



Art and Artists of Twentieth-Century China

By *Mich  l Sullivan*

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Art and Artists of Twentieth-Century China By Mich  l Sullivan

This visually stunning book focuses on the rebirth of Chinese art in the twentieth century under the influence of Western art and culture. Michael Sullivan, recognized throughout the world as a leading scholar of Chinese art, vividly documents the conflicting pulls of traditional and Western values on Chinese art and provides 364 illustrations, in color and black-and-white, to show the great range of artistic expression and the historical processes that occurred within various movements. A substantial biographical index of twentieth-century Chinese artists is a valuable addition to the text.

Sullivan discusses artists and their work against China's background of oppression and relaxation, despair and hope. He expertly conveys the diverse and at times bizarre intertwining of Chinese cultural history and art during this century. Included are the intense debates between traditionalists and reformers, the creation of the first art schools, and the birth of the idea—shocking in ethnocentric China—that art is a world language that obliterates all frontiers. The scholarly traditions of classical Chinese painting, the belated discovery of Western modernism, the artistic upheaval under Communism, and China's rethinking of the very nature of art all have a place in Sullivan's fascinating history.

Michael Sullivan has known many of the major figures in China's modern art movement of the 1930s and 1940s and has also gained the confidence of younger artists who rose to prominence following the 1979 "Peking Spring." This long-awaited book—richly documented and abundantly illustrated—is a capstone to Sullivan's work and will be enthusiastically welcomed by art lovers everywhere.

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Art and Artists of Twentieth-Century China By Michæl Sullivan Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1400428 in Books
- Published on: 1996-11-15
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 12.25" h x 1.75" w x 9.50" l, 6.06 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 392 pages

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

So much has changed since Sullivan's *Chinese Art in the Twentieth Century* (1959. o.p.) that this important update retained only six of the original's pages. In addition to the sweeping historical changes that occurred during this time, the field has acquired a new respectability, reflected by an increase in exhibitions, collections, and scholarship. Several books published recently that focus on a particular period or style within modern Chinese art perhaps surpass this one in depth; the significance of the present large tome lies in its broad survey?spanning the entire century?by a pioneer in the subject. His central thesis is the renewal of Chinese art under Western cultural and aesthetic influence. An extensive biographical index and copious illustrations make this a worthy investment for any library with an interest in either 20th-century or Asian art.?Heidi Martin Winston, NYPL

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From the Inside Flap

"Sullivan presents a wealth of material that has never before appeared in a Western language. I expect it will be the standard book on twentieth-century Chinese art for the foreseeable future."—Julia F. Andrews, author of *Painters and Politics in the People's Republic of China*

"A most sympathetic and useful guide to twentieth-century Chinese art. Long the leading scholar on the subject, Professor Sullivan has presented a lucid account of a most dramatic chapter in Chinese art in a complex interplay of aesthetics, politics, cultural, and social history."—Wen C. Fong, Princeton University

"So much of China's art in the twentieth century has to do with artistic (and political) ideas from the West that it is appropriate that one of its first comprehensive histories should be written by a Western scholar—especially one who has known personally many of China's leading artistic figures of the last fifty years. Not only does Professor Sullivan tell the complex story of twentieth century China art with lucidity and style, his learned text is also illuminated with witty anecdotes and incisive observations that can only come from an insider."—Johnson Chang (Chang Tson-zung), Director, Hanart Tz Gallery, Hong Kong

From the Back Cover

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