

Art 215 CHINA ART NOW

Exploratory, 400 words

due Thursday, February 7 before class begins

email as WORD DOCUMENT entitled SURNAME-FIRST NAME.docx to GTA

This assignment gives you the opportunity to practice art history writing. It has three parts.

1. Choose one work of art, design, or **visual culture** dating from 1976 to the present.
2. Do a formal analysis of the work. Describe it so that someone who is not able to see it can still visualize it in her mind's eye.
3. Think through and develop a *meaningful, provocative* question that you wish to pose of it. In your short essay, use formal analysis to explain how the work begs the question you are asking – how it encourages you to ask that question, and not another.

A few pointers:

- Any sentence that begins with the words “The Chinese are...” or “The Chinese think...” is not one you are going to be able to finish without being wrong. Avoid generalizations.
- If English writing is not one of your academic strengths, take the draft of your essay to the Centre for Writers for some aid in editing before the due date of February 5. The URL for the Centre for Writers is: <http://c4w.ualberta.ca/>
- Do not simply draft a generalized, simple statement of the question (an example would be something along the lines of “what does this painting tell us about China today?); I want to see evidence of your deliberate and reasoned approach to evolving a nuanced and thoughtful question. Why are you asking this question? and not another question?