During the 1980s, China began opening up to the world and was entering an era of economic and cultural reformation. Under this influence, Chinese avant-garde art transcended conventional artistic practices and developed new forms of creative expression. What role did history play in shaping this avant-garde movement? What influence did these artistic practices have on the post-1980s generation of artists? Directors from all over the world have attempted to capture by lens this pivotal period in Chinese art history. Beginning in May, and running through August, the Asia Society Hong Kong Center will screen two Chinese arts documentaries each month at the Miller Theater.
Asia Society Chinese Arts Documentary Series
亞洲協會中國藝術紀錄片系列

This documentary features interviews with 12 prominent Chinese writers, activists, and artists living in exile, from Nobel Prize-winning writer Gao Xingjian in Paris and novelist Zheng Yi in Washington, to poet Huang Xiang and journalist Hu Ping in New York, Tiananmen student leaders Wang Dan, Zhang Boli, and Xu Wenli, one of the founders of the first independent political party in China.

The film focuses especially on Zheng Yi, a quiet and deeply reflective novelist. "My heart is not here. In fact, I am living in China. I have nothing more than a desk here in the US," says Zheng. Severed from his readers, exile has forced him to examine what it means to write, and for whom. Zheng believes that "a writer's existence is not a political one. If my presence in the world has any value, it's a spiritual value. If a writer succumbs to the hard times, if he can no longer endure exile and submits to the authorities, he surrenders the value of his existence."

The collage of wide-ranging interviews produces a rich montage that explores the meaning of exile, the fundamental human desire for free expression, and the courage of individuals facing up to authority and emerging stronger.

Outside the Great Wall
July 19, 2013 Friday

Registration 18:15; Screening at 18:30
$50 Asia Society members; $65 Non-members

Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry
July 24, 2013 Wednesday

Registration 18:15; Screening at 18:30;
Post-screening Q&A with director in USA via Skype*
$50 Asia Society members; $65 Non-members

“I think (by seeing the film) the audience will first gain some knowledge about who I am and what kind of issues I am always concerned about as an artist.” - Ai Weiwei

Named by ArtReview as the most powerful artist in the world, Ai Weiwei is one of China’s most celebrated contemporary artist, and its most outspoken domestic critic. In April 2011, when Ai disappeared into police custody for three months, he quickly became China’s most famous missing person. Having first risen to international prominence in 2008 after helping design Beijing’s iconic Bird’s Nest Olympic Stadium and then publicly denouncing the Games as party propaganda, Ai’s critiques of China’s regime have ranged from playful photographs of his raised middle finger in front of Tiananmen Square to searing memorials of the more than 5,000 schoolchildren who died in shoddy government construction during the 2008 Sichuan earthquake.

*Subject to director’s availability

TICKETING INFORMATION
購票詳情
Tickets are available at Asia Society Hong Kong Center’s box office and online at www.asiasociety.org.hk
門票於亞洲協會香港中心及網頁 www.asiasociety.org.hk 發售

PROGRAM ENQUIRIES
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SCREENING VENUE
放映場地
Miller Theater (Former Magazine B), Asia Society Hong Kong Center, The Hong Kong Jockey Club Former Explosives Magazine, 9 Justice Drive, Admiralty, Hong Kong
香港金鐘正義道 9 號，亞洲協會香港中心，香港賽馬會修畢軍火庫，麥理浩廣場
(C軍火庫B舊址)