

**Kunstmuseum Gelsenkirchen**  
**Tradition Today – Ink Painting and Calligraphy**  
May 15 to September 13, 2015

*Local press conference:* Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 11am  
*Local opening:* Thursday, May 14, 2015, 12pm

Tracing back some 2000 years, traditional Chinese ink painting and calligraphy is among mankind's oldest art forms. Ink and brush lie at the root of Chinese art, which rather than representing the visible world in faithful detail, traditionally strives in the first instance to capture the essence of the spiritual realm. At the beginning of the twentieth century the art of ink painting became increasingly subject to critical scrutiny with the emergence of new techniques, theories and media imported from the West. To the present day, Chinese painting distinguishes between "Guohua" (traditional painting) and "Xinhua" (new, western painting). In the previous century, numerous artists set about combining these two world views, which, however, did not bring about the revival of ink painting as they had hoped.

In today's digitised, globalised and complex world, the examination by these artists of their tradition and its significance to their own lives has helped them to forge a distinct identity. And over the past 15 years or one can observe increasingly a return to this ancient art tradition. This trend is highlighted by the exhibition in the Alte Villa of the Kunstmuseum Gelsenkirchen, which features 12 positions, each granting an insight into the multimedia-based encounter of Chinese artists with traditional ink painting and calligraphy. On view are works by Sun Xu, Wu Yiming or Yang Yongliang, who, for example, depicts visions of modern landscapes using video animations. Marking the local opening with a live performance combining calligraphy and literature is the artist Wang Dongling.

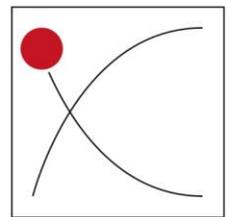
With works by:

Frank Tang, Lin Xue, Liu Jianhua, Miao Xiaochun, Qiu Zhijie, Shao Fan, Sun Xun, Wang Dongling, Wu Yiming, Xu Bing, Yang Yongliang, Zhu Wei

**Kunstmuseum Gelsenkirchen**  
Horster Straße 5-7  
45897 Gelsenkirchen  
[www.kunstmuseum-gelsenkirchen.de](http://www.kunstmuseum-gelsenkirchen.de)

**Opening hours**  
Tuesday - Sunday 11am – 6pm  
Closed Mondays

**Admission free**



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