

COLIN ZHONGPING MAO

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Education

University College London London, UK
PhD in History of Art 2024 - Present

- **Thesis:** *Beyond the Frame: Chinese Socialist Realism Through Time-Based Media, 1979-2019*
- **Supervisors:** Dr Hélia Marçal (Primary), Dr Amanda Ju (Secondary)
- **Funding:** Fully funded by the **UCL Critical Histories of Art Scholarship**

Courtauld Institute of Art London, UK
Master of Arts (MA) in History of Art 2022 - 2023

- **Specialism:** Global China - Chinese Contemporary Art and Geopolitics
- **Qualification: Distinction**
- **Dissertation:** 'Redefining Realities: Revisiting Liu Xiaodong through the Lens of Chinese Socialist Realism and New Media Theory' (Supervisor: Dr Wenny Teo) - Awarded **Distinction** (75%)

University College London London, UK
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in History of Art, Materials, and Technology 2019 - 2022

- **Qualification: Upper Second-Class Honours (2:1)**
- **Dissertation:** 'Across Materialities: Towards a New Notion of Authenticity, Authorship, and the Aura in Non-Fungible Token Artworks' (Supervisor: Dr Hélia Marçal)

Publications

Mao, Zhongping, 'Book Review of Cai Guo-Qiang - The Artist's Materials', *Journal of the Institute of Conservation*, 8 (2026). [doi:10.1080/19455224.2026.2665958]

Mao, Zhongping, 'Liu Xiaodong's Sinophone Spaces - Chinatown No. 4 and Chinatown No. 2', *The Burlington Contemporary*, 14 (2026). [doi:10.31452/bcj14.mao.liu]

Mao, Zhongping, 'Review of Still Mad at MAMOTH', *Object*, [in press], (2025).

Mao, Zhongping, 'A Survey of Contemporary British Art Ecology', *Art Monthly*, 9 (2024), 20-22.

Mao, Zhongping, 'Walking as a Form of Social Engagement: The Situationist International Dérive and Richard Long's *A Line Made by Walking*', *The Courtauldian*, Through Each Chartered Street, no. 29 (June 2023), 13-23.

Mao, Zhongping, '大规模复制时代的艺术作品及其创作 The Work of Art and Its Making in the Age of Mass-Reproduction', in 《画刊》45周年封面计划 [Art Monthly 45th Anniversary Cover Project], ed. by Meng Yao (Nanjing: Jiangsu Phoenix Fine Arts Publishing, 2024), pp. 26-29 [written 2022; published 2024].

Mao, Zhongping, 'From Making to Matching: A Review of Tate Modern's "Making of Rodin"', *Art Monthly*, 12 (2021), 54-57.

Mao, Zhongping, 'Consequences of Detachment and Transfer of Wall Paintings', in *Conference Proceedings of 2020 National Mural Teaching Seminar, Sichuan Fine Art Institute Disciplinary - Outstanding Artistic Talent Construction Project* (Chengdu: Sichuan Fine Art Institute Publishing, 2020), pp. 299-305.

Conference & Symposium Presentations

Mao, Zhongping, 'From Modelling to Mass Practice: Co-producing the Three Gorges Dam Image after the Cultural Revolution', paper presented at *From the Masses to the Masses: Visual Practices in China since the Cultural Revolution*, University

of Westminster, London, 29 May 2026.

Mao, Zhongping, 'Language-Time: From Destruction to Reconstruction of Socialist Realist Legibility', paper presented at the *History of Art Research Student Away Day*, University College London, Goodenough College, London, 8 May 2026.

Mao, Zhongping, 'Language-Time and the Afterlife of Socialist-Realist Legibility: Xu Bing and Huang Yong Ping in Post-1979 Visual Culture', paper presented at *The 4th CCVA PhD Forum 2025*, Centre for Chinese Visual Arts, Birmingham City University, Birmingham, 10 July 2025.

Teaching Experience

University College London, Department of History of Art London, UK

Postgraduate Teaching Assistant (PGTA)

- **HARTooor: History of Art and Its Objects** (10/2025 - 01/2026 & 01/2027 - 07/2027)
 - Delivered weekly undergraduate seminars (18-20 × 90 mins) and provided critical pedagogical support for 9-10 lectures per term.
 - Designed pedagogical reading packs and presentation slides; ran dedicated coursework 'surgery' clinics to support student writing and visual analysis.
 - Marked essays and co-moderated grade distributions, providing detailed, rigorous feedback to students.
 - Managed departmental attendance registers, student email correspondence, and welfare follow-ups.
- **Writing Support & Thinking-With Programme** (10/2024 - 01/2025)
 - Designed and led structured academic writing workshops; provided over 20 hours of tailored one-to-one individual consultations; managed workshop preparation and student pastoral support.
 - Guided Widening Participation (WP) and Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) students through bespoke writing improvement sessions; analysed user feedback and developed targeted intervention strategies; facilitated collaborative rewriting exercises.

Curatorial & Institutional Experience

UCL Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS) London, UK

Event Staff 03/2025 - 07/2026

- Supported the logistical coordination and on-site delivery of interdisciplinary research seminars, symposia, and academic events, assisting international guest speakers and managing event reception.

The Courtauld Gallery London, UK

Commercial and Visitor Experience Assistant 11/2023 - Present

- Deliver expert curatorial guidance and interpretative support on permanent collections and temporary exhibitions to diverse international audiences, ensuring exemplary visitor care.
- Maintain comprehensive collection and retail knowledge to support commercial operations and enhance overall public engagement.

Courtauld Institute of Art, Research Forum London, UK

Digital and Event Assistant 10/2021 - Present

- Act as the primary institutional liaison for high-profile academic events, coordinating speaker hospitality, technical delivery, and institutional logistics for audiences exceeding 100 attendees per seminar.
- Manage end-to-end digital event administration and hybrid broadcast execution across 3-4 monthly lectures.

UCCA Centre for Contemporary Art Shanghai, China

Curatorial & Exhibition Summer Intern 07/2021 - 09/2021

- Assisted the Director's Office and Curatorial Department with exhibition management and institutional operations across

two major contemporary art retrospectives:

- ‘*City on the Edge: Art and Shanghai at the Turn of the Millennium*’ - Participated in meticulous condition-checking of artworks and coordinated a 10-person team during the de-installation and dispersion process.
- ‘*Liu Xiaodong: Your Friends*’ - Executed condition-checking, cataloguing, and archival documentation prior to exhibition set-up. Collaborated directly with curators during installation, supervising a specialised art-handling team; ensured the rigorous preservation and safe handling of artworks throughout the de-installation process.
- Oversaw two architectural modification projects, liaising effectively with external contractors and site engineers to transform patron spaces and public amenities within the gallery footprint.

Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology

London, UK

Pedagogical Researcher

05/2021 - 08/2021

- Investigated curricular frameworks and pedagogical trends across UK primary schools (Key Stage 2) and major museums to evaluate the representation and teaching of Ancient Egypt and Sudan.
- Authored comprehensive survey reports shaping the strategic development of museum learning resources, designing child-friendly interactive activities aligned with national educational standards.
- **Research Project:** ‘Teaching Ancient Egypt and Sudan Project: On Historical Contexts of Egyptology and the Current Pedagogical Trends of United Kingdom’s Primary School Key Stage 2 Education and in Major UK Museums’ (Supervisors: Dr Rosemary Moore and Dr Anna Garnett).

Dunhuang Research Academy

Dunhuang, China

Curatorial & Conservation Summer Intern

06/2020 - 09/2020

- Conducted specialised art historical research on Chinese grotto art for the Academy’s Fine Art Institute, Conservation Centre, and Information Centre.
- Executed comparative art historical analyses of Buddhist grotto wall paintings and European fresco traditions, presenting original findings to an academic symposium of 30+ specialists and conservators.

Yungang Grottoes Research Academy

Datong, China

Visitor Experience Summer Intern

06/2019 - 07/2019

- Supported the Visitor Experience Department by delivering daily voluntary English-language historical tours of the Buddhist grottoes, contributing to enhanced public engagement and visitor satisfaction.

Translations

Lee, Yi Ting, ‘对英国艺术生态系统中艺术写作的松散评论 A Loose Commentary on Art Writing in the UK Art Ecosystem’, trans. by **Zhongping Mao**, *Art Monthly*, 9 (2024), 22-26.

Bonezzi, Federico, and Emily Ratcliffe, ‘艺术市场与拍卖行的运作: 对话艾米莉·拉特克利夫 The Art Market and the Operation of Auction Houses: Federico Bonezzi interviews Emily Ratcliffe’, trans. by **Zhongping Mao**, *Art Monthly*, 9 (2024), 27-30.

Landolt, Michele Ruo Yi, ‘枝繁叶茂结硕果: 英国艺术基金会的现状 Branches Yielding Fruit: The Landscape of Art Foundations in the UK’, trans. by **Zhongping Mao**, *Art Monthly*, 9 (2024), 36-49.

Marçal, Hélia, ‘作为媒介的博物馆 Museum as Medium’, trans. by **Zhongping Mao**, *Art Monthly*, 9 (2024), 48-51.

Hong, Luo, *Luo Hong Photography Collection* [罗红摄影集], trans. by **Zhongping Mao**, 13 vols (Nanjing: Jiangsu Phoenix Fine Arts Publishing, 2020-21).

Departmental Service & Leadership

University College London, Department of History of Art

London, UK

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee Member

2024 - Present

- Contribute to departmental EDI initiatives and strategic policy reviews, collaborating with faculty and student representatives to foster an equitable academic environment and advance widening participation goals.

University College London, Department of History of Art

London, UK

Senior Transition Mentor

2021 - 2022

- Led the departmental Transition Mentor Programme, managing, training, and supporting a cohort of 10 undergraduate transition mentors through structured weekly meetings.

University College London, Department of History of Art

London, UK

Academic Representative

2019 - 2022

- Represented the BA History of Art student body across departmental and faculty-level committee meetings over a three-year tenure.
- Synthesised student feedback to articulate academic concerns, successfully collaborating with faculty to restructure the delivery of first-year foundation lectures.

UCL Art Business Society

London, UK

Event Officer

2020 - 2021

- Collaborated within a six-person executive committee to coordinate guest speaker series, organising key academic and commercial events including an online lecture by Dr Jilleen Nadolny that attracted over 70 attendees.

Academic References

Dr Hélia Marçal

Primary PhD Supervisor

Department of History of Art

University College London

Email: h.marcal@ucl.ac.uk

Dr Amanda Ju

Secondary PhD Supervisor

Department of History of Art

University College London

Email: amanda.ju@ucl.ac.uk