



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

UCCA Announces the Formation of UCCA Dune, a New Museum by the Sea in Beidaihe

Released 1 September 2018, Beijing, China

UCCA is proud to announce the establishment of its first museum beyond Beijing, UCCA Dune. An art destination located a few hours by car or train from Beijing in the Aranya Gold Coast Community, Beidaihe District, Hebei province, UCCA Dune will be programmed and operated by UCCA Foundation, presenting a full slate of exhibitions and projects each year. Designed by OPEN Architects, UCCA Dune has been built by Aranya, which has entered into a strategic partnership with UCCA Foundation to support the museum's operations and programming. UCCA Dune will open to the public later this year.

Editorial Contacts:

Carmen Yuan

+86 10 5780 0258

+86 135 7098 6743

jiamin.yuan@ucca.org.cn

Basha Liu

+86 10 5780 0259

+86 188 1047 3833

yuting.liu@ucca.org.cn

Press material also available for
download from the UCCA website

UCCA Dune is conceived as an art and architecture destination, where exhibitions will unfold in dialogue with the building and its natural surroundings. Its inaugural exhibition, titled "After Nature," will explore the shifting relationship between humans and nature against the backdrop of China's last three decades of breakneck development. It will include work by artists of different backgrounds, united by their distinctive concern for the ethics and aesthetics of living—individually or collectively—with the natural world. As Beidaihe's first contemporary art museum, UCCA Dune will bring world-class exhibitions to a new region, allowing UCCA to present art in a special new context and setting.

Beidaihe is Beijing's closest and most established coastal satellite, long known as the site of summer retreats by the Chinese leadership. Aranya Gold Coast is a popular destination for cultural tourism, boasting a collection of seaside buildings by leading Chinese architects and a range of hotels, restaurants, and cultural attractions. It first became widely in China known for "the loneliest library in the world," which became a viral sensation. Aranya is a Sanskrit word, meaning "a serene location, far from human bustle." This strategic partnership furthers Aranya's goal of becoming China's most vibrant, futuristic community, and deepens its belief that "life can be more wonderful."



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

UCCA Dune is designed by Li Hu and Huang Wenjing of OPEN Architecture. The building spans a total area of 930 square meters, including seven indoor and three outdoor galleries. Facing the Bohai Sea, the building's exterior is largely covered by the surrounding sand dunes. The architects, inspired by the image of a child playing in a sandbox, tunneled beneath the dunes, creating a series of interconnected, hidden "caves"—both humanity's earliest living environment, and site of artistic creation. The museum blends into its natural surroundings, becoming a secluded refuge. This project was awarded the prestigious "Best of Best" designation by the Iconic Awards 2017 for the category of "Concept." OPEN Architecture is a longtime UCCA collaborator, having provided most recently the distinctive exhibition design for UCCA's exhibition "The New Normal: China, Art, and 2017."

The building's rich program is contained by a string of cell-like rooms, including galleries of different shapes and sizes, a café, and a reading room. After entering, visitors proceed through a long tunnel and domed reception area before reaching the galleries. Here, natural light enters through skylights, giving the space an atmosphere both sacred and serene. Viewers look out onto the sea through apertures located throughout the building. A spiral staircase leads visitors up to a viewing platform, where they can take in the picturesque surroundings. In 2019, a long causeway will be built to another, smaller gallery partially submerged in the ocean, reachable by foot during low tide.

UCCA Director Philip Tinari notes, "UCCA is excited to move beyond its flagship location in Beijing with a permanent presence in this stunning building in a gorgeous natural setting. We look forward to working with great artists to show their work in this new context, and to offering our members and visitors the chance for an unforgettable art experience by the sea. We are especially pleased to be working with Aranya as a new strategic partner of the UCCA Foundation, and with Li Hu and OPEN Architecture, longtime friends and collaborators of the institution."

798 Art District
No. 4 Jiuxiangqiao Lu
Chaoyang District
Beijing, P.R. China 100015
T +86 10 5780 0200
F +86 10 5780 0220
www.ucca.org.cn

北京市朝阳区酒仙桥路4号
798艺术区
邮编100015



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

Aranya Co-Founder Ma Yin adds, “Ever since Aranya’s birth, I have been most excited by the many cultural and artistic activities that happen in this community. I have always dreamt of building an art museum that belongs to the community. Today, this dream becomes a reality. This wonderful space, designed by Li Hu, is perfectly embedded in the sand dunes, surrounded by the sea. I trust that it will give visitors an experience straight out of their fantasies. As China’s leading contemporary art institution, UCCA will fill this museum with relevant, vibrant artworks. We look forward to working together with UCCA. Under these dunes, we will use art to intervene in reality, and to improve the lives of many more people.”

About UCCA

UCCA is China’s leading independent institution of contemporary art. Founded in 2007 out of a commitment to bring Chinese contemporary art into global dialogue, it has since become a cultural landmark for Beijing, a conduit for international exchange, and an incubator for new talent. Located at the heart of the 798 Art District, it welcomes more than one million visitors a year. Originally known as the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, UCCA underwent a major restructuring in 2017 and now operates as the UCCA Group, comprising two distinct entities: UCCA Foundation, a registered non-profit that organizes exhibitions and research, stages public programs, and undertakes community outreach; and UCCA Enterprises, a family of art-driven retail and educational ventures. UCCA’s work grows from its core belief that new art can change lives, broaden perspectives, and enrich the conversation between China and the world.

www.ucca.org.cn/en

About Aranya

Aranya is an innovative art vacation destination, located on Qinghuangdao’s Gold Coast and designed to satisfy a wide range of living needs, both everyday and spiritual, individual and collective. Aranya hopes to work together with its



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

residents, using its unique philosophy to create a newer, better way of living.

Recently, Aranya has begun a series of endeavors in the art and cultural worlds. It has been organizing annual music festivals and more than ten classical music concerts. In 2018, it launched a garage music residency project, receiving widespread praise. It previously hosted the Aranya Architectural Forum, and the company has participated in Beijing Design Week's Baitasi Remade project, China House Vision, and other architectural futurism programs. Its literary endeavors, including the Lonely Library Residency and the "Mirrored Sea" poetry night, are also highly regarded. It has organized more than ten plays in the community, founded the Aranya Theater Festival, and this year began making forays into experimental and virtual-reality theater. Aranya has also collaborated with artists to create such interdisciplinary projects as the Non-space Art Project, Bazaar in White, Project Alphe, and Sunrise Art Exchange. Aranya's unique space and close-knit community has made it a favored location for artists, architects, and musicians.

About OPEN Architecture | Li Hu

OPEN is a team of designers collaborating across different disciplines to practice urban design, landscape design, architectural design, and interior design, as well as the research and production of design strategies in the context of new challenges. OPEN was founded by Li Hu and Huang Wenjing in New York City. It established its Beijing office in 2008.

Li Hu, the founding partner of OPEN, is visiting professor at the Tsinghua University School of Architecture, former partner at Steven Holl Architects, and director of Columbia University GSAPP's Studio-X Beijing. Li was the recipient of "50 under 50: Innovators of the 21st Century," ICON magazine's "Future 50," and GQ magazine's "Architect of the Year 2014." During his tenure at Steven Holl Architects, Li was responsible for some of the firm's most influential urban projects in Asia, including the Linked Hybrid in Beijing, the Vanke Center in Shenzhen, Raffles City in Chengdu, and the Sifang Art



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

Museum in Nanjing. Li left SHA at the end of 2010 to focus on his work at OPEN with partner Huang Wenjing.

OPEN's completed and ongoing projects include the Gehua Youth and Cultural Center, Garden School/Beijing No.4 High School Fangshan Campus, Tsinghua Ocean Center, Pingshan Performing Arts Center, Tank Shanghai, Dune Art Museum, and Chapel of Sound. OPEN has been widely recognized for its innovative work. Recent awards the firm received include the 2018 AIA Education Facility Design Award of Excellence, 2018 Civic Trust Awards, 2017 Iconic Awards Best of Best, the Winning Prize of WA Awards for Chinese Architecture, the 2015 London Design Museum's Design of the Year Nomination, the 2015 AIANY Design Award, and the *Interior Design's* 2016 Best of Year, among many others. OPEN has been invited to participate in many important international exhibitions, including the Chinese pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2014, and the inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial in 2015.

798 Art District
No. 4 Jiuxiangqiao Lu
Chaoyang District
Beijing, P.R. China 100015
T +86 10 5780 0200
F +86 10 5780 0220
www.ucca.org.cn

北京市朝阳区酒仙桥路4号
798艺术区
邮编100015