

CHINESE ART 1911-1976: A CONNECTED HISTORY

3: Art, Power and Revolutions, 1950-1976



Craig Clunas

History of Art Department

University of Oxford

A revolution is not a dinner party, or writing an essay, or painting a picture; it cannot be so refined, so leisurely and gentle, so temperate, kind, courteous, restrained and magnanimous. A revolution is an insurrection, an act of violence by which one class overthrows another.

Mao Zedong, 'Report on an Investigation into the Peasant Movement in Hunan', March 1927



Luo Gongliu (1916-2004), *Tunnel Warfare*, 1951



Luo Gongliu (1916-2004), *Mao Zedong Reporting on the Rectification in Yan'an, 1951*



**Henri Cartier-Bresson,
'Soldiers visiting an exhibition
of paintings', photograph,
Shanghai, 1949. From Henri
Cartier-Bresson, *China in
Transition* (London, 1956)**



Hu Yichuan (1910-2000), *Breaking the Fetters*, 1950

參軍圖



1. 參軍圖
Enlisting in the Army
Молодежь идет в армию

洪 浩
Hung P'ao
Хун Хо.

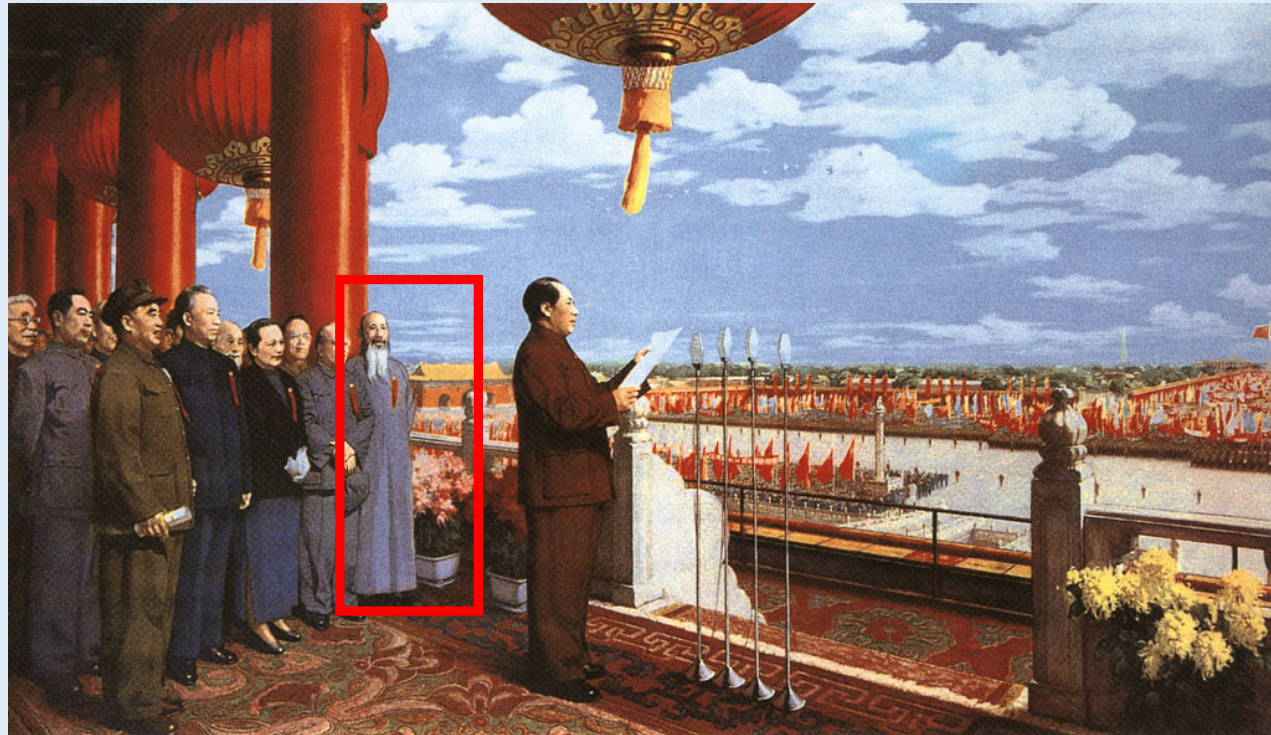
"New *nianhua* should emphasize labouring people's new, happy and hard-fought lives and their appearance of health and heroism. In art we must fully utilize folk styles, and strive to capture the customs of the masses. In printing, we must avoid ostentation and keep costs down. Consider the people's purchasing power and avoid high prices. In distribution, we must use the old *nianhua* distribution network (incense shops, small book stands, itinerant peddlers etc.), and break into the greater *nianhua* market. As to those popular 'door god' pictures, *yuefenpai* pictures etc, new *nianhua* should pay attention to them, revise these styles, and make them a tool for popularising new art..."



Lin Gang (b. 1925), *Zhao Guilan at the Conference of Outstanding Workers*, 1951

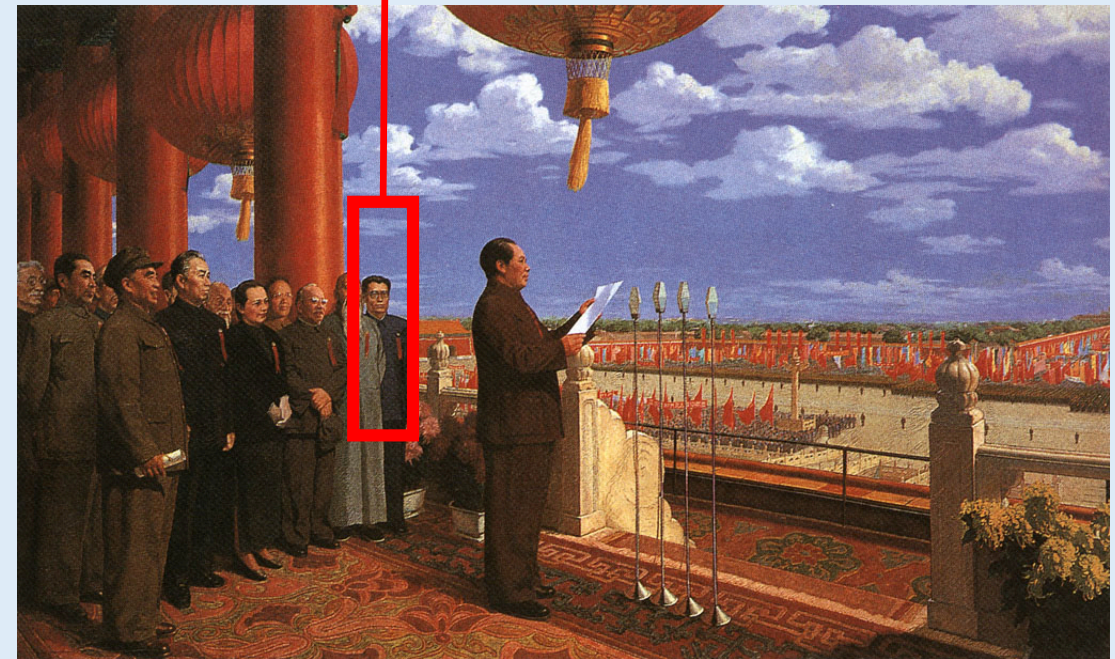


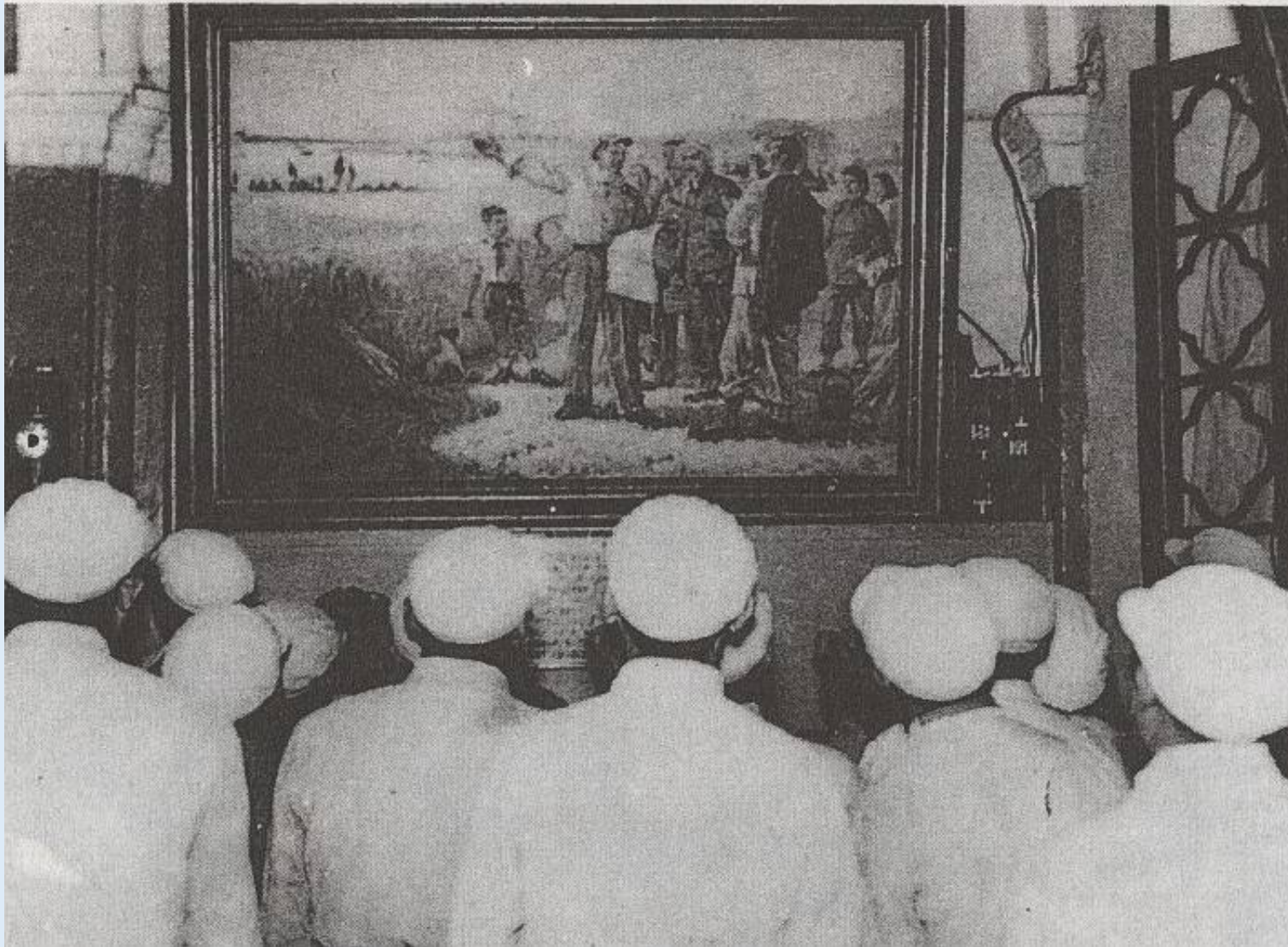
[After] Dong Xiwen (1914-1973), *The Ceremony of Declaring People's China*
Composition of 1952-3 first version



Dong Xiwen (1914-1973), *The Ceremony of Declaring People's China*
Post-1955 version, Gao Gang removed,

Gao Gang (1905-1954)





Photograph of workers looking at the oil painting, 'Distant view of the Huai River', in the 'Control the Huai Exhibition', Shanghai, April 1952., after Li Zhao, *Shanghai youhua shi* (Shanghai, 1995)



Lin Gang (b. 1925), *Zhao Guilan at the Conference of Outstanding Workers*, 1951

**Yu Yunjie (1917-1992),
*Celebrate with Great Joy and
Enthusiasm the Publication of the
Constitution of the People's
Republic of China*, 1954**



歡欣鼓舞慶祝中華人民共和國的憲法公佈

Mei Lanfang (1894-1961)

Mei Lanfang (1894-1961), *Ink plum blossoms*, 1953. Xubaizhai Collection, Hong Kong Museum of Art





**Pan Jiezi (1915-2002),
*The Creators of the
Cave Art*, 1954.
National Art Museum of
China**



Mei Lanfang (1894-1961), *Ink plum blossoms*, 1953. Xubaizhai Collection, Hong Kong Museum of Art

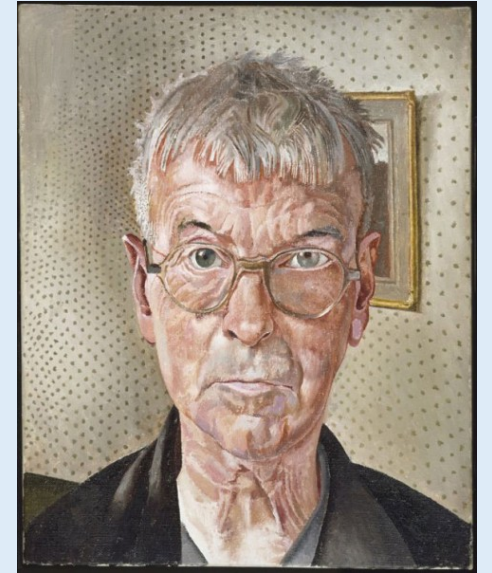
Pan Jiezi (1915-2002), *The Creators of the Cave Art*, 1954. National Art Museum of China



Qi Baishi (1864-1957), *Magnolias and Bees*, 1953.
Richard Fabian Collection



Qi Baishi (1864-1957), *Peaches and Buddha Hands*, 1955



Sir Stanley Spencer (1891-1959), *Self-Portrait*, 1959, Tate Britain

Members of a British cultural delegation to China with Qi Baishi in Beijing in 1954, the painter Stanley Spencer standing on the right of Qi. From Patrick Wright, *Passport to Peking: A Very British Mission to Mao's China* (Oxford, 2010)



Fedor Shurpin *Morning of our Native Land*, 1948

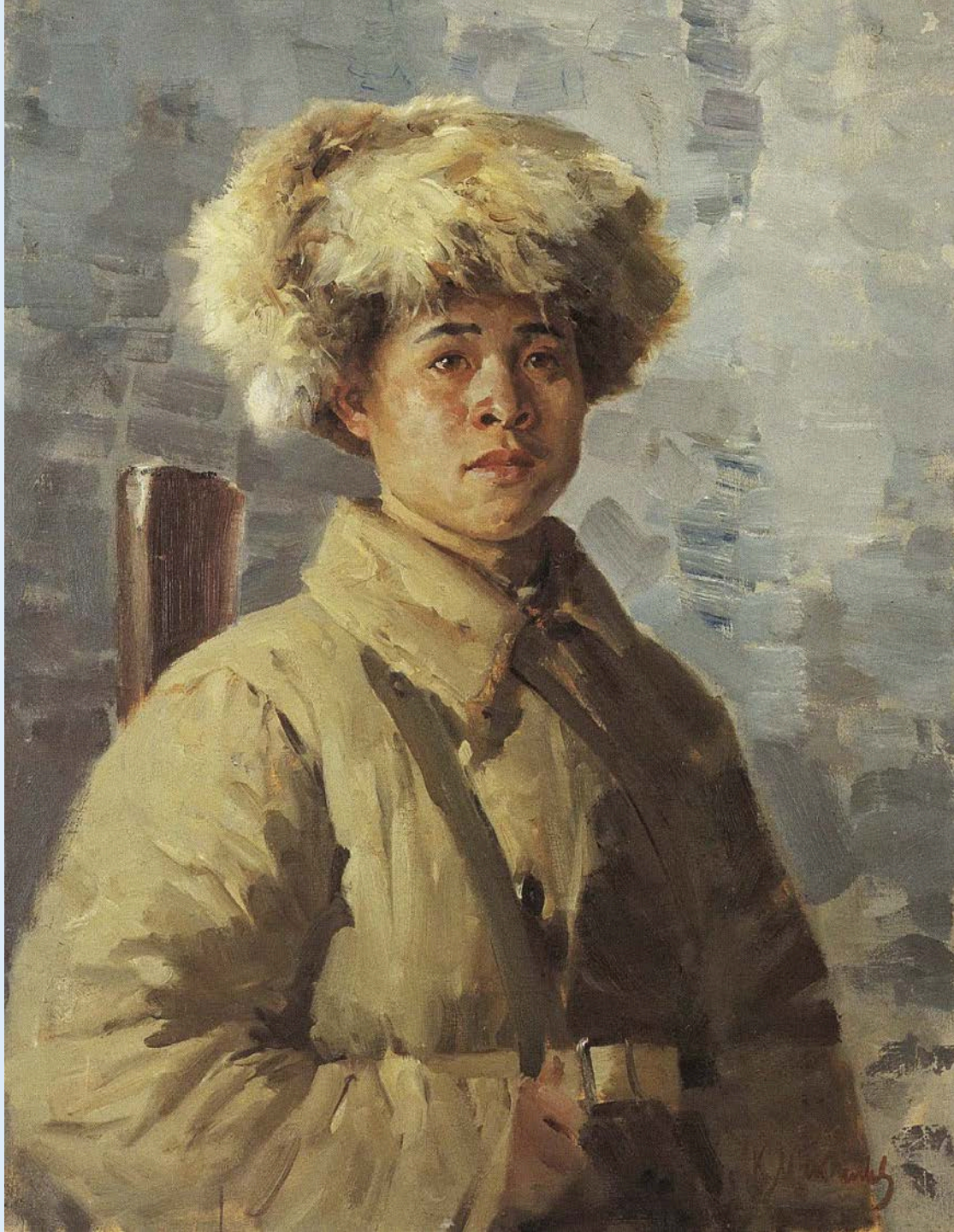


Boris Ioganson, *In an Old Urals Factory*, 1937

October 1954 Exhibition of Soviet Economic and Cultural Achievements, Beijing



Vera Mukhina, *Worker and Collective Farm Woman*, 1937



Konstantin Maksimov (1913-1993), *A Warrior of the Chinese Revolution*, 1955



He Kongde (1925-2003) , *A Letter from Home*, 1957

Li Zhongjin (1916-1977),
Railway Worker, 1955



In memory of
the wedding of
Comrades Peng
Jing and Liu
Shengjie



Yu Yunjie (1917-1992)
and Zhao Yannian (b.
1924), *Conquer Every
Difficulty, Build
Socialism*, 1955

From all the
comrades in the
laboratory,
[19]56



**Zhang Yuqing (1909-1993),
Looking at Chrysanthemums,
1st edn 1955, 27th edn 1957**



Zhang Yuqing (1909-1993)



Zdeněk Sklenář and Adolf Hoffmeister in China, c. 1950-55

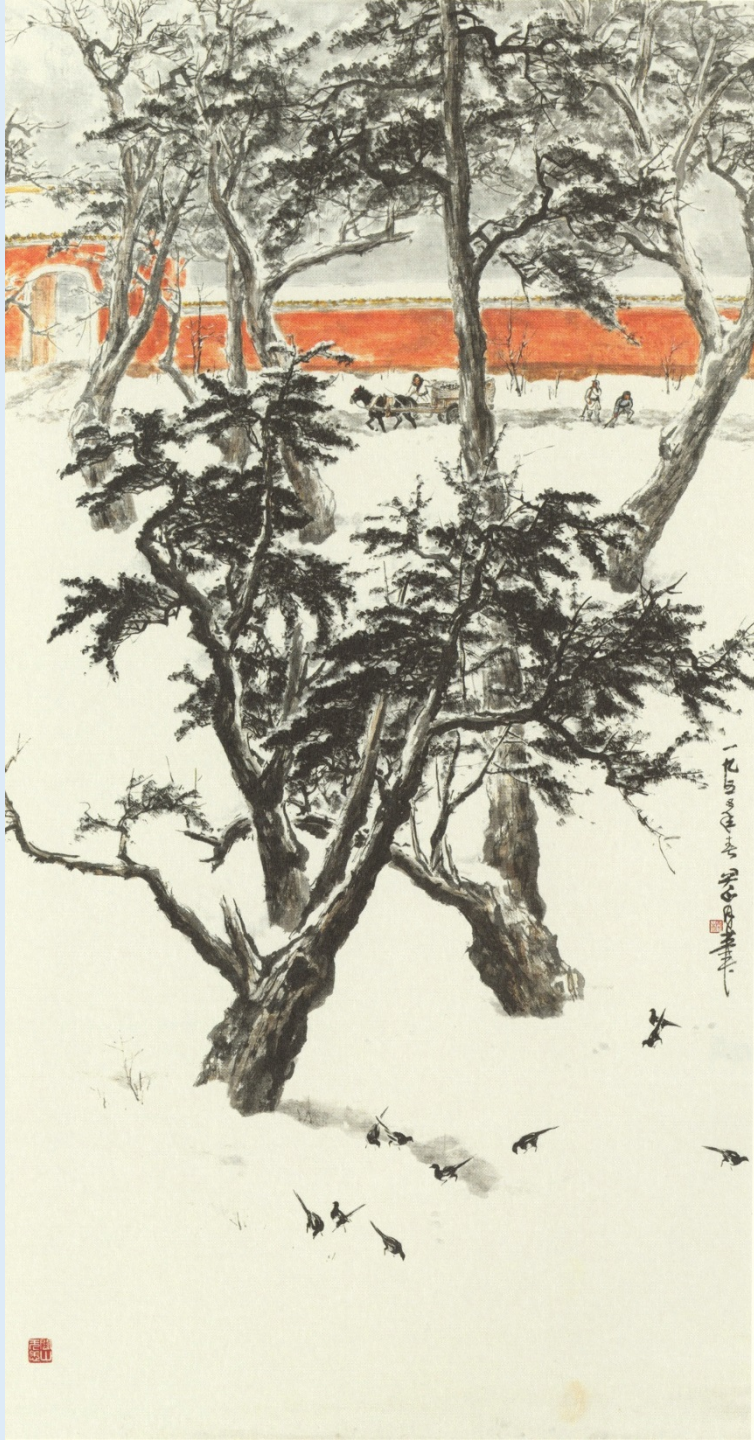


Zdenek Seydl and Vincenc Vigler, Beijing 1957

**Yu Feian (1889-1959),
*Two Peonies and Two
 Bumble Bees*, 1954.
 National Gallery in
 Prague**



**Guan Shanyue (1912-2000),
Winter in the City, 1955,
 National Gallery in Prague**





Jiang Zhaohe (1904-1986), *Reader*, 1955. National Gallery in Prague



David Siqueiros (1896-1974) and Angelica Siqueiros with Chinese artists in Beijing, 1956



***A Selection of Mexican Painting*
(Beijing, 1957)**



**José Venturelli (1924-1988),
details from *Camillo
Cienfuegos*, 1961, mural in the
Ministry of Health, Havana,
Cuba**





Shi Lu (1919-1982), *Picking Cotton*, 1955. Richard Fabian Collection



**Fu Baoshi (1904-1965),
Gottwaldov, 1957**



Jiang Feng (1910-1982), *A Happy Marriage*, 1953



**Monument to the People's Heroes,
Tiananmen Square, Beijing.
Unveiled May 1 1958**

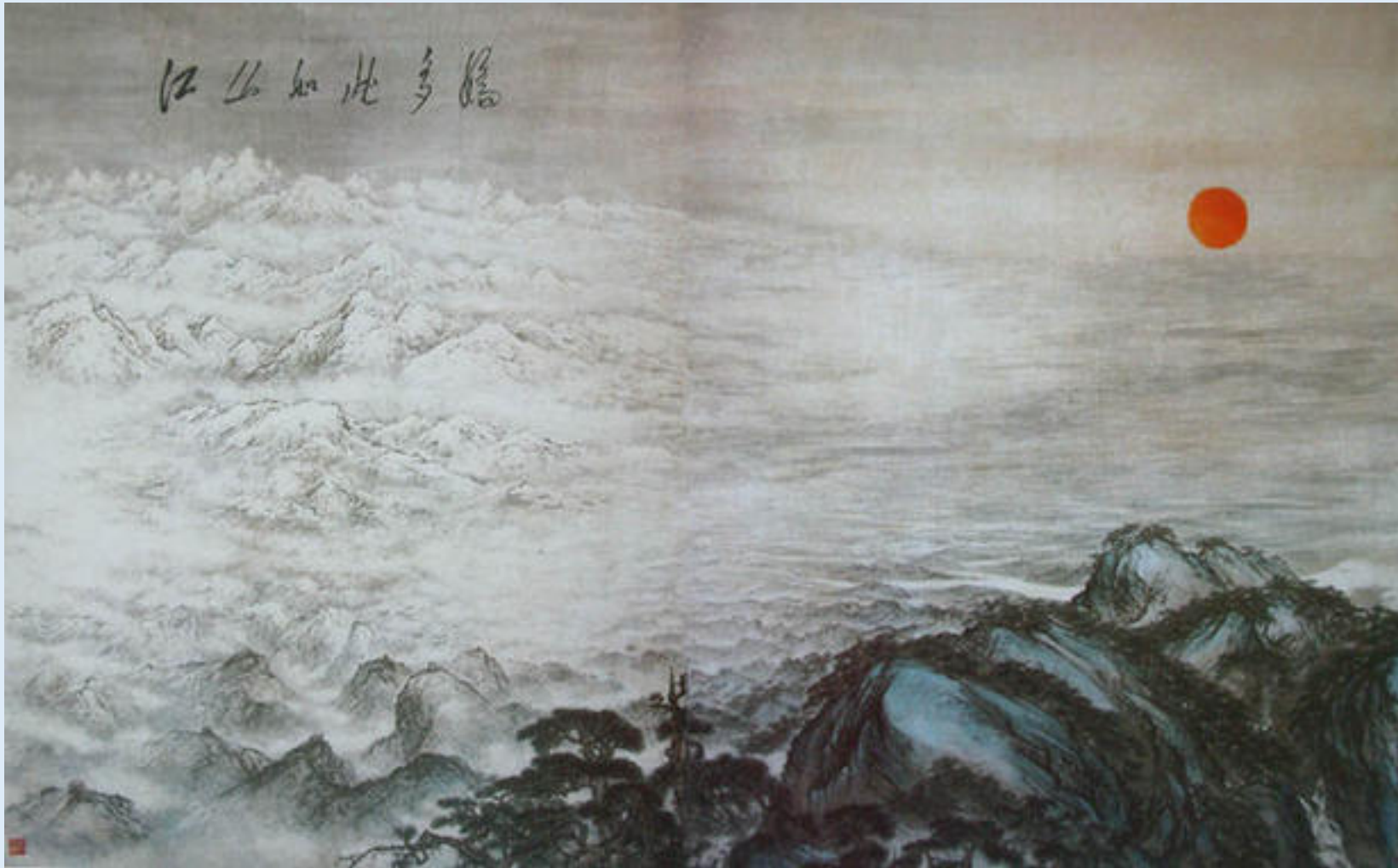


**Hua Tianyou (1901-1986) modelling
the 'May 4th Movement' relief for the
Monument to the People's Heroes**

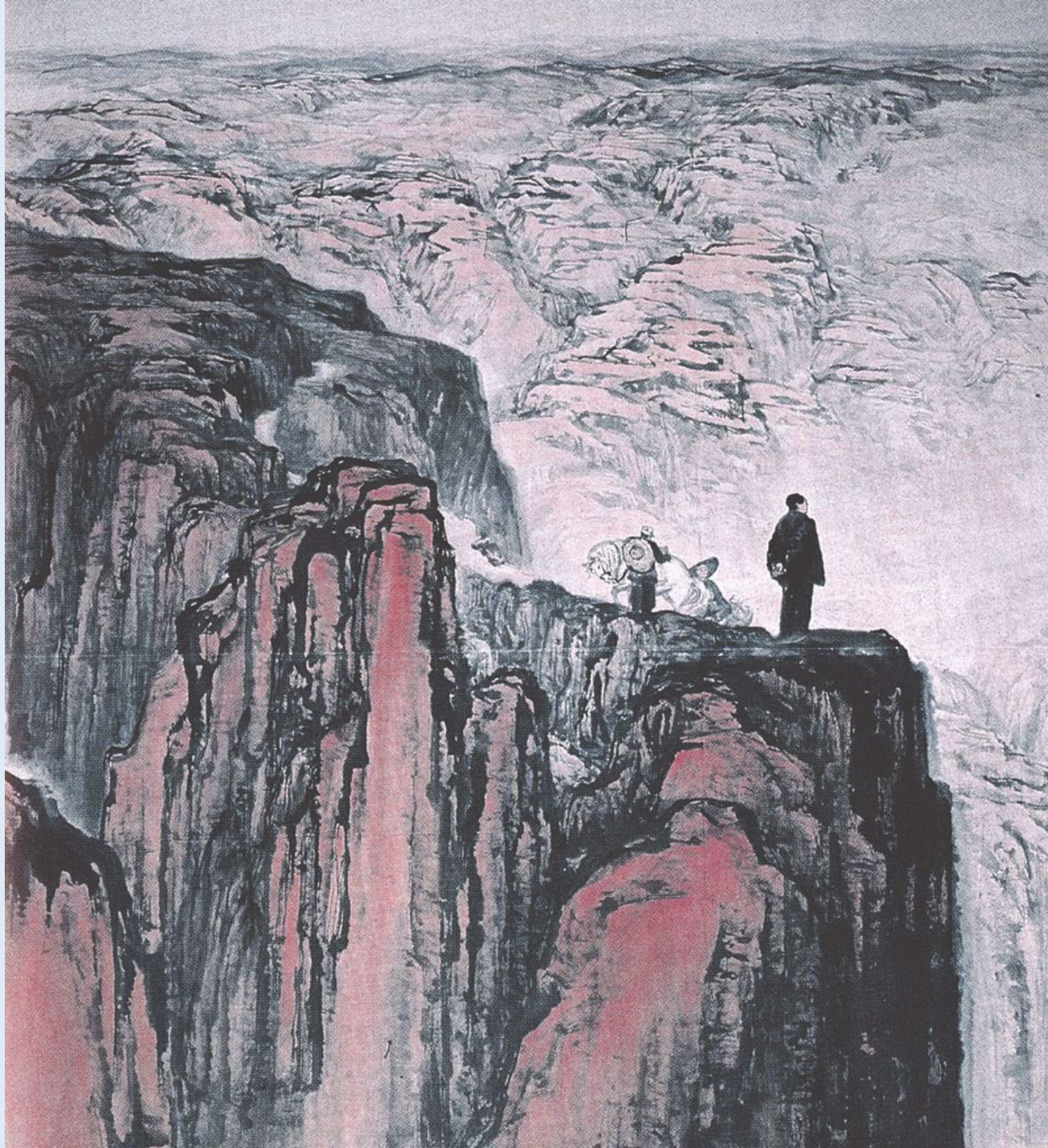


1958-9 Campaign – Ten Great Buildings

- **Great Hall of the People**
- **Museum of Revolutionary History**
- **National Museum of History**
- **Chinese People's Revolutionary Military Museum**
- **National Agricultural Exhibition Hall**
- **Nationalities Cultural Palace**
- **Beijing Train Station**
- **Worker's Stadium**
- **Nationalities Hotel**
- **Overseas Chinese Hotel**



Fu Baoshi (1904-1965) and Guan Shanyue (1912-2000), *This Land so Rich in Beauty*, 1959. Great Hall of the People



**Shi Lu (1919-1982) ,
*Fighting in Northern
Shaanxi*, 1959.
National Museum of
China**



Hou Yimin (b. 1930), *Comrade Liu Shaoqi and the Workers of Anyuan*, 1959

Liu Shaoqi (1898-1969)



‘Li-shu-ching, a member of the Kuohsiang Commune, Changli County, Hopei, belongs to the Changli County Artists’ Association. Here we see her at work on a painting’.

***People’s Communes in Pictures* (Beijing, 1960)**



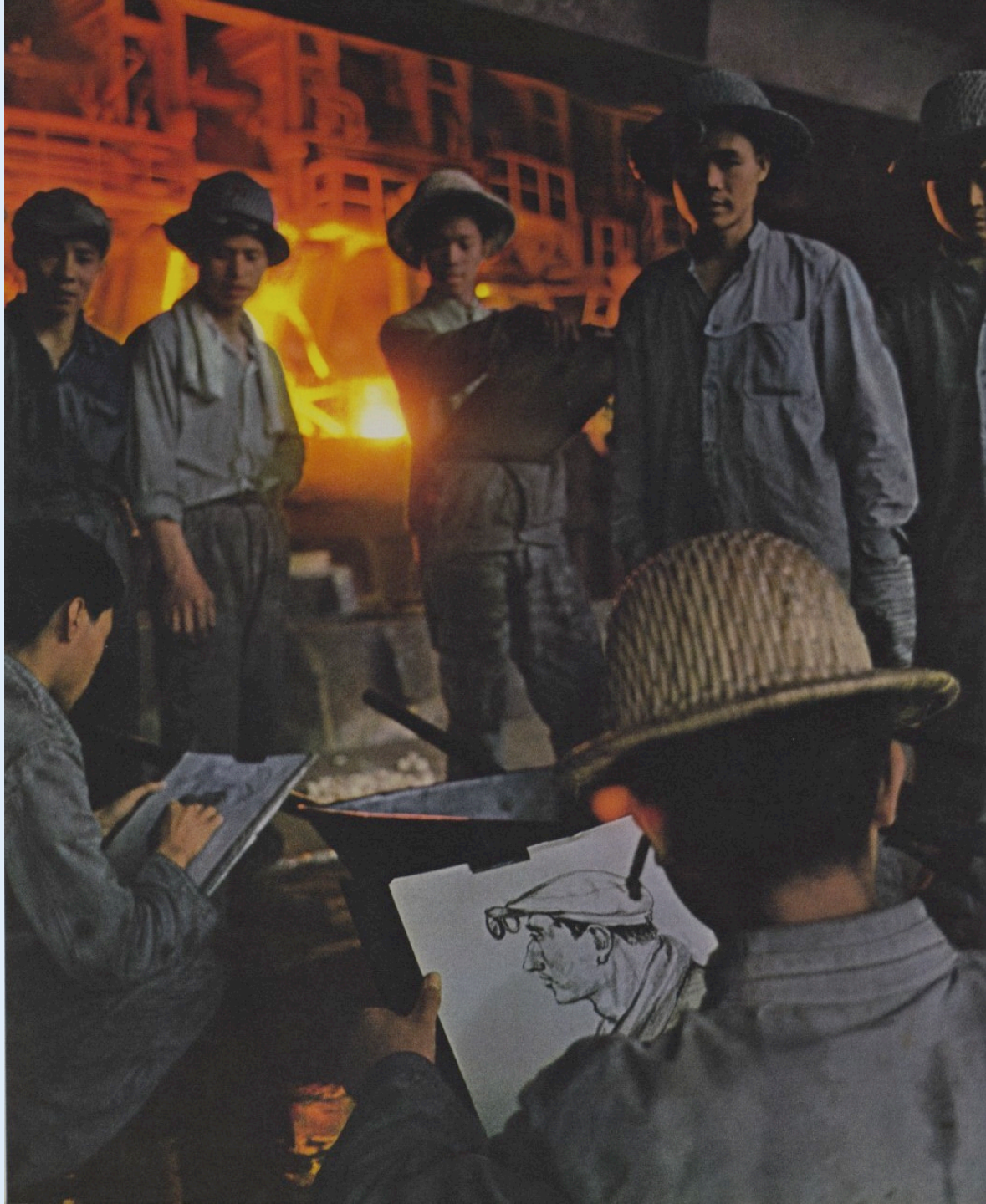
**Lin
Fengmian
(1900-
1991),
Gladioli,
?early
1960s**



Luo Gongliu (1916-2004), *Mao Zedong at Jinggangshan*, 1962



Li Keran (1907-1989), *The Poetic Mood of Su Shi*, 1962



Emil Shulthess, 'Art students in the Wuhan iron and steel works', photograph, 1964, from Emil Shulthess, *China* (London, 1966), fig.139.

**Wu Hufan (1894-1968),
*Celebrate the Success of
Our Nations's Glorious
Atomic Bomb Explosion!*,
1965. Shanghai Chinese
Painting Academy**

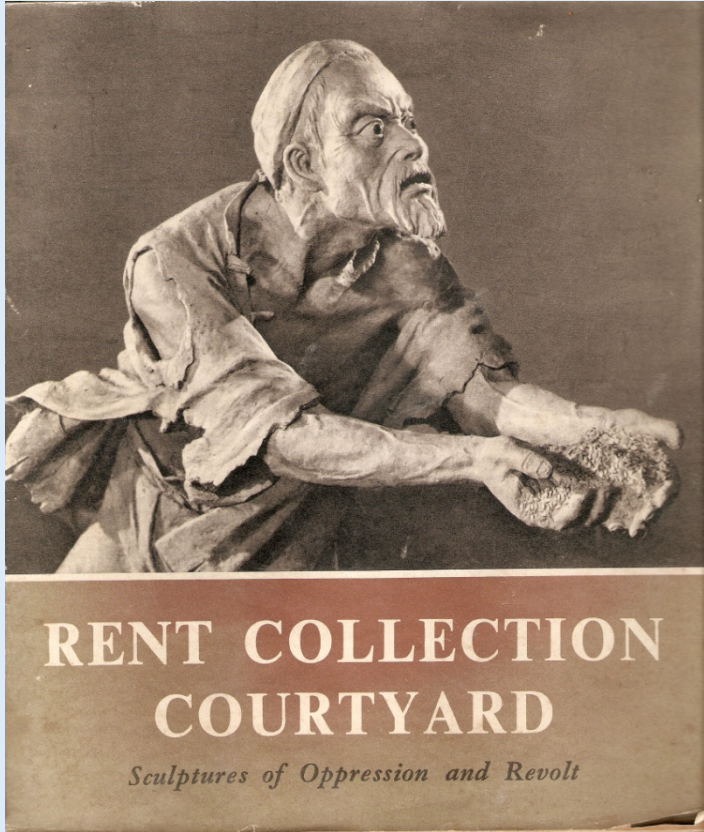


**Wu Hufan (1894-1968),
*Twin Pines and Layered
Green*, 1959**





**Destruction at the
Shrine of Confucius,
Qufu Shandong
Province, 1966-8**



Rent Collection Courtyard : revolution in sculpture (Peking, 1967)



凡是错误的思想，凡是毒草，凡是牛鬼蛇神，都应该进行批判，决不能让它们自由泛滥。

毛泽东

coll. SRL

以毛泽东思想为武器 批判旧世界 建设新世界
YI MAO ZE DONG SI XIANG WEI WU QI PI PAN JIU SHI JIE JIAN SHE XIN SHI JIE

*Smash the Soviet
Revisionist
Bastards !, 1967*

*With Mao Zedong
Thought as a Weapon,
Criticise the Old World,
Build the New World,
1966*



砸烂苏修的狗头！



主席语录
造反
Восстание
Слова председателя
Мао

柯西金 А.Н. Косыгин
赫鲁晓夫 Н.С. Хрущев
勃列日涅夫 Л.И. Брежнев

上海印刷厂
上海印刷厂



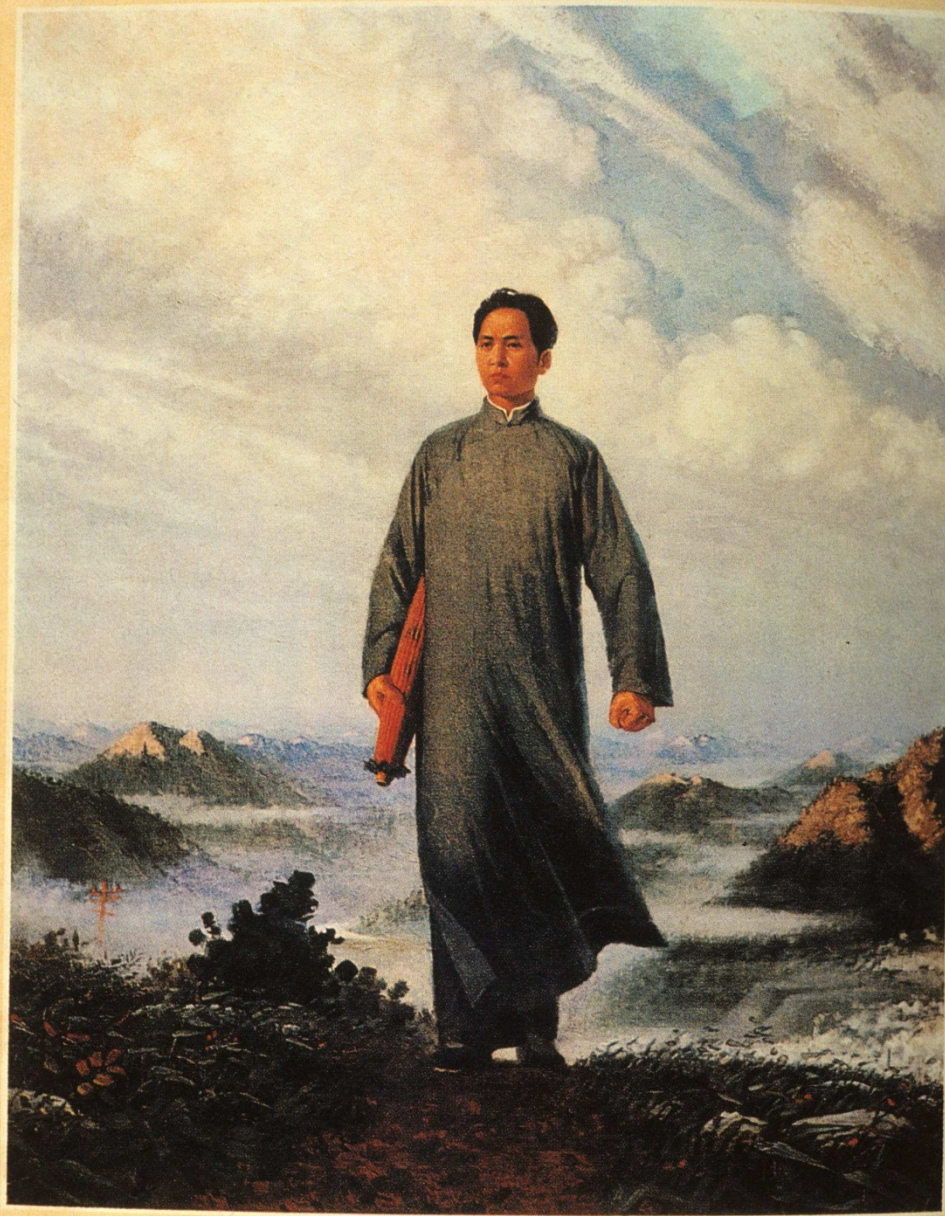
Zhao Wenliang (b. 1937), *August 18, 1966, 1966*



***Exhibition of Revolutionary
Revolt by the Red Guards of
the Capital, 1967***

**Li Zhensheng (b.
1940), Red Guards
at Harbin's
University of
Industry, August-
December 1967.**





人民畫報

1968 9



Liu Chunhua (b. 1944),
*Chairman Mao Goes to
Anyuan, 1967*



Shi Zhenyu (b. 1946),
Landscape at Diaoyutai, 1968



Tang Xiaohe (b.1941) and Cheng Li, *Follow Closely Our Great Leader Chairman Mao, Ride the Wind, Cleave the Waves, Fearlessly Forge Ahead, 1971*



Dong Zhengyi (Representative of the Poor Peasants Association, Nanguan Brigade, Chengguan Commune), *The Commune Fish Pond*, c. 1973

Fan Zhihua (Chief of the Experimental Section, 7.1 Brigade, Chengguan Commune, *Digging the Well*, c. 1973





Li Fenglan (Chief of the Cotton Section, Xiweicun Brigade, Guangming Commune), *Spring Hoeing*, c. 1973

Liu Zhide (Party Secretary, Qinsan Brigade, Qindu Commune), *The Old Secretary*, c. 1973



Hui Gu, *Report on Graduation*, 1975





Zheng Ziyang (b. 1951), *The No Name Group Goes Out Sketching at Beidaihe*, 1975

Shen Jiawei (b. 1948), *Standing Guard for Our Great Motherland*, 1974