

Einladung zum Gastvortrag

Kuiyi SHEN

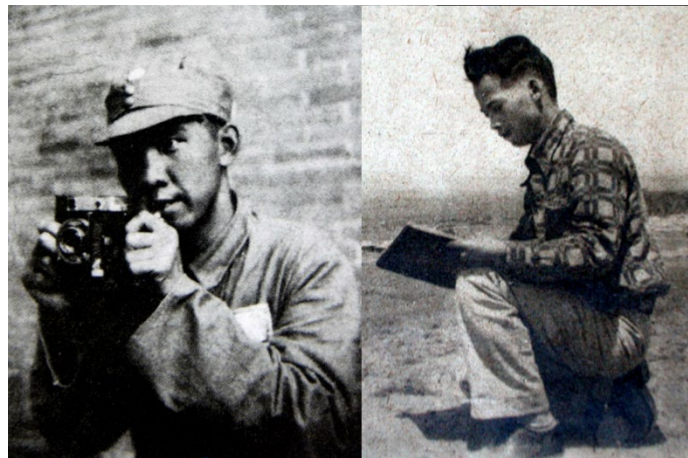
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Visualizing Wartime China through the Lens: A Case Study of Photo-Journalists Shen Yiqian and Sha Fei

Dienstag, 7. Dezember 2021, 18–20 Uhr ct.

Online über Webex. Anmeldung bis 1. Dezember: Senden Sie bitte Ihren Namen und Emailadresse an: z.steiner@fu-berlin.de

The early 1930s was an important period for Chinese art, during which thorough exploration of the different media available in fine and commercial art enabled urban artists to catch up with the practices of their colleagues in the international art world. Especially in Shanghai, one of the most sophisticated and complex metropolises in the world, use of new media, particularly in relationship to the publishing industry, boomed. However, this took place in the context of the increasingly tense relationship between Japan and China. Many Chinese artists, at the same time that they explored the potential of the techniques and the potential functions of new media, became very involved in the rising movement of resistance to Japan. They adapted the different forms of art at their disposal to reflect people's suffering in war, with the goal of helping domestic and foreign audiences understand the urgent situation, even in the most far-flung parts of China. This paper takes two photo-journalists, Shen Yiqian (1908-1944) and Sha Fei (1912-1950), as a case study. The photography, drawing, painting, cartoons, and essays produced by each of the two journalists, which were intended to alarm and educate people in their own time, created a coherent body of visual images that tells a certain story of the wartime years and which formed part of the visual imagination and visual memory of all readers of the Chinese mass media.



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Dr. Kuiyi Shen is Professor of Art History, Theory & Criticism at University of California, San Diego. His research focuses on modern and contemporary Asian art. Among his publications are *A Century in Crisis: Modernity and Tradition in the Art of Twentieth Century China* (1998); *Chinese Posters* (2009); *Art of Modern China* (2012, winner of the 2013 ICAS Book Prize in Humanities); *Light Before Dawn: Unofficial Chinese Art 1974-1985* (2013); *Liangyou: Kaleidoscopic Modernity and the Shanghai Global Metropolis, 1926-1949* (2013); and *Luis Chan* (2019). He is also the managing editor of Brill's book series *Modern Asian Art and Visual Culture*.