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Waging Peace. Fighting Disease. Building Hope.

The Jimmy Carter Forum on U.S.-China Relations

January 29-30, 2026

Women in U.S.-China Relations

Atlanta, GA

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453 John Lewis Freedom Parkway NE
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The Jimmy Carter Forum on U.S.-China Relations 2026

Women in U.S.-China Relations

Agenda | January 29, 2026

Location: Cecil B. Day Chapel in the Ivan Allen III Pavilion

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Performance by Shuwei Qiu, Zachary Deak, & William Wu

6:00 - 7:15 p.m. Keynote lecture by Sarah Beran, Partner at Macro Advisory Partners and Former Senior U.S. Diplomat

Location: Jimmy Carter Library and Museum Lobby

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Donor Reception

Agenda | January 30, 2026

Location: Cyprus Room

9:30 - 10:00 a.m.. Coffee Mingle

10:00 - 12:00 p.m.. Women in U.S.-China Relations: Generational Perspectives
Moderated by **Barbara J. Smith**, Vice President of Peace, The Carter Center
Jan Berris, Vice President, National Committee on U.S.-China Relations
Elizabeth Knup, Sr. Fellow, Center for China Analysis, The Asia Society
Rosie Levine, Executive Director, U.S.-China Education Trust
Caroline Pan, Board Director & Vice Chair, 1990 Institute
Lani Wong, Chair, National Association of Chinese Americans

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Lee's World

The Jimmy Carter Forum on U.S.-China Relations 2026

Agenda | January 30, 2026

Location: Cyprus Room

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch Lecture

Opening remarks by **Jin Liu**, Assoc. Prof. of Chinese Language, Georgia Tech
Leta Hong Fincher, Research Associate, Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Gendered Worlds: How Women in the United States and China View Politics and International Relations

Moderated by **Lingxiao Chen**, Ph.D. candidate in Sociology, Emory University
Naima Green-Riley, Asst. Professor, Department of Politics, Princeton University
Hanzhang Liu, Asst. Professor, Department of Political Science, Florida State University
Dina Smeltz, Managing Director & Chair, Public Opinion & Foreign Policy, Chicago Council on Global Affairs
Hongxia Wei, Sr. Fellow, Academy of Contemporary China and World Studies

3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Divided Worlds: Gender Discrimination on Both Sides of the Pacific

Moderated by **Laura Neuman**, Sr. Advisor, Inform Women, Transform Lives, The Carter Center

Sarah Mellors Rodriguez, Asst. Professor, Russian and East Asian Languages and Cultures, Emory University
Emma Zang, Asst. Professor, Departments of Sociology and Biostatistics, Yale University
Cuihong Cai, Professor, Institute of International Studies, Fudan University
Yu Hong, Professor, College of Media and International Culture, Zhejiang University

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Lee's World



Barbara Smith joined The Carter Center as Vice President of Peace Programs in 2020, overseeing the Center’s democracy, human rights, conflict resolution, and rule of law programs. Peace program staff have observed elections in 39 countries and continue to innovate programming to build peace, reinforce the rule of law and information access, and support human rights defenders around the world, with a special focus on West Africa and the DRC. Before her work at the Carter Center, Smith founded Mountain Time Development, an international development consulting firm operating out of Denver, Colorado and was a senior associate for the Human Rights Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Smith also has held numerous senior positions at the USAID including senior policy analyst, deputy coordinator for Middle East Transition Response during the Arab Spring, and senior field advisor for democracy and governance. At USAID, Smith co-led the team that created the USAID 2013 Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance Strategy which was applied across the approximately 100 countries that USAID serves. Smith has served as Director for Afghanistan and Pakistan at the National Security Council, senior director for governance and law at The Asia Foundation and held a professorial position at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver.



Sarah Beran is a partner at Macro Advisory Partners and Former Senior U.S. Diplomat. In her role as MAP Partner, Sarah provides clients with nuanced and informed counsel on the strategic, political and regulatory challenges shaping today’s macro environment. Her deep understanding of the strategic drivers behind US foreign policy – combined with her direct experience managing critical negotiations, crisis scenarios, and regulatory frameworks – enables her to authoritatively advise global businesses, investors and organizations on anticipating policy shifts, mitigating geopolitical risk, and identifying opportunity amid volatility. Sarah joined MAP following a distinguished 23-year career in the US Foreign Service, most recently serving as Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Beijing and as Senior Director for China and Taiwan Affairs at the White House National Security Council.



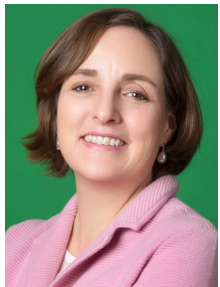
Jan Berris is the Vice President of the National Committee on U.S.–China Relations (NCUSCR) and one of the most enduring figures in the history of modern U.S.–China engagement. She joined the Committee in 1971 and has since overseen its full portfolio of programs, from delegation exchanges to Track II diplomacy. Ms. Berris played a central role in organizing the 1972 visit of the Chinese Ping Pong Team—the first official PRC delegation to the United States—and has facilitated the visits of senior Chinese leaders for more than five decades. She has also led hundreds of American delegations to China, traveling there over 165 times since 1973 with groups ranging from athletes to Supreme Court justices. At the request of the U.S. Department of State, Ms. Berris coordinated Chinese press activities during Premier Deng Xiaoping’s 1979 visit and has been instrumental in developing the Committee’s flagship initiatives, including the Public Intellectuals Program, the U.S. Foreign Policy Colloquium, and multiple Track II dialogues. Before joining NCUSCR, Ms. Berris served as a U.S. Foreign Service officer in Hong Kong and Washington. She holds a BA in Chinese studies and an MA in Japanese studies from the University of Michigan and has contributed to numerous publications on China.

SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carter Forum on U.S.–
China Relations



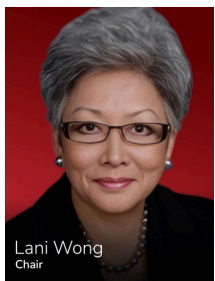
Rosie Levine is the Executive Director of the U.S.–China Education Trust (USCET) and a rising voice in the next generation of American China analysts. She previously served as a senior program analyst on the China program at the United States Institute of Peace, where she contributed to policy-focused research and programming amid a rapidly evolving bilateral landscape. In 2024, she was selected as a Project Fellow in the Penn Project on the Future of U.S.–China Relations, joining a distinguished cohort of emerging scholars producing analysis on key strategic issues in the relationship. Before joining USIP, Ms. Levine spent four years at the National Committee on U.S.–China Relations, where she managed the Public Intellectuals Program and led a landmark assessment of American research capacity on China. Her work received recognition in major outlets including The Guardian, The Atlantic, and the Financial Times, as well as coverage on the Sinica podcast.



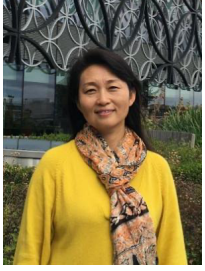
Elizabeth Knup is a leading expert on U.S.–China relations whose career spans senior roles in academia, business, philanthropy, and civil society. She recently completed a decade-long tenure as the Ford Foundation’s Regional Director for China, where she oversaw operations, risk management, and program strategies focused on bilateral relations, China’s global political and economic influence, and the development of China’s philanthropic and civil society sectors. Ms. Knup first moved to China in 1998 to serve as the American Co-Director of the Hopkins–Nanjing Center for Chinese and American Studies, following ten years at the National Committee on U.S.–China Relations, where she ultimately served as Program Director. She serves on the Board of Directors of the National Committee on U.S.–China Relations and advises multiple institutions, including the Penn Project on the Future of U.S.–China Relations and The Carter Center’s China Focus.



Caroline Pan is a seasoned industry executive with nearly three decades of experience across the high-tech, industrial, and automotive sectors. Most recently, she was the SVP and Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) of Lumentum Holdings, Inc., a market-leading designer and manufacturer of innovative photonics technology, serving global enterprise customers with high-speed optical communications, precision commercial lasers, and advanced depth sensing solutions. Caroline possesses a deep understanding of global manufacturing and supply chain industry dynamics, gained through senior leadership roles at Fortune 100 companies including Ford Motor Company, Intel Corporation, Hewlett-Packard, and Honeywell International.



Lani Wong is the Chair and a Founding Member of the National Association of Chinese Americans in Atlanta and has been a leading voice for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in Georgia for more than forty years. A widely respected civic leader, she has played a pivotal role in expanding AAPI engagement in the American political process and strengthening U.S.–China relations. Her decades of service span influential positions across government, education, healthcare, and philanthropy, including on the boards of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce Global Business Council, Delta Air Lines Global Diversity Alliance, Atlanta Public Broadcasting, Leadership Atlanta, the Atlanta Women’s Foundation, and numerous major healthcare systems and educational institutions.



Jin Liu received her Ph.D. in East Asian Literature and Culture from Cornell University. Her interdisciplinary research studies contemporary Chinese popular culture from the perspective of language, sound, voice, and music. She is the author of the book, *Signifying the Local: Media Productions Rendered in Local Languages in Mainland China in the New Millennium* (Brill, 2013). Drawing on cultural and literary theories, media studies, and sociolinguistics, this book examines recent cultural productions rendered in local languages and dialects (fangyan in Chinese) in the fields of film, television, the Internet, popular music, and fiction in mainland China. She co-edited and contributed to the book, *Chinese Under Globalization: Emerging Trends in Language Use in China* (World Scientific, 2012). She has widely published articles on Chinese independent films, eco-cinema, rap music, Internet culture, youth culture, sociolinguistics, pedagogy, and digital humanities in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Liu teaches Chinese language and culture at Georgia Tech. Earlier she taught at Cornell University, Middlebury College summer Chinese school, and Princeton University summer program in Beijing (PIB).



Leta Hong Fincher has written for the New York Times, Washington Post, The Guardian, Dissent Magazine, Ms. Magazine, Harper's Bazaar and others. As a long-time TV and radio journalist based in China, she won the Society of Professional Journalists Sigma Delta Chi Award, the Cowan Award for Humanitarian Reporting and other journalism honors. The newly released, 10th anniversary edition of Leta's book, *Leftover Women: The Resurgence of Gender Inequality in China*, was named one of the five best books to understand modern China by The Guardian in 2024 and one of the best books of 2023 by China Books Review. Leta's other book, *Betraying Big Brother: The Feminist Awakening in China*, was named one of the best books of 2018 by Vanity Fair, Newsweek, Foreign Policy Interrupted, Bitch Media and Autostraddle; it was also a New York Times "New and Noteworthy" pick. The New York Public Library named *Betraying Big Brother* one of its "essential reads on feminism" in 2020. The original edition of her book *Leftover Women* was named one of the top 5 China books of the year by the Asia Society's ChinaFile, one of the best Asian books of the year by Asia House and one of the New York Times recommended books on China.



Naima Green-Riley is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Politics and at the School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. She specializes primarily in U.S. and Chinese foreign policy, with a focus on public diplomacy and the global information space. She also does research on a number of other topics, including race and international relations, media effects, and public opinion about foreign policy. Her writing has been published in *Security Studies*, the *Journal of Experimental Political Science* (JEPS), and in the 2022 book, *The China Questions II* (Harvard University Press). It has also appeared in various public-facing outlets, including *Foreign Affairs*, The Monkey Cage blog at the Washington Post, the Emerging Voices on the New Normal in Asia Series of the National Bureau of Asian Research, *The Diplomat*, and *The Root*.



Hanzhang Liu is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Florida State University. She studies authoritarian politics and the political economy of development with a special focus on China. She is interested in authoritarian institutions and their role in mediating the relationship between the regime and the citizenry. Her main research interests include 1) political selection and co-optation, 2) information manipulation, and 3) gender in single-party political systems, all with an emphasis on implications for regime durability.

Her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as *American Political Science Review*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, and *Political Communication*. She has also appeared in media outlets, including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Bloomberg News* to provide commentary on Chinese politics.

She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from Columbia University and a B.A. in Government and Economics from Smith College. She was previously a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for the Study of Contemporary China at the University of Pennsylvania, a visiting fellow at the Carnegie Mellon Institute for Strategy and Technology, and an assistant professor at Pitzer College.



Dina Smeltz is the managing director and chair of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. With more than 25 years of experience designing and fielding international social and political surveys, she oversees the Council's well-known annual survey of American attitudes toward foreign policy and has authored many of the analyses based on that work. She also directs the Council's collaborations with international research organizations.

Before joining the Council, Smeltz was the director of research in the Middle East and South Asia division (2001-2007) and analyst/director of the European division (1992-2004) in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research at the US State Department's Office of Research. Smeltz conducted over a hundred surveys in these regions and regularly briefed senior government officials on key research findings. With a special emphasis on research in post-conflict situations, Smeltz worked with research teams in Bosnia, Kosovo, Cyprus, Israel-Palestinian Territories, and Iraq (2003-2005), where she was one of the few people on the ground who could accurately report average Iraqis impressions of the post-war situation. Smeltz has also consulted for several NGOs and research organizations on projects spanning women's development in Afghanistan, civil society in Egypt, and evaluating voter education efforts in Iraq.



Lingxiao Chen is a Ph.D. candidate in sociology at Emory University. Her research focuses on nationalism, political culture, and public opinion formation. She holds a B.A. in sociology and translation from the University of Hong Kong.

Her dissertation examines how non-state actors shape cultural governance and political messaging in authoritarian contexts. Focusing on China's entertainment industry, she analyzes how the state co-opts celebrities to amplify nationalist narratives and how audiences interpret these displays to draw symbolic boundaries of national belonging. An article developed from a dissertation chapter is forthcoming in the *American Sociological Review*. Her research has been funded by the Halle Institute for Global Research and Learning, the OYCF-Chow Fellowship, and the Institute for Humane Studies.



Hongxia Wei is a senior fellow with the Academy of Contemporary China and the World Studies. She previously worked at Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) as senior fellow and the deputy director of The Chinese Journal of American Studies. Her research focuses on US foreign policy, China-US relations. She graduated from Nankai University with PHD of history. She had multiple experiences of visiting, studying, and working in American universities, think tanks. Based on over 20 years of research experience, she has a sustained observation and profound understanding of US foreign policy and Sino-US relations. She has published a monograph titled China-US Relations within the Framework of Asia Pacific Multilateral Cooperation. She also has published dozens of in-depth articles.

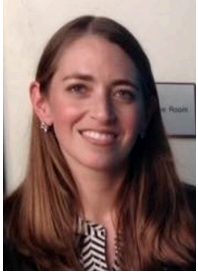


Laura Neuman develops and leads the Inform Women, Transform Lives campaign at the Carter Center. Inform Women, Transform Lives is being implemented in 35 global cities representing metropolitan populations of more than 215 million people. As part of the campaign, she supports cities in improved service delivery, particularly for women and marginalized populations, and in ensuring women have a voice in international and regional forums. Neuman developed the innovative Implementation Assessment Tool for access-to-information legislation and the Center's Women and the Right of Access to Information programming. Neuman has written articles, book chapters, and guidebooks on the right of access to information, fostering transparency, and preventing corruption, and has presented at numerous international seminars and conferences. She has served as a consultant to the United Nations, the U.S. State Department, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank, among others.



Emma Zang is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Biostatistics & Global Affairs at Yale University. Emma Zang's research interests intersect at the nexus of health and aging, family demography, and inequality, employing advanced data science and statistical tools. Her scholarship has primarily dealt with how families shape inequality in the United States and China. This focus has led her to study: how intra-household dynamics shape inter-household inequality; how family policies, including marriage laws and flexible work arrangements, mitigate or exacerbate gender inequality; how early-life family experience affects later-life health; and, finally, how family affects the aging experience.

Her work has appeared in journals such as Nature Human Behaviour, American Journal of Sociology, Demography, Population and Development Review, Psychological Methods, and JAMA Internal Medicine. Multiple of her projects have been funded by the National Institute of Health. Zang's research has received media coverage from over 100 outlets in the United States, China, South Korea, India, and Singapore. She is a Butler-Williams Scholar and an IMPACT Faculty Scholar of the US National Institute on Aging, and a Next Generation Leader of the Committee of 100.



Sarah Mellors Rodriguez is a historian of China whose work focuses on gender/sexuality, aging, and medicine in modern China. She completed her MA and PhD in Modern Chinese History at the University of California, Irvine (2018). Prior to joining the faculty at Emory in 2024, Dr. Rodriguez held the position of Associate Professor of East Asian History at Missouri State University. At Emory, she teaches courses on the histories of modern China, gender and sexuality, and eugenics and population control.

Dr. Rodriguez's first book, *Reproductive Realities in Modern China: Birth Control and Abortion, 1911-2021*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2023. By centering grassroots accounts of birth control use, *Reproductive Realities* uses archival research and interviews with 80 women and men to investigate local implementation and reception of population policies from the Republican period (1911-1949) to the present. *Reproductive Realities* was awarded Honorable Mention in the 2022 Berkshire Conference of Women Historians Book Prize Competition.

Her current project, *Growing Old: A History of Aging in Global China*, investigates how the rollback of the collective-era welfare system, uneven economic development, and inadequate access to healthcare have shaped experiences with aging in China since 1949.



Yu Hong is a Professor of Communication at the College of Media and International Culture, Zhejiang University. With a PhD in Communication from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, she has written about ICT4D, internet and media policy, and shifting global communication order. Her publications include *Networking China: The Digital Transformation of the Chinese Economy* (U of I Press, 2017), *China's Globalizing Internet: History, Power and Governance* (Routledge, 2023) and a forthcoming Chinese-language monograph *The Digital Pivot: China and the Changing Global Cybersphere*.



Cuihong Cai is a professor of international relations with the Center for American Studies at Fudan University. Prior to the present job, she worked for the Foreign Affairs Office of Fudan University during 1996-2001. She received her B.S.(1993) and M.S.(1996) in biophysics, and her Ph.D. (2002) in international relations from Fudan University. She also holds a B.A.(2001) in English language and literature from Shanghai International Studies University. She was a visiting scholar at the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2002, and at the University of California, Berkeley in 2007, as well as an invited fellow in the 2007 program on US National Security sponsored by the US State Department. She is now a council member of the Shanghai Association of American Studies.

Voices as Bridges

— Cross-Cultural Dialogue



🎵 Jimmy Carter Forum on U.S. China Relations Concert Program

Thursday, January 29, 2026

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Cecil B. Day Chapel

The Carter Center

453 John Lewis Freedom Parkway NE
Atlanta, GA 30307

Soprano
Qiu Shuwei

Piano
Dr. Zachary Deak
William Wu

• Piano Solo •

William Wu, Piano

1. Claude Debussy
Reflets dans l'eau
from Images, Book I
2. Richard Rodgers
My Favorite Things
(arr. Stephen Hough)
3. Frédéric Chopin
Nocturne in D-flat Major, Op. 27 No. 2

• Vocal Recital •

**Qiu Shuwei, Soprano
Dr. Zachary Deak, Piano**

1. Georg Friedrich Handel (1685–1759)
Lascia ch'io pianga
from Rinaldo
2. Reynaldo Hahn (1874–1947)
Tyndaris
3. Benjamin Britten (1913–1976)
The Salley Gardens
4. Gao Weijie
A Red Embroidered Shoes
5. Wang Long
The Heights of the Mountains
6. Reynaldo Hahn (1874–1947)
L'énamourée
7. Giacomo Puccini (1858–1924)
O mio babbino caro
from Gianni Schicchi
8. R. Nathaniel Cook
Amazing Grace

**Presented as part of the 2026 Jimmy Carter Forum on U.S.–China Relations*

— JIMMY CARTER FORUM ON U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS 2026 —
WOMEN IN U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS



SHUWEI QIU

Global Vocal Artist

Qiu Shuwei is an internationally acclaimed soprano and Associate Professor at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Trained in France at the École Normale de Musique de Paris, she earned the highest concert artist diploma with top honors. A leading interpreter of French art song, her album *Qiu Shuwei Sings Ravel* is held by the Library of Congress. She is a Chevalier of the French Order of Arts and Letters.

A close-up portrait of pianist William Wu. He is wearing black-rimmed glasses and has his right hand raised to his face, with his index finger pointing upwards near his temple. The background is dark and out of focus, showing a shadow of his head and another person's arm in the distance.

WILLIAM WU

Pianist

William received his professional training at the Manhattan School of Music and the Yale School of Music, where he studied piano with leading artists and educators. He has participated in masterclasses with internationally renowned pianists including Lang Lang and Boris Berman.

He has performed with major orchestras across China, Europe, and Hong Kong, appearing at prominent venues such as the Shenzhen Concert Hall, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, and Laeiszhalle Hamburg, and has collaborated with distinguished conductors and musicians worldwide.



ZACHARY DEAK

Pianist · Educator

Pianist Zachary Deak has appeared in recital as a soloist and chamber musician across Europe, North America, and Africa, performing at renowned venues including Salle Cortot in Paris, Casa da Música in Porto, and the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles.

A graduate of the École Normale de Musique de Paris and the Royal College of Music in London, he holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Southern California and currently serves as Assistant Professor of Piano and Director of Keyboard Studies at Old Dominion University.

— JIMMY CARTER FORUM ON U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS 2026 —
WOMEN IN U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

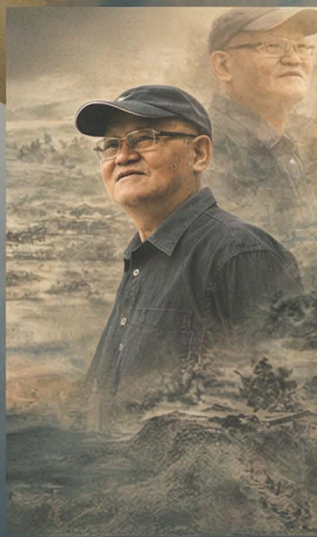
BEYOND BORDERS

Women, vision and cultural dialogue

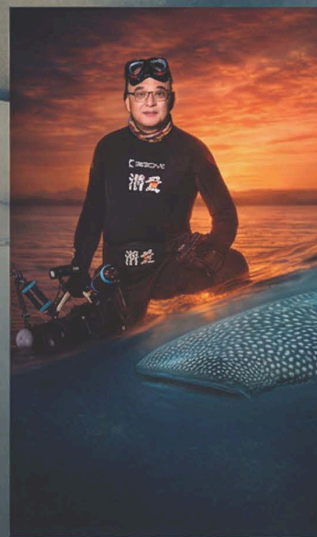
Art & Photography Exhibition
The Carter Center
453 John Lewis Freedom Pkwy NE,
Atlanta, GA 30307



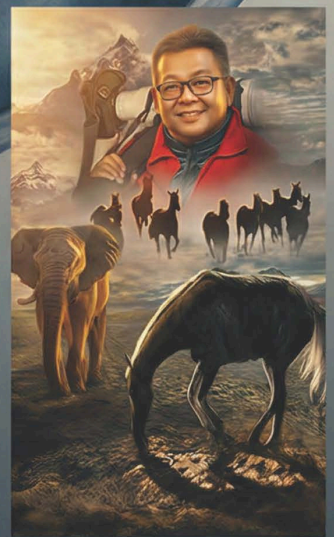
Xiang Rong
Chairwoman &
Independent Photographer



Wu Limin
Ink Painter & Visual Artist



Yue Hongjun
Underwater Photographer
& Visual Artist



Chen Yuanming
Contemporary
Photographer & Visual
Storyteller



LIMIN WU

Ink Painter & Visual Artist

Wu Limin (born 1939) is a leading contemporary Chinese ink painter and National First-Class Artist. A representative figure of the Taizhou Painting School, he is renowned for his distinctive “musical painting” approach and his philosophy of creative independence, often described as “painting with rhythm and spirit.”

Deeply rooted in nature, Wu has traveled extensively across China, transforming lived landscapes into expressive ink compositions.

His works have been exhibited internationally at major institutions including the Louvre, the Venice Biennale, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and are held in prominent public and private collections worldwide.



HONGJUN YUE

Underwater Photographer & Visual Artist

Hongjun Yue is an award-winning underwater photographer, honored with the Golden Statue Award, the highest distinction in Chinese photographic art.

A Fellow of the the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain, he is a contracted photographer for PADI and SIPA, one of the world's leading photo agencies.

Winner of over 100 gold medals in major international competitions including PSA, FIAP, and GPU, he has also served as a judge at prestigious photography contests worldwide.

He is President of Dive4Love, a coral conservation volunteer federation, and Executive Chairman of the Global Chinese Photography Association (GCPA).



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WOMEN IN U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

YUANMING CHEN

Contemporary Photographer & Visual Storyteller

Chen Yuanming is a renowned Chinese photographer known for pioneering the professional use of mobile photography and for his expansive global travel imagery. He advocates capturing the world through lightweight tools with artistic rigor.

His work spans all seven continents and four oceans, including the Arctic and Antarctic regions. His acclaimed photograph Elephant was selected for the “100 Chinese Photographers, 100 Masterpieces” national collection program, highlighting his impact on contemporary photographic art.

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WOMEN IN U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS



RONG XIANG

Chairwoman & Independent Photographer

Xiang Rong is the Chairwoman of Yimanfeng Technology (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd. and an independent photographer. She was honored with the 2023 Charming Female Sichuan Entrepreneur and the 2023 Fashion Excellence Award for her leadership and vision.

Balancing entrepreneurship and visual expression, her work reflects strength, elegance, and a contemporary female perspective.

www.uscnpm.org

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WOMEN IN U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS



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US Asian Cultural Academy

www.usaca.org

The US Asian Cultural Academy is a nonprofit organization committed to fostering cultural exchange, arts education, and cross-cultural understanding between Asia and the United States. Through academic programs, artistic initiatives, and public engagement, the Academy promotes dialogue, mutual respect, and long-term cultural collaboration across communities.