



UCCA Edge to Open in Shanghai on May 22

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BEIJING, China — UCCA Center for Contemporary Art is pleased to announce the building completion of UCCA Edge, a new museum in Shanghai's Jing'an District, set to open to the public on May 22, 2021. Occupying more than 5,500 square meters over three levels of the newly constructed EDGE tower from which the museum takes its name, UCCA Edge is UCCA Group's third museum after the flagship UCCA Beijing and UCCA Dune. In keeping with UCCA's long established mission to deepen lives and spark international dialogue through contemporary art, UCCA Edge will offer a rich slate of exhibitions and public programs. Maintaining a distinct team, it will operate in close coordination with other UCCA locations.

"We are extremely excited to put down roots in a city that is synonymous with the vibrancy and dynamism of contemporary China," UCCA Director and CEO Philip Tinari notes. "With the opening of UCCA Edge, we will be able to deliver top-quality programming to audiences in China's two largest metropolitan areas, moving us one significant step closer to becoming a truly national institution. We look forward to deepening our relationships with artists and publics in this great city."

UCCA Edge will operate as an accredited museum entity under UCCA Group, in strategic partnership with K. Wah International Holdings Limited, developer of the EDGE building and a shareholder of UCCA Group. UCCA Edge will mount exhibitions developed exclusively for the Shanghai audience, as well as touring exhibitions from other UCCA locations. As an integral part of the UCCA constellation, UCCA Edge will share with UCCA's main location in Beijing's 798 Art District and UCCA Dune the invaluable resources amassed from a decade and a half of engagement with Chinese contemporary art.

Housed in the 86-meter-tall EDGE building in Jing'an District, the design of UCCA Edge is led by Jing Liu, co-founder of New York practice SO – IL. Following previous projects by Wilmotte & Associés, OMA, and Open Architecture, this collaboration with SO – IL marks the latest partnership between UCCA and an internationally



acclaimed contemporary architect team to bring an open, accessible, multidimensional, and public-oriented museum to the Chinese audience.

Situated in a neighborhood revitalized to be a cultural and recreational hub, UCCA Edge sits just north of the Suzhou Creek, less than a kilometer from People's Square and directly above the Qufu Lu station of the Shanghai Metro, accessible via lines 8 and 12. UCCA Edge includes 1,700 square meters of exhibition galleries and a wraparound outdoor sculpture terrace, in addition to public areas such as a lobby, auditorium, store, café, and restaurant. The museum bistro New Wave, named after UCCA Beijing's opening exhibition in 2007 and helmed by the Michelin-starred team behind Da Vittorio Shanghai, will open later in 2021.

In close study and research with SO – IL, UCCA confronts the key question of creating a world-class museum space inside a commercial tower, resulting in a continuous visitor experience across three levels of connected gallery and functional spaces, while providing climate and humidity-controlled display and accommodating the curatorial possibilities for a range of exhibition formats and programs. Visitors' journey begins with an escalator ride at street level that leads directly to the museum lobby, where they will be greeted by the reception area and ushered through a generous double-height space into the first galleries and suite of amenities. Once visitors enter the galleries on this level, they can move seamlessly through all three levels of exhibition space before emerging onto a 360-degree terrace that offers views of the Suzhou Creek below and the Shanghai skyline beyond.

The design of UCCA Edge breaks away from pre-existing building constraints, while embracing its metropolitan surroundings. The iconic UCCA logo wall that welcomes the public by the lobby escalators is immediately visible as an urban landmark. Each floor includes both exhibition areas and functional spaces. Inside the museum, the spatial experience of its simple structure is varied by several double-height spaces, calling attention to verticality and scale. Rooms are distinguished by acoustic plaster walls to optimize a comfortable viewing experience for visitors, while visual depth in public areas is enhanced by curved walls finished in reflective metallic. The juxtaposition of materials is emphasized in the design throughout, not only for its aesthetics, but as a strategy to delineate the different kinds of spaces—exhibition, retail, and public—within UCCA Edge. Spare and sharp, smooth and textured, light



and dark, all organically interwoven to create a pleasing and unconventional exhibition environment that invites the public to reacquaint with the energy of the city through new encounters with art.

The opening exhibition at UCCA Edge, “City on the Edge: Art and Shanghai at the Turn of the Millennium,” will open from May 22, 2021 to July 11, 2021. Curated by Tinari, this exhibition revisits the historic moment when China’s art world came to understand itself as part of a global contemporary. Works by over 20 Chinese and international artists will convene through the prism of Shanghai in and around the year 2000, including Huang Yong Ping, Lee Bul, Liang Yue, Ni Jun, Xu Zhen, Yang Fudong, Yang Zhenzhong, Zhang Enli, Zhang Peili, Zhou Tiehai, He Yunchang, Matthew Barney, and William Kentridge. The exhibition will be accompanied by a full slate of public programs and guided tours, as well as an archival presentation.

Concurrently, with the exhibition “Urban Theater: A Comedy in Four Acts,” curated by UCCA Curator Ara Giu, the entrance and wraparound terrace at UCCA Edge will transform into a public art space for the thought-provoking, site-specific installations by artists Cao Fei, Aki Sasamoto, Wong Ping, and Erwin Wurm. Interspersed on three sides of the outdoor terrace, the works anchor an open-ended and fluid setting, configuring a stage for new reflections and curiosity. This long-term exhibition will extend through May 2022.

Further exhibitions in 2021 include “Liu Xiaodong: Your Friends” (August 7, 2021 – October 10, 2021) and “Becoming Andy Warhol” (November 6, 2021 – March 6, 2022), traveling from UCCA Beijing.

About SO – IL

Founded in 2018 in New York, SO – IL is an architecture practice led by Jing Liu and Florian Idenburg. SO – IL is outward-looking, engendering meaningful dialogue with what is materially and psychologically outside of ourselves and constructing new possibilities between people and their environments. The flow of time is an integral dimension to SO – IL’s design. Whether working with existing structures or building from the ground, the SO – IL team carefully investigates the physical properties and history of the site. SO – IL’s interventions are both respectful of their pasts and adaptable to a dynamic future.



SO – IL has been featured in media outlets such as the *New York Times*, CNN, and *Frankfurter Allgemeine*. Their work is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York), and the Art Institute of Chicago. The SO – IL team has received numerous accolades, including the Vilcek Award, the Curbed Groundbreakers Award, and the MoMA PS1 Young Architects Program Award.

About K. Wah International Holdings Limited

K. Wah International Holdings Limited (KWIH) is a member of K. Wah Group. Founded by Dr. Lui Che-woo in 1955, K. Wah Group is a multinational conglomerate principally engaged in properties development and investment, mega entertainment and leisure resorts, hospitality, and construction materials, with a market presence spanning mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Southeast Asia, and major cities in the U.S.

An integrated property developer and investor with a foothold in Hong Kong, the Yangtze River Delta, and Pearl River Delta regions, KWIH encompasses a portfolio of premium residential developments, grade-A office towers, retail spaces, hotels, and serviced apartments. Cresleigh Property, the property management arm of KWIH, delivers exceptional hotel serviced property management services guided by advanced and international standards in general to premium residential buildings, commercial facilities, office towers, and real estate complexes.

About UCCA

UCCA Center for Contemporary Art is China's leading contemporary art institution. Committed to the belief that art can deepen lives and transcend boundaries, UCCA presents a wide range of exhibitions, public programs, and research initiatives to a public of more than one million visitors each year. UCCA Beijing sits at the heart of the 798 Art District, occupying 10,000 square meters of factory chambers built in 1957 and regenerated in 2019 by OMA. UCCA Dune, designed by Open Architecture, lies beneath the sand in the seaside enclave of Aranya in Beidaihe. UCCA Edge, designed by architecture firm SO – IL, opens in Shanghai in spring 2021. Formally accredited as a museum by the Beijing Cultural Bureau in 2018, UCCA also operates non-profit foundations, licensed by the Beijing Bureau of Civil Affairs and the Hong Kong government. UCCA's commercial ventures include the retail platform UCCA Store, the children's education initiative UCCA Kids, and



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collaborations and projects under the rubric UCCA Lab. Opened in 2007 and revived by a committed group of Chinese and international patrons in 2017, UCCA works to bring China into global dialogue through contemporary art.

www.ucca.org.cn/en