



Sunday, September 24, 2023, 2pm
Zellerbach Hall

Ai Weiwei's World of Art Lost and Found
A Conversation About Life, Art, and Politics

Ai Weiwei with Peter Sellars and Orville Schell

Co-presented by Cal Performances, BAMPEA, and the Townsend Center for the Humanities

Ai Weiwei (b. 1957) was born in Beijing, China, and leads a diverse and prolific practice that encompasses sculptural installation, filmmaking, photography, ceramics, painting, writing, and social media. A conceptual artist who fuses traditional craftsmanship and his Chinese heritage, Ai Weiwei moves freely between a variety of formal languages to reflect on the contemporary geopolitical, and sociopolitical condition. Ai Weiwei's work and life regularly interact and inform one another, often extending to his activism and advocacy for international human rights.

Ai Weiwei has exhibited extensively at institutions and biennials worldwide, including at Design Museum, London (2023); Albertina Modern, Vienna (2022); Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art, Porto (2021); Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf (2019); Oca – Ibirapuera Park, São Paulo (2018); Public Art Fund, New York (2017); Israel Museum, Jerusalem (2017); Palazzo Strozzi, Florence (2016); Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh (2016); National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (2015); Royal Academy of Arts, London (2015); Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin (2014); Brooklyn Museum, New York (2014); German Pavilion, 55th Venice Biennale, Venice (2013); Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC (2012); Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei (2011); Turbine Hall, Tate Modern, London (2010); Haus der Kunst, Munich (2009); Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2009); documenta 12, Kassel (2007); and Kunsthalle Bern, Bern (2004). The artist's memoir *1000 Years of Joys and Sorrows* was published in 2021. Ai Weiwei lives and works in Beijing (China), Berlin (Germany), Cambridge (UK), and Lisbon (Portugal).

Peter Sellars (b. 1957) was born in Pittsburgh, PA, and has gained international renown for his groundbreaking and transformative interpretations of classics, advo-

cacy of 20th-century and contemporary music, and collaborative projects. His work illuminates the power of art as a means of moral expression and social action.

Sellars has staged operas at the Dutch National Opera, English National Opera, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Opéra National de Paris, and the Salzburg Festival, among others. He has also collaborated on the creation and production of many works with composers John Adams and Kaija Saariaho.

Recent productions include Tyshaw'n Sorey's *Monochromatic Light (Afterlife)* for the Park Avenue Armory (New York), Heinrich Schütz's *Musikalische Exequien* with the Los Angeles Master Chorale (to be seen on October 28 at Zellerbach Hall), a revival of *Tristan und Isolde* at the Opera de Paris, and a staging of Sorey's *Perle Noire: Meditations for Josephine* at the Dutch National Opera. Upcoming in 2023–24 are new productions of Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *Médée* in Berlin and Vincenzo Bellini's *Beatrice di Tenda* in Paris.

Sellars has led several major arts festivals, including the 1990 and 1993 Los Angeles Festivals and the 2002 Adelaide Arts Festival. In 2006, he was Artistic Director of New Crowned Hope, a festival in Vienna for which he invited emerging and established artists from diverse cultural backgrounds to create new work in the fields of music, theater, dance, film, the visual arts, and architecture for the celebration of Mozart's 250th birthday anniversary. He served as Music Director of the 2016 Ojai Music Festival.

Sellars is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of World Arts and Cultures at UCLA and the founding director of the Boethius Institute at UCLA. He is the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, Erasmus Prize for contributions to European culture, the Gish Prize, the Polar Music Prize, and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Orville Schell (b. 1940) is the Arthur Ross Director of the Center on U.S.–China Relations and Vice-President at the Asia Society and a former professor and dean at the University of California, Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism.

He was born in New York City; graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard University with a degree in far eastern history; studied Chinese language at Stanford University; studied as an exchange student at National Taiwan University; and earned his PhD (abd) at UC Berkeley in Chinese history.

Schell has worked for the Ford Foundation in Indonesia, covered the war in Indochina as a journalist, and traveled widely in China since the mid-1970s. He is the author of numerous books. His most recent work is *My Old Home: A Novel of Exile*, published in 2021.

Prior to that, Schell co-authored *Wealth and Power: China's Long March to the 21st Century* with John Delury while his own works include *Mandate of Heaven: The Legacy of Tiananmen Square and the Next Generation of China's Leaders*, *Virtual Tibet: Searching For Shangri-la From the Himalayas to Hollywood*, *Discos and Democracy: China in The Throes of Reform*, *Watch Out For the Foreign Guests: China Encounters the West*, *To Get Rich is Glorious: China in the '80s*, and the four-volume *The China Reader*.

He has been awarded a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship and a Smith Richardson Foundation grant, and is the recipient of an Overseas Press Club Award, a Menken Award, and a Harvard–Stanford Shorenstein Prize in Asian Journalism.

Schell currently serve as a fellow at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia University and a senior fellow at the Annenberg School of Communications at USC. He also co-chairs the Task Force on US China Policy with Susan Shirk from UC San Diego.



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