



DEJI ART MUSEUM

Press release

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Reopens with Two Inaugural Exhibitions
And A Special Project:

"Exquisite 50—— Song Imperial Porcelain"

"An Era In Jinling: A Digital Art Exhibition"

"Yoshitomo Nara:

Not Everything But / Green House

Not Everything But / Orange House"

Nanjing, China — After a two-year upgrade and renovation, the Deji Art Museum will officially open to the public with a brand-new identity. Located in the city of Nanjing, one of China's four major historical capitals, the Deji Art Museum is committed to becoming a leading art institution and cultural platform that transcends cultures and eras. Based on a global vision with regional cultural expressions in the contemporary context, the Deji Art Museum is honoured to present its comprehensive collection and exhibition program ranging from Chinese art work to the modern and contemporary art from both China and abroad, as well as a thematic collection based on the 2,500-year history of "Jinling City", Nanjing's historic name.

The fully upgraded Deji Art Museum will present two inaugural exhibitions: "Exquisite 50—— Song Imperial Porcelain", and "An Era In Jinling: A Digital Art Exhibition", and a special project on view "Yoshitomo Nara: Not Everything But / Green House; Not Everything But / Orange House".



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“Exquisite 50—— Song Imperial Porcelain” unveils treasures from the Five Great Kilns in the Song Dynasty (960 – 1279) in Nanjing City

Porcelain is one of the greatest inventions in Chinese history and is a significant cultural heritage. Porcelain from the Song dynasty is the culmination of its development as the works from this period exemplify both the aesthetics and philosophy of this artform. Known as the Five Great Kilns, the Ru, Guan, Ge, Ding, and Jun kilns, were designated as the imperial kilns for their beautiful glazes, regal forms, and advanced porcelain-making techniques. Moreover, the Five Great Kilns established the ideation that "objects convey mind and methodologies", and the Song dynasty aesthetics has transcended beyond place and time.

Fragile by nature, porcelain is difficult to preserve. The remaining pieces of the Five Great Kilns from the Song dynasty are scarce. "Exquisite 50 — Song Imperial Porcelain" showcases 50 rare imperial pieces from the Five Great Kilns, which is unprecedented for any institution. Domestically and internationally ground-breaking, this exhibition will be the first of its kind for the exceptional quantity, spectacular scale, comprehensive categories, and high quality.



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The highlight of the exhibition is works from the Ru kiln, the most prestigious of the five. On view are porcelain that are of the colour dreamt up by Emperor Huizong, alongside four pieces from the Zhanggongxiang kiln, which was also excavated in Ruzhou area and share the same artistry as the Ru ware. These works share an immaculately elegant glaze reminiscent of the sky clearing up after rain, creating a jade-like gloss. Six imperial pieces from the Guan kiln represent the Song ideology of "restrain oneself and practice propriety". There are four fascinating Ge ware on view; additionally, one Ge piece comes in an extremely rare square-shaped body, on view for the first time. 14 pieces from the Ding kiln aims to comprehensively present the significant development in glaze, decorating methods, and inlaying techniques. 21 exceptional Jun ware illustrate a range of moonlight glaze, sky-blue glaze, and copper-red glaze, as an utmost interpretation of the philosophy "following the rules of nature".

This exhibition explores the traditional values of Chinese porcelain through a contemporary curatorial lens, referencing the philosophies of "studying the nature of things to acquire knowledge" and "following the rules of nature", all of which are still relevant today. The exhibition intends to elucidate these century-old schools of thoughts and aesthetics through an institutional methodology, placing China's artistic heritage and phenomenon within a global context as well as providing a multifaceted experience to the audience.



"An Era In Jinling: A Digital Art Exhibition": Enter into the painting as a character; stroll through the history in real time

Painted by Qing dynasty court artist Ning Feng around the late 18th or early 19th century, *Imitating Yang Dazhang's Painting of Jinling Cityscape by Song Court Artists* is regarded as "an encyclopedic portrayal of Jinling's history, culture, and folk customs in its heyday" and is of immense cultural and historical value. The exhibition is not a simple digitalization. The painting is magnified and projected onto a 110m by 3.6m screen with built-in intelligence technology. This set-up enables the audience to immerse themselves into the dynamic "An Era in Jinling" and wander through the Jinling's golden age of Jinling in real time. The Deji Art Museum hopes to encourage the audience to explore and interact with history and art across time with the assistance of advanced technology and each become an ambassador of Chinese culture.



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**Special Project:"Yoshitomo Nara:Not Everything But / Green House;
Not Everything But / Orange House", Presenting a Self-Contained
Yoshitomo Nara Art Museum**

The Special Project will present two large-scale installations titled *Not Everything but / Green House* and *Not Everything but / Orange House* by renowned Japanese artist Yoshitomo Nara. As an accumulation of Nara's nearly 30-year artistic career, these two "houses" form a self-contained "Yoshitomo Nara Art Museum" which include various media including such as paintings, sculptures, installations, performance, and conceptual art. The exhibition will feature around 20 sizable paintings as well as nearly 600 dolls and collectible objects. The works on view embody a safe harbour for both the mind and the body, inviting the audience into a duality of dream and reality.



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Standing at 6.7 meters and 4.7 meters tall respectively, the *Green House* and the *Orange House* have large windows and doors that allow the audience to have a clear view of the interior details even from a distance. Paintings, stuffed dolls, radios, and various objects scattered inside the *Orange House* bring to mind the idea of an artist studio. On one side of the space lies a scorched rooftop, disturbing the tranquility of the room. In contrast, the *Green House* is built with perfect symmetry and filled with over 500 stuffed toys sent by the artist's fans all around the world and hand-picked by Nara himself. Behind the pile of toys hangs a signature painting of Nara's little girl with her eyes staring into the distance.

The houses illustrate Nara's self-expression, creative process, and the exploration of artistic presentation. The spontaneous yet dramatic arrangement of interior decorations strikes a stark contrast to the traditional display of artworks hung on the white wall. Through a playful yet carefully weighed fashion, Nara combines the layout of his own studio with the concept of mini museum, creating a new approach for art exhibition thereby having expanded the definition of art.



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**Deji Art Museum will officially open to the public on 29 October 2021.
For more information, please follow our official website and social media
channels.**

NOTES:

"Exquisite 50—— Song Imperial Porcelain"
29 October 2021 – 20 February 2022

"An Era In Jinling: A Digital Art Exhibition"
29 October 2021 – 28 October 2022

Special Project:"Yoshitomo Nara: Not Everything But / Green House;
Not Everything But / Orange House"



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About Deji Art Museum

Deji Art Museum is located in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, a prominent center of Chinese history and culture which is renowned as one of the "Four Major Ancient Capitals of China" and a megacity and the second largest city in the East China region.

With a collection focusing on both Chinese antiquities and international modern and contemporary arts, Deji Art Museum explores the transformations in art-historical, cultural and philosophical movements across cultures and eras.

The museum also comprises a thematic "Jinling" Collection—"Jinling" being an old name of Nanjing. The museum seeks to preserve and reinvent the rich treasures reflective of the distinctive regional culture of this ancient capital over 2500 years of history.

Through continual scholarly, curatorial and educational programs with an emphasis on contemporary relevance and global vision, the museum aims to become a cultural leader and platform that engages the public regionally, nationally and globally in relation to discourses on art and human development.

Located in Xinjiekou—"China's No.1 Business Circle"—the museum's first exhibition space sits at the core of the commercial and cultural centers of Nanjing and Eastern China.

Founded by Deji Group, Deji Art Museum is a non-profit art institution accredited by Jiangsu Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism.