

Research Summary

"Integration • International Art Exhibition of the Disabled Persons" has been held in Wuhan, China twice so far, in 2015 and 2017. If the strategy of "catalization and integration" rather than considering the disability movement dichotomously in terms of an "equality faction" and "difference faction" is effective (Ishikawa 2000: 38), how should we view the standpoint and characteristics of these exhibitions? The title of the exhibition given above clearly refers to "integration".

In addition, by including artworks by persons with and without disabilities and adopting the format of a contest it has been "catalized" from disability art exhibitions centered on artworks by persons with intellectual and mental disabilities and from other exhibitions that also bear the name of the concept of proximity.

This report presents a detailed discussion based on exhibition catalogs and Internet articles.

Research Method

Data

- Exhibition catalogs "Integration • The First International Art Exhibition of the Disabled Persons" Works Collection, The Second "Integration • International Art Exhibition of the Disabled Persons" Works Collection.

- Internet articles: Keyword search by Baidu

Frequency Analysis

- By state / region, By disability, By form of expression

Background

1978	Reform and Opening Policy
1980s	Reconsideration of Unit System
1986	Enactment of General Principles of Civil Law of the People's Republic of China (social organization)
1988	Enactment of Regulations for the Management of Foundations
1988	Establishment of China Disabled Persons' Federation
1990	Enactment of the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Disabled Persons
1990s	Establishment of the employment skills training center of China Disabled Persons' Federation
1995	Launch of Internet donations
2006	Launch of outsider art activity (Establishment of art studio in 2010)
2008	Revision of the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Disabled Persons
2008	Sichuan Earthquake donations
2008	Launch of 5.12 (2008) foundation's course in art study for persons with disabilities among the Sichuan Earthquake victims (Drawing class type)
2008	Launch of the second art activity (Establishment of art studio in 2012)
2013	Migration to smart phone donations
2017	Order of the President of the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Disabled Persons

Catalog Structure



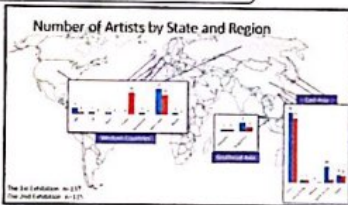
There are award-winning and limited artworks on most pages.

Number of Artists in Each Category

	Best Creation Award	Jury Prize	Exhibition	Special Exhibition: Heart Vision	Special Exhibition: 5 Colors Foundation's Art Plan of Aiding the Disabled	Special Exhibition: Outsider Art	Special Exhibition: Hot Dolhuys' Workshop	"The Innocent" Exhibition	Guest Artists (invited from)	Total
The 1st exhibition	30	—	40	7	10	10	10	—	30 (7)	137
The 2nd exhibition	30	10	51	—	—	—	9	5	10 (5)	115

- Number of Artworks: 179 in the 1st exhibition, 129 in the 2nd exhibition (In principle, 1 piece per person but 2-10 pieces for a few persons).
- Art studios and museums specializing in persons with intellectual / mental / other disabilities.

Analysis

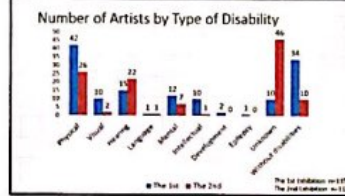


Mainly 6 States / Regions

- Chinese are the most numerous, followed by East Asians and only a few Southeast Asians and Westerners.
- Re-exhibitions and re-awards from the same artists / organizations can be seen outside of China.

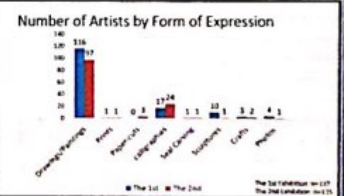
The 1st Exhibition (n=137)		
East Asia	China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan	Persons with / without disabilities
Southeast Asia	Malaysia, Singapore	Persons with disabilities
Western Countries	USA, UK, Spain, Switzerland, Netherlands, Russia	Persons with disabilities (Netherlands) / Persons without disabilities (other than Netherlands)

The 2nd Exhibition (n=115)		
East Asia	China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan	Persons with/without disabilities
Southeast Asia	Malaysia, Singapore	Persons with disabilities
Western Countries	USA, France, Netherlands	Persons with disabilities



Mainly Persons with Physical Disabilities

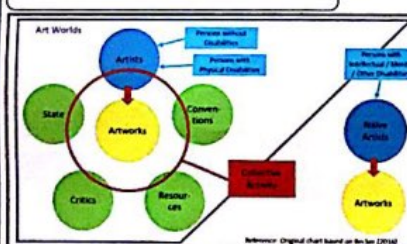
- Even in cases in which the category of disability of the artist is not made clear, based on the method of expression and theme of the artworks most of them seem to have been persons with physical disabilities.
- There are many artworks by persons with intellectual / mental / other disabilities from states / regions other than China.
- Especially in Japan, art exhibitions which are for persons with disabilities centered on artworks by persons with intellectual / mental / other disabilities, and art exhibitions that bear the name of the concept of proximity are in the mainstream. Such artists created less than 10% of the artworks in these exhibitions.
- Persons without disabilities are limited to exhibiting as invited artists or judges.
- Because it is based on the application documents, the standard of the type of disability is not constant. For example, mental disabilities include both schizophrenia and Down syndrome.
- The reason there are many unknowns in the second catalog is that there are many artists who do not have a caption.



Mainly Drawings / Paintings

- The majority of works are Chinese paintings because most of the artists are Chinese and have physical disabilities.
- The next most common type is calligraphy, and the other works use many traditional forms of expression such as paper-cuts and seal carvings.
- Many artworks by persons with intellectual / mental / other disabilities have fictional creatures and objects and abstract motifs.

Discussion



Artists (persons without disabilities / with physical disabilities)

- The captions on artists describe their history of art education, the art-related association to which they belong, and their award history.

Conventions (mainly drawings / paintings)

- Chinese paintings and calligraphy occupy the majority, and they follow the rules of art regarding the acquisition of specialized skills.

Resources

- The exhibitions were held with financial support from governments and organizations in each state / region and Chinese IT companies.

Critic

- Judgment was carried out by "internationally authoritative experts" (the first call for artworks), and an academic forum was held at the same time.

State (Mainly 6 States / Regions)

- Artworks were exhibited from around 10 states / regions across borders.

Naïve Artists (Artists with Intellectual / Mental / Other Disabilities)

- The artists' captions include their personality, creation status, and evaluation of their artworks (prominent in the case of "Outsider Art" artists).

Differences in Activity Philosophy and Exhibition at the "Integration • International Art Exhibition of the Disabled Persons"

- The way into the art world through education is open for the persons with physical disabilities. Unless there are artists' captions, it cannot be determined whether an artwork is by a person with physical disabilities.
- Persons with intellectual / mental / other disabilities do not always view education positively, and their methods of expression and motifs are clearly different from those of persons with physical disabilities. They are also distinguished from others in the catalogs' structure.
- Education is a point of confrontation: there exist artists with disabilities in the China Disabled Persons' Federation who support education, artists with intellectual / mental / other disabilities who create "Outsider Art" and "Dolhuys" and do not support education, and other organizations / individual artists at various points along this spectrum.
- "Outsider Art" and "Dolhuys": Organizations specializing in "Art Brut—Original artworks that persons outside of the art world / persons who have not received formal art education (naïve artists) continue to create without being aware of the evaluation of others—".

Conclusions

The Actual Situation of Art Activities by Persons with Disabilities in China

- In 1990, a system was established by the Law of the Protection of Disabled Persons in which the "state and society encourage and support persons with disabilities in literature, art, education, science and technology, and other creative works that benefit people" (Chapter 5, Article 39).
- In the 1990s, opportunities to learn art skills were provided at the employment skills training center of the Disabled Persons' Federation, which had been opened subsequently. The main target is persons with physical disabilities, and as a result of the training some achieve employment as professional artists. However, their works are mainly exhibited / published in China.
- Since 2006, artists without disabilities have opened private art studios, and persons with intellectual / mental / other disabilities have developed art activities (creation and exhibition / publishing). Technical guidance is not essential ("Outsider Art" is negative) and some artworks are sold, but they have not become independent as professional artists. However, there are significant opportunities for exhibition / publication in other states / regions.

Standpoint and characteristics of "Integration • International Art Exhibition of the Disabled Persons"

- In China places where art activities are conducted are usually divided, but these exhibitions aims to "promote the integration of persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities, and society" (the purpose of the characteristics "as trends" from the comparison of artworks. At the same time, it must be emphasized again that the type of disability does not necessarily limit the manner of expression and the place of publication.
- Especially in traditional art, the artworks of persons with disabilities have a high affinity with the artworks of persons without disabilities—(Integration)(There are also exhibitions where uniqueness is expressed by showing how to draw with brushes in the mouth)—(Catalization). Artworks by persons with intellectual / mental / other disabilities place a greater emphasis on creativity—(Catalization), and have a high affinity with Art Brut inside and outside their states / regions—(Integration).

