



Ullens Center for
Contemporary Art
尤伦斯当代艺术中心

UCCA Announces New Backing Ahead of its 10th Anniversary

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UCCA, China's leading center for contemporary art, today announced new backing and the creation of a dedicated foundation to coincide with its 10th anniversary. Effective October 4th, a group of long-standing UCCA backers including Future Edutainment, Jason Jiang, and other affiliated groups will take over control and ownership of UCCA's parent, UCCA Group, founded by Guy and Myriam Ullens in 2007.

Since its formation, UCCA has built an international reputation as China's most significant independent art institution, articulating a global vision of contemporary art and culture through over 100 exhibitions and thousands of lectures, screenings, and performances. Located at the heart of Beijing's 798 Art District, UCCA receives over 1 million visitors a year, making it one of the most visited art centers in the world, as well as the most visited contemporary art center in China.

Over the course of its ten year history, the UCCA Group has expanded beyond its flagship center, and is now the leading online destination for contemporary art in China, with millions of online users and subscribers. The Group also manages retail operations, arts education and educational-related content and services.

Additionally, as part of the transaction, the group will spin off and strengthen the UCCA Foundation, a tax-exempt charitable entity registered in Hong Kong with an affiliated foundation in formation in Beijing, to expand participation in the life and work of the Center by leading collectors, arts patrons and philanthropists in China.

With the support of its new backers, the UCCA Group has also partnered with the Seven Star Group, owner of the 798 Art District, to secure a long-term commitment on its presence in this vital area. With Seven Star's support, the UCCA will embark on a renovation and expansion of its current premises, ensuring its position at the core of China's most important arts and creative cluster. Wang Yanling, CEO of the

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798 Art District, said, "Seven Star Group resolutely supports the continued stable development of UCCA, as it becomes a beacon in the great wave of development of contemporary art."

UCCA's new backing coincides with its upcoming Tenth Anniversary Gala, which will be celebrated at the Center on 5 November. One of the highlights of the Chinese art world's social calendar, the theme of this year's Gala is "A Decade of History," and will include a benefit auction in support of the Foundation, conducted in partnership with Christie's and featuring artists who showed in each of the previous ten years of its program. To date, artists including Xu Bing, Liu Xiaodong, Liu Wei, Qiu Zhijie, Wang Xingwei, Xu Zhen, Zhan Wang, and Zhao Bandi have generously donated works to be auctioned.

As part of this restructuring, Philip Tinari, who has served as Director of UCCA since late 2011, will continue to lead the organization. Mr. Tinari is a renowned curator and expert on China's contemporary art landscape, and is also co-curator of the major exhibition *Art and China after 1989: Theater of the World*, that opened at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York on October 6. Tinari will also join the UCCA Group Board of Directors effective immediately. "I am thrilled to have the chance to lead an institution at the core of China's ever burgeoning art scene into a new era of relevance, prominence, and success," Tinari noted.

Commenting on the transition to new oversight, Guy Ullens said, "Mimi and I are very pleased to see that a new group of strong Chinese backers, who share our passion and mission of promoting contemporary Chinese art and international exchanges, will carry forward the initiative we started ten years ago. We are excited to see them take the UCCA to a higher level as a top art institution in the world, in partnership with Seven Star and all the world class group of artists and friends in China." Philip Tinari further noted, "This new structure gives us the resources to mount exhibitions and projects of increased complexity and caliber, and to expand our audience. It will also allow us to perform vital upgrades to our flagship center, and to structure our public mission and commercial activities in the most



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transparent and sustainable matter in the maturing context of the Chinese art world.”

Inquiries regarding the upcoming 10th Anniversary Gala can be made to Christina You at christina.you@ucca.org.cn.

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