

## Educator Guide

In March 2009, Gallery Crawl visited Mark Wolf Contemporary Art to see the exhibition **A (re)Turn to (re)Form**, then headed to LIMN Gallery for two more exhibitions, **Poetry in Painting**, and **China Avant Garde – Landscape in Transit**. This guide provides resources for educators to support the utilization of this online virtual visit to the galleries to teach about contemporary art and culture. The Gallery Crawl video can be found at [www.KOED.org/gallerycrawl](http://www.KOED.org/gallerycrawl). Information about taking your students to the galleries can be found at the bottom of this guide.

**Exhibitions** *A (re)Turn to (re)Form, Poetry in Painting, and China Avant Garde – Landscape in Transit*

**Location** Mark Wolf Contemporary Art, San Francisco [Google Map](#)

LIMN Art Gallery, San Francisco [Google Map](#)

**Grades** 6 - 12

**Standards Addressed** Visual Arts: Artistic Perception, Creative Expression, Aesthetic Valuing (Grades 6-12)  
World History and Geography (Grades 6 - 7)  
World History, Culture, and Geography (Grade 10)

## The Exhibitions

**A (re)Turn to (re)Form** at Mark Wolfe Contemporary Art features Chinese artists Gao Yuan, Wang Tiande, and Hong Lei. Each artist's work has roots in classical Chinese techniques, but their experiments in new digital technology reinvent traditional imagery. Gao Yuan's photo "mash-ups" of mothers and babies were inspired by the widely recognized image of the Madonna and Child, and represent growth and transition in the new China, while Wang Tiande's reductive calligraphy works and photographed landscapes made of burnt scrolls and ashes hint at a rebirth of tradition.

**Poetry in Painting** at LIMN Gallery features large-scale mixed media paintings by Ming Ren, a local artist and educator who teaches at the Rhode Island School of Design and City College of San Francisco. Originally from China, Ming Ren came of age during the Chinese Cultural Revolution and worked as a Maoist propaganda painter when he was a teenager. Despite his parents wishes, he continued to study art, discovering new mediums while working in the United States. His latest paintings combine layers of rice paper and various pigments to produce abstract landscapes that blur the line between traditional Chinese and Western art forms.

**China Avant Garde – Landscape in Transit** at LIMN Gallery features Chinese artists Han Bing, Yang Yongliang, and Zhang Wei. In recent years, parts of China were essentially rebuilt in preparation for hosting the 2008 Olympics. All three artists interpret the changing landscape of China through their work in photography and sculpture.

## Contemporary Chinese Art

Chinese artists have recently experienced a sharp increase in popularity and demand. For background, stream an NPR story about SFMOMA's 2008 contemporary Chinese art exhibition [here](#). \*NOTE: Preview this story before sharing it with your students, the content may not be suitable for all ages. The Berkeley Art Museum also exhibited a collection of contemporary Chinese art in 2008, visit their [Web site](#) to view images and learn more.

In this episode of Gallery Crawl, three artists discuss how their work is inspired by traditional Chinese techniques and philosophies, among other influences. When viewing the video with your students, encourage them to pay attention to the defining characteristics of each artwork and notice

the interviewees' varied perspectives on Chinese culture, symbolism, and traditional art forms like calligraphy and landscape painting. Ask students to fill out a graphic organizer, charting their previous knowledge of China, what they learn from the video, and further questions that arise after viewing the video.

## Teaching with Gallery Crawl

Using video in the classroom can breathe life and meaning into almost any lesson. In the arts, video can be particularly effective for introducing large concepts, aspects of the creative process, and key arts-related vocabulary to introduce students to discipline-based and concept-based study. Using media in the classroom helps breakdown social stereotypes and promotes critical viewing skills and media awareness. For more information about using media in the classroom download KQED's [Media Tips](#) teaching tool (a direct link is provided at the end of this guide).

Using a Gallery Crawl video in the classroom allows students to virtually view a local art exhibit, while listening to firsthand information about exhibitions from curators, gallerists, and artists. To present Gallery Crawl to your class, you will need a projector and computer with the capacity to stream video. Alternatively, assign students to watch the video on their own or in groups. After soliciting students' responses to the video, continue the lesson by implementing hands-on or discussion activities to deepen the impact of the media – ideas are provided below.

## Making the Most of your Virtual Visit

The following activity ideas may be used in the classroom after viewing the Gallery Crawl Video, **and/or** after a school tour of Mark Wolfe Contemporary Art and LIMN Art Gallery.

- Ming Ren's paintings were partly inspired by the Silk Road, a network of trans-Eurasian trade routes traveled by traders of silk and other goods for over two thousand years. Ask students to form small groups and research different aspects of the Silk Road (e.g., history, products traded, countries connected, etc.), then present their findings to the class -- this can be a quick research project, each group might present 3 – 5 facts or photographs related to their selected Silk Road topic. Next, play the Gallery Crawl video and freeze the frame on one of Ming Ren's paintings. Do they see a connection between his paintings and historical images of the Silk Road? Lastly, ask the groups to create collaborative artworks inspired by their studies, such as a collage, painting, or even a short film.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silk\\_road](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silk_road)

- Invite students to research the transformation of China's landscape since the country hosted the 2008 Olympics. As evidenced in the backgrounds of Gao Yuan's photographs of mothers with their babies, many old buildings were replaced with new ones. Discuss the impact of China's rebuilding efforts on its population and environment. When playing the Gallery Crawl video, freeze the frame on one or more of Gao Yuan's images and analyze the background "mash ups" of old and new Chinese landscapes. Next, freeze the frame on selected images from the **China Avant Garde –Landscape in Transit** exhibit at the beginning of the video. Compare and contrast each artist's rendering of China's landscape, and analyze how the images have been manipulated to represent multiple landscapes in one picture.
- China's history and culture are a major influence on each of the artworks featured in this episode of Gallery Crawl. Start with art -- using this video in your classroom can offer a fresh and engaging perspective on other required classroom topics related to China such as Confucianism, colonization, the Chinese Civil War, and Mao Tse-tung and the Cultural Revolution. If you're an art teacher, try partnering with your school's social studies department to create an integrated unit on China involving both art and history projects. See the **KQED Spark** resources listed below to discover more videos about local artists from China along with related, in-depth lesson plans that meet K-12 visual and performing arts, language arts, and social studies content standards.

### Visiting the Galleries

Both Mark Wolfe Contemporary Art and LIMN Art Gallery are located in San Francisco, CA.

**A (re)Turn to (re)Form** will be on view through April 25, 2009. **Poetry in Painting** and **China Avant Garde – Landscape in Transit** close on April 11, 2009. Visit the galleries' Web sites listed below for hours and information.

### Resources to extend learning about the exhibits, art forms, and featured artists

Mark Wolfe Contemporary Art <http://wolfecontemporary.com>

LIMN Art Gallery <http://limngallery.com>

NPR story about SFMOMA's 2008 exhibition Half-Life of a Dream  
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=92499310>

Sigg Collection at the Berkeley Art Museum <http://www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/exhibition/mahjong>

Wikipedia entry on the Silk Road [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silk\\_road](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silk_road)

The following **KQED Spark** documentaries on local Chinese artists may be used for compare/contrast purposes and to extend learning about contemporary Chinese visual and performing arts.

KQED Spark documentary about painter [Li Huayi](#).  
An in-depth Spark Educator Guide accompanies this video.

KQED Spark documentary about painter [Hung Liu](#).  
An in-depth Spark Educator Guide accompanies this video.

KQED Spark documentary about choreographer [Lily Cai](#).  
An in-depth Spark Educator Guide accompanies this video.

Visit the **KQED Spark** Web site for additional Educator Guides and videos about local artists at [KQED.org/spark](http://KQED.org/spark). Also available are educator resources related to visual and performing arts, media literacy and production, using video in the classroom, standards-based arts instruction, arts education program development, and more. For more information about KQED's Arts Education resources visit [KQED.org/ArtsEd](http://KQED.org/ArtsEd), send an email to [ArtsEd@KQED.org](mailto:ArtsEd@KQED.org), or call 800.723.3566.

#### Direct Links

- Gallery Crawl <http://www.kqed.org/arts/gallerycrawl/>
- KQED "Media Tips" Tool <http://www.kqed.org/assets/pdf/arts/programs/spark/video.pdf>
- Hung Liu Spark video <http://www.kqed.org/arts/programs/spark/profile.jsp?essid=4455>
- Li Huayi Spark video <http://www.kqed.org/arts/programs/spark/profile.jsp?essid=5025>
- Lily Cai Spark video <http://www.kqed.org/arts/programs/spark/profile.jsp?essid=17580>
- NPR Story about contemporary Chinese Art, 2008 <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=92499310>
- Google Map, Mark Wolfe Contemporary Art  
[http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s\\_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=49+Geary+san+francisco&sll=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=33.984987,56.601563&ie=UTF8&ll=37.788878,-122.404261&spn=0.008275,0.013819&z=16&iwloc=addr](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=49+Geary+san+francisco&sll=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=33.984987,56.601563&ie=UTF8&ll=37.788878,-122.404261&spn=0.008275,0.013819&z=16&iwloc=addr)
- Google Map, LIMN Art Gallery  
[http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s\\_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=292+Townsend+San+Francisco&sll=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=33.984987,56.601563&ie=UTF8&ll=37.779195,-122.395098&spn=0.008276,0.013819&z=16&iwloc=addr](http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=292+Townsend+San+Francisco&sll=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=33.984987,56.601563&ie=UTF8&ll=37.779195,-122.395098&spn=0.008276,0.013819&z=16&iwloc=addr)