November 1–30, 2002 · Jacobs Gallery, Hult Center for the Performing Arts

ORDINARY LIFE

In Extraordinary Times

China's Cultural Revolution

University of Oregon Museum of Art
Cultural Revolution
Educator's Packet

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UOMA ARTS EDUCATION MISSION

Education is an integral component to the UOMA and is central to its vision. We believe that education should be included in the development and design of each tour, exhibition, and program we create. We value museums as learning environments in which curiosity, discovery, and contemplation are encouraged. Our aim for each visitor, regardless of age, background or ability, is to experience the museum with enthusiasm and success, empowered by new perspectives.

Our programs focus on family-centered learning, interdisciplinary connections, and the individual learning styles of each visitor. We are committed to providing exceptional programs that promote museums as sources for life-long learning. In this same manner, the Chinese Art and Culture Outreach Kit provides information and resources relating to a variety of subjects. We hope the kit will help others learn about the power and potential of teaching with art.

The Education Outreach Program supports the UOMA Mission by

- *Offering a diverse series of educational and cultural programs*
- *Playing a significant role in providing life-long learning for all citizens so that they may be informed and enriched individually and collectively*

The UOMA is proactively creating education programs that go beyond the walls of the museum to reach diverse audiences. The goals of the outreach kit are not to replace the experience of visiting the UOMA's significant exhibitions; rather, they are a means to communicate the nature of our collection and the value of viewing artwork. The primary goal of this program is to provide local educators with resources representative of the Chinese collection that will help integrate the arts into the general curriculum while fostering the mission and education philosophy of the UOMA.

Included in this packet are a variety of lesson plans and resources that approach learning from different angles. Through these lesson plans we hope to cover a multitude of learning and teaching styles to maximize the creative learning potential of both students and teachers.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON MUSEUM OF ART MISSION

"An Educational and Cultural Force for the University, City of Eugene, The State of Oregon, and the Region."

The University of Oregon Museum of Art was founded in the early decades of the 20th Century with the noble purpose of creating a deeper appreciation and understanding of the peoples, art, and cultures of Asia. In effect, the UOMA helped inspire the University and State of Oregon to assume a stronger presence in the Pacific Rim. Mid-century, the Museum's collections and programs expanded significantly to include work by Northwest American artists; this broadened the Museum's already rich cultural dialogue. Beyond this distinguished and distinctive mission, the UOMA is also a major regional art museum; it fulfills this responsibility by offering a varied and changing exhibition program that includes and looks beyond the Pacific Rim.

As such, the University of Oregon Museum of Art is an essential and dynamic educational and cultural force for the university, city of Eugene, the State of Oregon, and the region. Housing important collections of Asian and Northwestern art, the UOMA is a growing cultural repository, a dynamic research center, an innovative educational resource, and a national/international attraction.

- It celebrates these responsibilities by offering challenging and significant exhibitions and a diverse series of educational and cultural programs.

- It is a collecting institution that primarily emphasizes the art of the Pacific Rim and promotes a dynamic and positive cultural interchange between East and West; it is committed to preserving, displaying and enhancing its two major collections—Asian art and Northwest American art.

- It is a university museum that finds creative ways of basing its exhibitions and other programs upon multi-disciplinary curricular and extracurricular needs of students, faculty and community.

- It serves the university, community, and region as a center where the lines between academic disciplines are tested and challenged through a rich and open dialogue.

- It is a state-sponsored and community-supported museum that plays a significant role in providing lifelong learning for all citizens so that they may be informed and enriched individually and collectively.

Ordinary Life in Extraordinary Times

Exhibition overview
Jacobs Gallery
Eugene, Oregon
Organized by the UO Center for Asian and Pacific Studies and University of Oregon Museum of Art

November 1-30, 2002

Ordinary Life in Extraordinary Times

THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION

"The goal was to construct a strong China."
-- Retired Government Worker

SETTING THE STAGE FOR REVOLUTION

China's Cultural Revolution (1966-76) was a time of great hope and great sorrow. For thousands of years, China had been an agricultural society under an imperial ruler. In 1949 the charismatic revolutionary Mao Zedong and the Communist Party took control of the country, promising a break with the agrarian past. They had a dream of a strong, independent, more egalitarian China. The People's Republic of China was born.

THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION

The Communists worked for the poor, and united a nation that had been shattered by warring factions. But communal work and ownership of land only brought their own set of problems. By 1966, Mao was dissatisfied with the direction and slow pace of his own revolution, and was in conflict with other Communist leaders. He launched a radical attempt at further transformation: the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. Idealist youth-

committed to building a utopian society-were mobilized as "Red Guards." They were urged to go on the road and make revolution. It was an extraordinary, contradictory time, of exalted idealism and horrific mistakes.

EXHIBITION THEMES:

"IT'S RIGHT TO REBEL"(1966-69)

"We made a sacrifice for our ideals. If you are born in one time, you should do your part."
—Shanghai businessman

IDEALISTIC AT FIRST

The Cultural Revolution started as an idealistic movement. Chairman Mao Zedong (1893–1976) had himself been a student activist. He urged students to create a new society through the destruction of the old. The guiding principle was "It's right to rebel."

RED GUARDS

The student Red Guards were th