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10 CONTEMPORARY CHINESE ARTISTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

The Huffington Post | By Katherine Brooks

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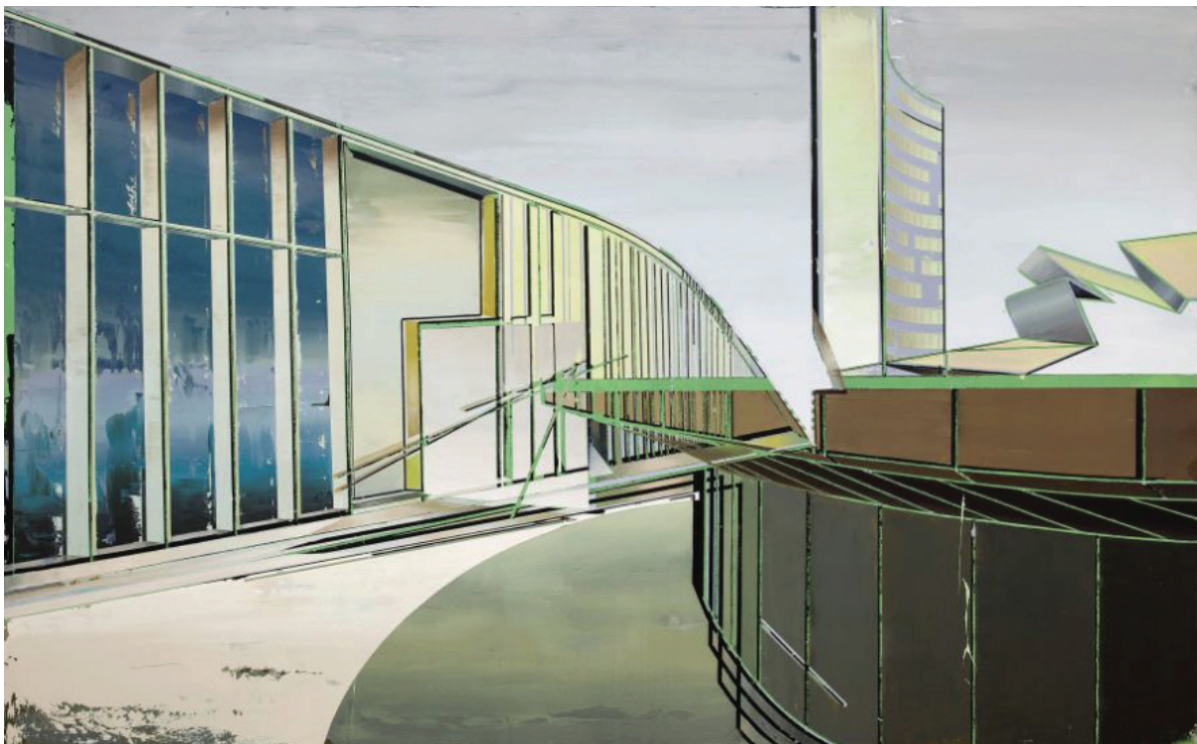
It's no secret that China has a formidable art scene, anchored on one side by a market hungry for collectable masterpieces and the other, by an established class of contemporary artists who have been pumping out artwork since the Cultural Revolution.

Art institutes have taken notice -- not only has New York's premiere haven, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, turned its attention to the East in "Ink Art: Past as Present in Contemporary China," so too has RH Contemporary Art, Restoration Hardware's gallery experiment, with its upcoming exhibition focusing on 12 "new artists" from the country. So why is it then, that most Western audiences would be hard pressed to identify the leaders in Chinese contemporary art -- at least, those who aren't Ai Weiwei or Cai Guo-Qiang?

An upcoming show at the Tampa Museum of Art is trying its hand at righting the wrong as well, shining a light on the new, post-Mao generation of Chinese artists tackling issues like urban development, globalization and pessimism amongst youth culture. Titled "My Generation: Young Chinese Artists," the exhibition highlights 27 names in the contemporary art world, aged 26 to 37, who have begun to carve out an aesthetic far removed from the Cultural Revolution-era art world.

From Ma Qiusha's video pieces to Cui Jie's canvases, the works nod to Western movement with ease and cut through themes endemic to their generation, including intimacy in an advanced age. Behold, 10 contemporary Chinese artists you should know:

1. Birdhead | 2. Liu Di | 3. Ma Qiusha | **4. Cui Jie** | 5. Huang Ran |
6. Qiu Xiaofei | 7. Shi Zhiying | 8. Xu Zhen | 9. Yan Xing | 10. Zhao Zhao



Cui Jie, *Jiu Xian Bridge Market*, 2012, Oil on canvas, 100 x 160 cm

© Cui Jie, courtesy of Leo Xu Projects, Shanghai