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PICKS

## Art: China

*With new Chinese works hot at auction, galleries and museums join the action*

By LAUREN A.E. SCHUKER

On the auction block this week, Chinese contemporary art set records, with some works selling for nearly \$5 million. Works by a number of the same artists, including Yang Shaobin, Yue Minjun and Zhang Xiaogang, are also on display -- and on sale -- this month at a variety of U.S. galleries and museums. Below, three New York shows featuring contemporary Chinese artists this month.

### **Eli Klein Fine Art** 'China Now: Lost in Transition'

*On view Nov. 17 through Jan. 15*

The SoHo gallery opens its second major show today, featuring works by 13 Chinese contemporary artists, such as 20-something Zhang Peng, that director Rebecca Heidenberg handpicked during a trip to Beijing.

### **Arario Gallery** 'Absolute Images II'

*Nov. 10 through Jan. 13*



The inaugural show for the gallery's New York space features 11 artists from Beijing and Shanghai, including abstract painter Yang Shaobin (left) and symbolist-surrealist Zhang Xiaogang. The works sell for up to \$1 million, and some, such as Mr. Yang's "Blood Brothers" series, are so fresh that "the paint isn't even dry yet," according to director Jane Yoon.

### **The Queens Museum of Art** 'Yue Minjun and the Symbolic Smile'

*Oct. 14 through Jan. 6*

Yue Minjun is considered a founder of "Cynical Realism," an art movement born in the wake of the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations. He commanded the highest price ever paid for contemporary Chinese art when one of his works, which typically feature laughing faces, sold for \$5.9 million.

**Write to** Lauren A.E. Schuker at [lauren.schuker@wsj.com](mailto:lauren.schuker@wsj.com)

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