New York Photographs 1983-1993, Martin Gropius Bau Museum, Berlin, Germany
Ai Weiwei: Absent, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
Dropping the Urn, ceramics 5000 BCE – 2010 CE, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
Art/Architecture, Kunsthau Bregenz, Bregenz, Austria
Ai Weiwei: New York Photographs 1983-1993, Asia Society, New York, NY, USA
Interlacing, Kunsthau Graz, Graz, Austria
Interlacing, Fotomuseum Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland
Circle of Animals, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Ai Weiwei: Works in the collection, DKM Museum, Duisburg, Germany
Circle of Animals, Somerset House, London, UK
Circle of Animals, Pulitzer Fountain, New York, NY, USA
Ai Weiwei, Lisson Gallery, London, UK
Sunflower Seeds, Kunsthalle Duchamp, Cully, Switzerland
Ai Weiwei, Neugerriemschneider, Berlin, Germany
Ai Weiwei - Teehaus, Museen Dahlem, Berlin, Germany
2010 *Ai Weiwei*, Faurschou Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
Cube Light, Misa Shin Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
A Few Works from Ai Weiwei, Alexander Ochs Galleries, Berlin, Germany

- The Unilever Series: Ai Weiwei*, Turbine Hall, Tate Modern, London, UK
Hurt Feelings, Galerie Christine Koenig, Vienna, Austria
Ai Weiwei, Galerie Urs Meile, Lucerne, Switzerland
Dropping the Urn, Ceramic Works 5000 BCE – 2010 CE, Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland, USA (Travelling Exhibition)
Ai Weiwei, Haines Gallery, San Francisco, USA
Barely something, Stiftung DKM, Duisburg, Germany
Dropping the Urn, Ceramic Works 5000 BCE – 2010 CE, Arcadia University Gallery, Glenside, USA (Travelling Exhibition)
Mermaid Exchange, Langelinie, Copenhagen, Denmark
2009 *Ai Weiwei*, Friedman Benda, New York City, NY, USA
With Milk find something everybody can use, Mies van der Rohe Pavilion, Barcelona, Spain
World Map, Faurschou Gallery, Beijing, China
So sorry, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany
According to What?, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Ways Beyond Art, Ivory Press Space, Madrid, Spain
Four Movements, Phillips de Pury, London, UK
Ai Weiwei: New York Photographs 1983-1993, Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, Beijing, China
2008 *Ai Weiwei*, Albion Gallery, London, UK
Ai Weiwei, Hyundai Gallery, Seoul, Korea
Under Construction, Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Campbelltown Arts Center, Sydney, Australia
Illumination, Mary Boone Gallery, New York, NY, USA
Go China! Ai Weiwei, Groninger Museum, Groningen, The Netherlands
"Through" and Video Work "Fairytale", Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney, Australia
2007 *Fragments*, Art Unlimited, Art 38 Basel, Basel, Switzerland
Galerie Urs Meile, Lucerne, Switzerland.
Ai Weiwei, Galerie Urs Meile, Beijing-Lucerne, Lucerne, Switzerland
Traveling Landscapes, AedesLand, Berlin, Germany
2006 *Fragments*, Galerie Urs Meile, Beijing-Lucerne, Beijing, China
2004 *Ai Weiwei*, Kunsthalle Bern, Bern, Switzerland
Ai Weiwei in Gent, Belgium, Caermersklooster - Provinciaal Centrum voor Kunst en Cultuur, Gent, Belgium
Ai Weiwei, Robert Miller Gallery, New York, NY, USA
2003 *Ai Weiwei*, Galerie Urs Meile, Beijing-Lucerne, Lucerne, Switzerland
1988 *Old Shoes - Safe Sex*, Art Waves Gallery, New York, NY, USA
1982 *Ai Weiwei*, Asian Foundation, San Francisco, CA, USA

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2015 *The 56th International Art Exhibition - All the Worlds Future's*, Venice Art Biennale, Venice, Italy
Go East, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
A Brief History of the Future, Louvre, Paris, France
2014 *Taiping Tianguo: A History of Possible Encounters*, e-flux, New York, USA
State of Emergency, Davidson College, Belk Visual Arts Center, Davidson, USA
Beyond and Between, Leeum Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul, South Korea
Beyond Stuff, Mizuma Gallery, Singapore
The 14th International Architecture Exhibition - Fundamentals, Venice Architecture Biennale, Venice, Italy
Unscrolled: Reframing Tradition in Chinese Contemporary Art, Vancouver, Canada
2013 *The 55th International Art Exhibition - The Encyclopedic Palace*, Venice Art Biennale, Venice, Italy
Framed, Duddell's, Hong Kong
Ground Zero, Lokanat Gallery, Yangon, Myanmar
Island, Dairy Art Centre, London, UK

- Scotiabank Nuit Blanche 2013*, Nathan Philips Square, Toronto, Canada
Emscherkunst 2013, Emscher river, Essen/Ruhr Valley, Germany
Fuck Off 2, Groninger Museum, Groningen, The Netherlands
A Journal of the Plague Year. Fear, ghosts, rebels. SARS, Leslie and the Hong Kong story
 Sheung Wan Civic Centre Exhibition Hall, Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Of Bridges and Borders, Parque Cultural of Valparaíso, Valparaíso, Chile
 2012 *Busan Biennale*, Busan, South Korea
Newtopia: The State of Human Rights, Kazerne Dossin Museum and Documentation Centre
 of the Holocaust and of Human Rights, Mechelen, Belgium
Postmodernism: Style and Subversion 1970 – 1990, The Swiss National Museum, Zürich,
 Switzerland
Art Basel, Basel, Switzerland
Art and the City, Zürich, Switzerland
Art+Press, Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin, Germany
Lifelike, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, USA
 2011 *Liu Wei & Ai Weiwei*, Faurschou Gallery, Beijing, China
Gwangju Design Biennale, Gwangju Design Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea
DaringDesign – Chinese and Dutch Designers with Guts, Netherlands Architecture Insti-
 tute, Rotterdam, the Netherlands
Art Parcours in St. Alban-Tal, St. Alban, Switzerland
Shanshui, The Museum of Art Lucerne, Lucerne, Switzerland
Six Rooms, Friedman Benda Gallery, New York City, NY, USA
 2010 *29th Sao Paulo Biennial*, Sao Paulo Biennial, Sao Paulo, Brazil
The 12th International Architecture Exhibition - People meet in architecture, Venice
 Architecture Biennale, Venice, Italy
Acconci Studio + Ai Weiwei: A Collaborative Project, Para Site Art Space, Hong Kong
 2009 *Fairytale*, Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Herzliya, Israel
Mahjong: Contemporary Chinese Art from the Sigg Collection, The Peabody Essex Muse-
 um, Salem, MA, USA (Travelling Exhibition)
 2008 *Liverpool Biennial International 08: Made Up*, Tate Liverpool, Liverpool, UK
The 11th International Architecture Exhibition - Out There: Architecture Beyond Buildings,
 Venice Architecture Biennale, Venice, Italy
 2007 *The Sixth Shenzhen Contemporary Sculpture Exhibition - A Vista of Perspectives*, OCAT
 Contemporary Art Terminal, Shenzhen, China
Origin Point: Stars Group Retrospective Exhibition, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China
documenta 12, Kassel, Germany
Forged Realities, Universal Studios, Beijing, China
 2006 *The 5th Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art*, Queensland Art Gallery, Queensland,
 Australia
Zones of Contact, 15th Biennial of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
Territorial. Ai Weiwei und Serge Spitzer, Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt am Main,
 Germany
Herzog & de Meuron. No 250. Eine Ausstellung, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany
Fill in the Blanks, China Art Archives & Warehouse, Beijing, China
 Busan Biennial 2006, Busan Museum of Modern Art, Busan, Korea
 2005 *The 2nd Guangzhou Triennial*, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
Herzog & de Meuron. No 250. An Exhibition, Tate Modern, London, UK
Beauty and Waste in the Architecture of Herzog & de Meuron, Netherlands Architecture
 Institute, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
 2004 *The 9th International Architecture Exhibition - Metamorph*, Venice Architecture Biennale,
 Venice, Italy
On the Edge – Contemporary Chinese Photography & Video, Ethan Cohen Fine Arts, New
 York, USA
 2002 *The 1st Guangzhou Triennial*, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
 2001 *Take Part II*, Galerie Urs Meile, Beijing-Lucerne, Lucerne, Switzerland
Tu Mu. Young Chinese Architecture, Aedes Galerie, Berlin, Germany
Take Part I, Galerie Urs Meile, Beijing-Lucerne, Lucerne, Switzerland

- 2000 *Fuck off*, EastLink Gallery, Shanghai, China
 1999 *Innovations Part I*, China Art Archives & Warehouse, Beijing, China
d'Apertutto, La Biennale di Venezia, 48. Esposizione Internazionale d'Arte, Venice, Italy
Modern China Art Foundation Collection, Caermersklooster - Provinciaal Centrum voor Kunst en Cultuur, Gent, Belgium
 1998 *Double Kitsch: Painters from China*, Max Protetch, New York, USA
 1993 *Chinese Contemporary Art – The Stars 15 Years*, Tokyo Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
 1989 *The Stars: Ten Years*, Hanart Gallery, Hong KONG
 1987 *The Stars at Harvard: Chinese Dissident Art*, Fairbank Center for East Asian Research, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA
 1980 The second *Stars Exhibition*, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China
 1979 The first *Stars Exhibition*, outside the National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China

Architectural Works

- 2012 *Serpentine Gallery Pavilion*, designed in collaboration with Herzog & de Meuron, London, UK (constructed)
Urban Folly, Gwangju, Korea (constructed)
 2010 *Sanctuary*, Ruta del Peregrino, Mexico (constructed)
 2009 *The Guest House (Tsai Residence)*, in collaboration with HHF, New York, USA (constructed)
 2008 *53 Caochangdi*, Caochangdi, Beijing, China (constructed)
Lijiang Studio, Lijiang, Yunnan, China (constructed)
Kerry Center Interior (Hanhai Auction House), Beijing, China (constructed)
Jiading Malu (Shanghai Studio), Shanghai, China (constructed, destroyed)
Ding Yi Studio, Shanghai, China (constructed, destroyed)
Curator, urban planning, landscape design of Ordos 100, Ordos, Inner Mongolia, China (unrealized)
 2007 *Seventeen Studios*, Caochangdi, Beijing, China (constructed)
Fairytale 1,001 Dormitory, Kassel, Germany (constructed, temporary)
Undercover Villa, Ordos, Inner Mongolia, China (constructed)
Red No. 1 Art Galleries, Caochangdi, Beijing, China (constructed)
 2006 *Art Farm*, in collaboration with HHF, New York, USA (constructed)
Left Right Studio (Renovation), Beijing, China (constructed)
Curator Left Right Art District, Beijing, China (constructed)
Jiangnanhui, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China (constructed)
Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, Caochangdi, Beijing, China (constructed)
Courtyard House (Ma Jia), Beijing, China (constructed)
 2005 *Tsai Residence*, in collaboration with HHF, New York, USA (constructed)
Courtyard 104 (Galerie Urs Meile), Caochangdi, Beijing, China (constructed)
 2004 *Courtyard 105*, Beijing, China (constructed)
Go Where? Restaurant, Beijing, China (constructed)
Neolithic Pottery Museum, Jinhua, Zhejiang, China (constructed)
Jinhua Architectural Art Park, Jinhua, Zhejiang, China (constructed)
Nine Boxes, Beijing, China (constructed)
Six Rooms, Nanjing, Jiangsu, China (constructed)
 2003 *Landscape Design of Ai Qing Middle School*, Jinhua, Zhejiang, China (constructed)
 2002 *Landscape Design of Yiwu River Dam*, Jinhua, Zhejiang, China (constructed)
Landscape Design of Ai Qing Cultural Park, Jinhua, Zhejiang, China (constructed)
Ai Qing Memorial, Jinhua, Zhejiang, China (constructed)
National Stadium, in collaboration with Herzog & de Meuron, Beijing, China (constructed)
 2001 *Landscape Design Commune by the Great Wall*, Beijing, China (constructed)
 2000 *In Between: Installation*, SOHO, Beijing, China (constructed)
Concrete Landscape Design of SOHO, Beijing, China (constructed)
China Art Archives and Warehouse, Caochangdi, Beijing, China (constructed)
 1999 *Ai Weiwei Studio*, Caochangdi, Beijing, China (constructed)