

In 2015 China lost its second place on the contemporary art market it got in 2014, according to Artprice ranking. This contraction of the market had little impact on the evolution of Chinese contemporary art which showed 470% increase over the last six years. In 2015-2016, the United States remained the largest market for contemporary art in the world, generating \$ 582 million, according to Artprice. China came in third place with \$ 316 million, behind the United Kingdom. However 187 Chinese artists plus 99 American artists accounted for 60% of the Top 500 sales. Zheng Fanzhi ranked 9th of Top 500 with \$ 22.6 million sales, followed by Zhang Xiaogang, ranking 12th with \$ 19,4 million sales in 2015/2016. Liu Wei ranked 18th in the Artprice ranking. Chinese artists stay performing in auction markets and every year the number of collectors of Chinese art is increasing. Now there are more than 200 auction houses in China.

"Contemporary art emerged in China in the 1980s, the Chinese artist Zhu Wei explained. Initially, works from contemporary Chinese artists were primarily purchased by Western collectors. With the emergence of a burgeoning Chinese Middle Class, this shifted to a homegrown audience". Then after 2005, the Chinese contemporary art entered both Asian and Western auction markets. As reported in the 2017 Hurun Report on Chinese art, Cui Ruzhuo was the best-selling Chinese artist for the third year, with sales up to US\$ 118 million and Zheng Fanzhi was second with sales of \$ 20 million (+ 38%). Fan Zeng, ranked third with sales of US\$18.8m. Four of the Top 100 Chinese artists were female artists, the leader was Chen Peiqiu ranking 23th with sales of \$ 5.4 million, followed by Xu Lele, 67th, Lou Zhenggang, 82th and Yan Ping, 97th. In 2016, the total sales of Chinese artists were the lowest in the past 10 years; they decreased by 8% compared to last year. Ink painters made up half of the list, oil painters made up 47% of the list. In the past 10 years, 16 artists have been on the list every year: Ai Xuan, Zeng Fanzhi, Chen Peiqiu, Fan Zeng, Fang Lijun, He Jiaying, Huang Yongyu, Jin Shangyi, Liu Ye, Luo Zhongli, Wang Mingming, Wang Yidong, Yang Feiyun, Zhang Xiaogang, Zhou Chunya and Zhu Ming. o \$ 489,8 million. Ai Weiwei made list for first time in 2017, with sales of US\$2.25 million.

Chinese contemporary art reflects the current situation of China including paradoxes between economic growth and inequalities. Contemporary art is actually a double mirror: from one side it reflects the inner China, culturally and politically, and on the other side it gives another image of the country in the world, boosted by its artistic creation and the booming of its art sales.