

Enlightenment and Art: “Enlightenment in Dialogue” series continues in Beijing

Stiftung Mercator and the National
Museum of China jointly stage the second
forum

Beijing/Essen, 7 July 2011. In April 2011, the “Enlightenment in Dialogue” series was officially opened by Germany’s Federal Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle in a ceremony attended by senior representatives of China and Germany, as well as more than 500 guests. In its second dialogue block, the series is now turning to the topic of “Enlightenment and Art”.

The “Enlightenment in Dialogue” series is being staged in 2011 and 2012 by Stiftung Mercator in cooperation with its partner, the National Museum of China. The series, which is the academic accompaniment to the exhibition “The Art of the Enlightenment”, is an initiative of the German Ambassador to China and is supported by the Chinese Ministry of Culture. The programme comprises five dialogue blocks which will continue for the entire duration of the exhibition, from spring 2011 to spring 2012. At intervals of roughly two months, Chinese and European scholars discuss various facets of the Enlightenment at the National Museum of China. The dialogues at the National Museum of China consist of a public lecture followed by a panel discussion.

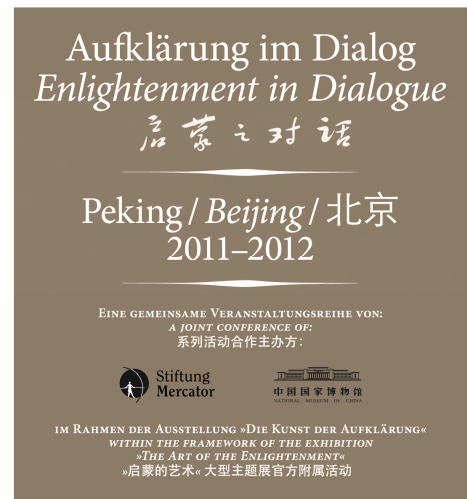
We cordially invite you to attend the second dialogue:

**“Enlightenment and Art”
Thursday, 14 July 2011, 9.00 am to 12.00 pm
at the National Museum of China, Beijing**

This forum is devoted to the Enlightenment and its relationship to art, from both a European and a Chinese perspective. The forum will focus in equal measure on particular aspects of the Enlightenment, its breaks and continuities in its relationship with the past, and on the role played by the public in the artistic process of this era. In addition, the speakers **Pan Gongkai**, President, Central Academy of Fine Arts Beijing, **Prof. Zhu Qingsheng**, Director, Institute for Han Arts Study, Peking University, and **Chen Lusheng**, Vice Director National Museum of China, as well as **Dr. Joachim Kaak**, Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen Munich, and **Prof. Dr. Jeong-hee Lee-Kalisch**, Freie Universität Berlin, will attempt on the basis of examples to classify the European Enlightenment from an art historical viewpoint and to describe the characteristics of Asian Enlightenment art.

Dr Bernhard Lorentz, President of Stiftung Mercator, about the “Enlightenment in Dialogue” series:

“The ‘Enlightenment in Dialogue’ series creates a platform that gives German and Chinese intellectuals an opportunity to exchange views and ideas about the European and Chinese Enlightenment, while at the same time debating the importance which



Enlightenment has today. Stiftung Mercator's goal is to bring different social groups into this dialogue."

About "Enlightenment in Dialogue"

The "Enlightenment in Dialogue" series is being staged by Stiftung Mercator as the academic accompaniment to the exhibition "The Art of the Enlightenment" in Beijing. The official forums of the series are being organized by Stiftung Mercator in partnership with the National Museum of China. In addition, it has separately initiated a series of salons on the subject in which German and Chinese intellectuals will have the opportunity over the next few months to exchange ideas and opinions on philosophical, social and artistic aspects of the Enlightenment. Stiftung Mercator is making available a total of some 1.5 million euros for the purpose. The programme comprises five dialogue blocks which will continue for the entire duration – from spring 2011 to spring 2012 – of "The Art of the Enlightenment", an exhibition presented by the Berlin State Museums, the Dresden State Art Collections and the Bavarian State Painting Collections in Munich, in cooperation with the National Museum of China. The exhibition has been made possible by Germany's Federal Foreign Office and is supported by the BMW Group.

www.aufklaerung-im-dialog.de

About "The Art of the Enlightenment"

On 1 April 2011, "The Art of the Enlightenment", an exhibition presented by the Berlin State Museums, the Dresden State Art Collections and the Bavarian State Painting Collections in Munich, in cooperation with the National Museum of China, was officially opened in Beijing. This comprehensive exhibition on the art of the Enlightenment is the first international guest exhibition at the National Museum of China, which has undergone extensive modernization and expansion and is now the world's largest museum building. Under the joint patronage of Chinese President Hu Jintao and Germany's Federal President Christian Wulff, the exhibition is on show in Beijing for a period of twelve months. For more information, visit www.kunstderaufklaerung.de

Press accreditation: For reasons of security and space, accreditation is necessary. Members of the press who are interested in taking part in the discussions are kindly requested to obtain accreditation by 12 July 2011 at www.aufklaerung-im-dialog.de/participation. We will be happy to help you find interview partners.

Language: Simultaneous interpretation between German, Chinese and English will be provided during the event.

If you should have any questions, please contact:

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