



Media Release  
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## Shen Jiawei *Zai-Jian Revolution*

“Goodbye Revolution”

*Standing Guard for the Great Motherland* (1974) Oil  
on canvas

Gallery 4A will present an exhibition of one of China's most respected history painters, Shen Jiawei *Zai-jian Revolution*. This exhibition features artwork created in the last 30 years in China and recent work painted in Sydney. The exhibition will be opened by Mr. Edmund Capon AM, Director, Art Gallery of New South Wales on Friday 27 September and runs until Saturday 19 October in Gallery 4A.

*Zaijian Revolution* is Shen Jiawei's first major solo exhibition since arriving in Australia in 1989. The title of the exhibition, in Mandarin means “Goodbye Revolution”, but also “to see you again”. The exhibition features eight major works including *Standing Guard for the Great Motherland* (1974) and *Tasting Snow on the Wanda Mountains* (1972) painted at the height of the Cultural Revolution.

*Standing Guard for Our Great Motherland* (1974) is perhaps the most famous painting of Shen Jiawei's during this period that survives. After approval by Jiang Qing, Mao Tse-Tung's wife and the main cultural policy maker within the Revolution, and after slight modification to the portraits to conform to party policy, this painting was reproduced in the millions and distributed throughout China.

Shen Jiawei is largely a self-taught artist who, like the other youth of his generation was sent to Northern China as labourers and border guards physically working for and protecting a cause. In Northern Manchuria in the 1970's within a corps of other Army artists, Shen worked the land and developed artistic skills within the structure of the People's Liberation Army. It was during this time that paintings such as *Tasting Snow* and *Standing Guard for Our Great Motherland* were painted.

sense of humour and irony within the troubled history of revolution. "Having been a participant in the Cultural Revolution, these new history paintings in *Zai-Jian Revolution* have been a means for Shen Jiawei to better understanding the upheavals in history, politics, ideology and geography that have occurred around him," says Aaron Seeto, the curator of the exhibition.

His works are in significant international collections including the China Art Gallery and Museum of the Chinese Revolution, both in Beijing. His work is little known outside of China, though he was included in *China: 5000 years* at the Guggenheim Museum, New York and in Bilbao.

Born in Shanghai in 1948, he migrated to Australia in January 1989 and now lives in Sydney. In Australia Shen has established a reputation for accomplished realistic portraits that have featured in the Archibald Prize at the Art Gallery of NSW, Doug Moran Portrait Prize, and Mary McKillop Art prize. Most recently his work featured in the *Federation 1901-2001* exhibition at the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.

**Preview:** Friday, 27 September 2002  
**Exhibition Dates:** Saturday 28 September – Saturday 17 October 2002  
**Venue:** Gallery 4A  
Asia-Australia Arts Centre  
181-187 Hay St  
Sydney NSW 2000

**Gallery Hours:** Open Tuesday-Saturday, 11-6pm  
**Admission:** Free

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