

## The Culture Trip, *Art Metropolis Shanghai's 10 Best Contemporary Art Galleries*, Text/Marian Shek, Dec, 2013



### Art Metropolis: Shanghai's 10 Best Contemporary Art Galleries

Shanghai's contemporary art scene is experiencing an exciting time of growth, experimentation and self-realisation. From the hip, graffiti-covered district of Moganshan Road to world-class museums and small art spaces tucked away on picturesque lanes, we discover ten of Shanghai's best contemporary art galleries.

*Graffiti on Moganshan Road, Shanghai | © William/Flickr*

#### M97 Gallery

Hidden away from the bigger galleries in Moganshan Road, this small photography gallery is, nevertheless, a central force in the local art scene. When it was established in 2006, M97 was one of the first photography galleries in China and the largest in Shanghai. Dealing in contemporary and fine art photography, M97 specialises in work by Chinese photographers and those working in China, with a special focus on China-related issues. One such artist is Michael Wolf, whose 2013 exhibition *SMALL GOD BIG CITY* showcases his unusual perspectives of Hong Kong and the relationship between humans and the urban sprawl. M97 also has an international perspective, displaying well-known photographers from around the world and presenting an overview of the global photography scene. The light-filled, minimalist space allows the images to speak for themselves.

*M97 Gallery, 97 Moganshan Road, 2nd floor, Shanghai 200083, China, +86 (0)21 6286 1597*

*© M97 Gallery*

#### ShanghaiART Gallery

The ShanghaiART Gallery was first established in 1996, in a corridor of the Portman Ritz-Carlton hotel, and was one of the first contemporary art galleries in Shanghai. Since then, it has moved premises twice only to end up in the cultural hub of M50 in 2004. ShanghaiART is dedicated to promoting up and coming artists and is widely acknowledged as one of the best places for Chinese art. There are two spaces at 50 Moganshan Road: the Main Space, a huge and flexible warehouse space, as well as H-Space, which exhibits large-scale works. ShanghaiART's influence is far-reaching, with ShanghaiART Tapou, a public warehouse space in west Shanghai, and gallery spaces in Beijing and Singapore. ShanghaiART was the first Chinese gallery to be invited to Art Basel in 2000, and was also featured as one of the 75 most influential galleries in the Thames & Hudson publication *International Art Galleries: Post-war to Post-millennium*.

*ShanghaiART Gallery, Building 16, 50 Moganshan Road, Putuo District, Shanghai 200063, China, +86 (0)21 6359 3923*

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# LEO XU PROJECTS

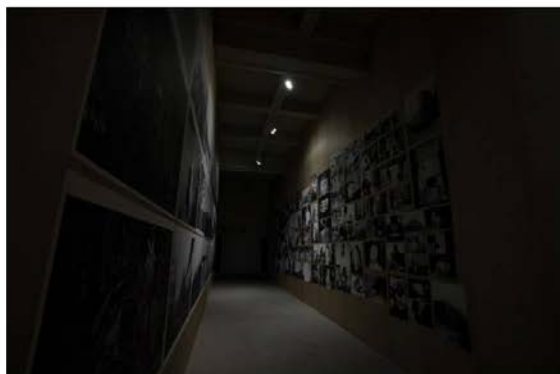


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e ShanghaiART Gallery

## Rockbund ART Museum (RAM)

The [Rockbund Art Museum](#) has really flourished as part of the Rockbund Urban Renaissance project, the area of redevelopment at the north end of the Bund Boulevard. The beautiful art deco building, previously home to the Royal Asiatic Society and, later, the [Shanghai Museum](#), was sensitively renovated by British architect David Chipperfield and recast as the Bund's only contemporary art museum. Its most impressive feature is the central atrium, which visually connects all five storeys of the building and allows natural light to flow through uninterrupted. The RAM also gives creative scope for presenting artwork in inventive ways. Since opening in 2010, RAM has hosted some of China's most successful artists, such as Zheng Fanzhi and Cai Guo Qiang. The museum's aspiration to become a social force is attested by its extensive educational work, especially its well-received Night@RAM programme, and its aim of stimulating discussion of topical and social issues through contemporary art.

[Rockbund Art Museum](#), 20 Huqiu Road, Huangpu district, Shanghai 200002, China, +86 (0)21 3310 9985



e Rockbund Art Gallery

## Art Labor

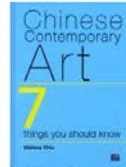
[Art Labor](#) is a gallery that sees itself as firmly lodged within the cultural context of Shanghai's financial power and burgeoning artistic identity. In fact, its international programme, with around half of its artists coming from outside of China, is an attempt to engineer and expand the Shanghai arts scene, and to lead China in a fresh direction. Art Labor's focus is on developing new talent and interesting, original ideas that transcend geographical boundaries. Located in the quirky former French Concession area, the gallery itself is an interesting discovery: designed by Montreal architect [Israel Noel](#), it features movable walls and lighting.

[Art Labor Gallery](#), #411 Building 4, 570 Yongjia Road, Shanghai 200031, China, +86 (0)21 3460 5331



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# LEO XU PROJECTS



# Art Labor

## Power Station of Art

The *Power Station of Art* is notable in that it is the first state-run contemporary art museum in Shanghai. Launched in 2012, it is housed in a disused power station on the banks of the Huangpu River, the former location of the Pavilion of the Future in the World Expo 2010. It has been conspicuously reimagined as a Shanghai landmark, with a huge neon thermometer atop its smokestack. But the *Power Station* is also a towering beacon in the cultural landscape of Shanghai. Home to the Shanghai Biennial, it hosts prestigious international touring exhibitions. One of its first shows, *Electric Fields: Surrealism and Beyond*, featured 119 loaned pieces from the Centre Pompidou in Paris, and exhibitions of heavyweights such as Andy Warhol are regularly programmed. Though it is not located close to the other cultural areas of Shanghai, it is well worth a visit for its free entry and seven floors of art.

*Power Station of Art, Lane 20, Huayuangang Road, near Miaojiang Road, Huangpu district, Shanghai, China. +86 (0)21 3127 6535*



# Power Station of Art

## Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA) Shanghai

The *Museum of Contemporary Art* is a veritable greenhouse of art, a small gem of a gallery situated in the picturesque setting of the People's Park, the cultural heart of the city. Founded in 2005 by the Samuel Kung Foundation, it is the first non-profit, independent gallery for contemporary art in Shanghai. Inspired by the newfound creativity and spirit of artistic expression in China, MoCA seeks to open a cultural dialogue between Chinese and international art and design. Exhibitions are diverse, ranging from cutting edge work from established and emerging artists, to retrospectives from the leading lights of the design world, such as Salvatore Ferragamo, Chanel and Pkxar, and acclaimed artists such as Kusama Yayoi. The gallery also hosts its own biennale, MoCA Envisage, which looks at the current state and direction of Chinese contemporary art. Don't miss the beautiful vista from MoCA's rooftop patio and bar.

*MoCA Shanghai, People's Park, 231 Nanjing West Road, Shanghai 200003, China. +86 (0)21 6327 9900*



# Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai

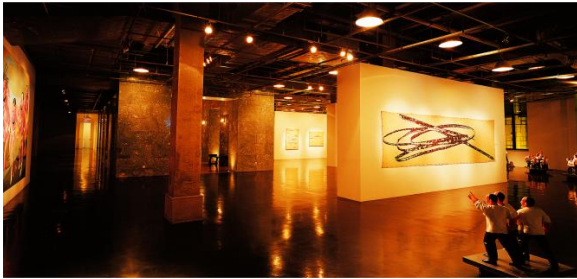


# LEO XU PROJECTS

## Shanghai Gallery of Art (SGA)

The [Shanghai Gallery of Art](#) is a chic private gallery located in the historic Three on the Bund complex. Designed by acclaimed architect Michael Graves, it is a bright, 1000-square-metre space with an industrial look, high ceilings and concrete walls - a structure to contrast and complement the high-end luxury of the surrounding Bund area. First opened in 2004, SGA focuses on reclaiming Asian contemporary art and Chinese artists, showing famous artists such as Zhang Xiaogang and Gu Dexin. Known for its quality programming and interest in experimentation and interdisciplinary exhibitions, SGA also hosts prominent international artists such as Anish Kapoor and Richard Wilson.

*Shanghai Gallery of Art, 3rd Floor, Three on the Bund, 3 Zhongshan Dongyi Road, Shanghai 200002, China, +86 (0)21 6321 5757*



© Shanghai Gallery of Art

## OV Gallery

The [OV \(Oriental Vista\) Gallery](#) is something of an enfant terrible of the Shanghai art scene, having had two pieces censored, and a whole exhibition, the 2010 [RE-Visioning History](#), shut down by the local culture bureau for its critique of the official Chinese Communist Party view of history. Since it opened in 2008 under the direction of former magazine editor Rebecca Catching, OV Gallery has not shied away from pushing boundaries and tackling tough social and historical issues, albeit now in a more subtle way. The gallery demonstrates a strong focus on emerging Chinese artists, showcasing them through eclectic, but thematically strong group shows. This strategy aims to present art to a wider audience in an accessible way, creating and supporting dialogue through workshops, tours and talks.

*OV Gallery, Room 207, Building 4A, 50 Moganshan Road, Shanghai 200020, China, +86 (0)21 6217 3881*



© OV Gallery; Shanghai

# LEO XU PROJECTS

## Leo Xu Projects

Established in 2011, this young institution punches above its weight. Housed in a three-storey building hidden down a lane in the French Concession, it is one of the few Shanghai galleries whose activities reach beyond its own walls. Founded by Leo Xu, a curator, photographer and writer, the gallery represents young Chinese and international artists, and has an interest in the experiences of the Chinese diaspora from around the world. [Leo Xu Projects](#) has also participated in [Art Basel](#), [Frieze New York](#), and biennales such as Venice, Sydney and Performa in New York. Additionally, its offsite work is extensive, with projects such as [Shanghai Surprise](#) at the K11 Art Mall, a group exhibition inspired by the changing cultural landscape of the city, featuring young Chinese and expat authors closely affiliated with the city, and a mobile library archive.

[Leo Xu Projects](#), Lane 49, Building 3, Fuxing Xi Road, Xuhui district, Shanghai 200031, China, +86 (0)21 3461 1245



# Leo Xu Projects

## Minsheng Art Museum

The [Minsheng Art Museum](#) was established in 2008 and is based in the Red Town Arts Precinct. With a strikingly futuristic exterior, this museum was converted from an old steel factory and comprises one main exhibition hall and four smaller halls. It is also designed as a community space, with a workshop area, café, bookshop, reading room, courtyard and offices. The museum curates quality, experimental art, and champions Shanghai-based artists. But it shines in its educational programme, which features retrospectives such as the 2011 exhibition on video art, [Moving Image in China: 1988-2011](#).

[Minsheng Art Museum](#), Building F, 570 West Huaihai Road, near Hongqiao Road, Changning district, Shanghai, China, +86 (0)21 6282 8729



# Minsheng Art Gallery

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