

SNAC Record Update: Ai Weiwei

Permalink:

<http://n2t.net/ark:/99166/w6ng5g98>

Ark ID:

w6ng5g98

SNAC ID:

59476473

Intro to the person and why I made that decision

Ai Weiwei is Chinese artist and activist who produced a multifaceted array of creative work, including sculptural installations, architectural projects, photographs, and videos. While Ai's art was lauded internationally, the frequently provocative and subversive dimension of his art, as well as his political outspokenness, triggered various forms of repression from Chinese authorities. The reason why I selected to look at his SNAC record is because his works altered my interpretation of art making, and in some ways, also changed my perception of politics. I didn't really know about him when I was in China. I only know he was known for his work Sunflower Seeds. When I searched him on Chinese search engine - Baidu, the first result is the description of how he got arrested for his crime in 2011 and quotes from many negative publications. So I used to think of him as one nothing special old man but do all kinds of ridiculous actions to attract attention. Until I got a chance to watch *Never Sorry* - a documentary about him when I was studying in the US in 2017. And this documentary changed everything I know about him as an artist and as a person. I realized how brief he was to say "I love my country, but I wanna to push it to be a better place" and how intelligent he was to express his thoughts extremely accurately in his works. And he deserves to be known by more people for his contributions.

SNAC URL Reconciliation

There are currently two records for Ai Weiwei on SNAC. One record labeled "Ai, Weiwei" (SNAC ID: 59476473) and the other labeled "WEI WEI, Ai." (SNAC ID: 1657149). Record "Ai, Weiwei" is a more complete documentation of Ai. Thus, it can be the main record. The resources under record "WEI WEI, Ai" need to be merged to record "Ai, Weiwei".

Identifying Problems in the Main Record

Firstly, the primary SNAC entry is lacking the biographical information apart from basic information of Ai (birth day, nationality). The related links Virtual International Authority File, Wikidata, WorldCat Identities, LC/NACO do not provide sufficient biographical information. Secondly, there were limited resources about Ai under the main record. Also, each content of the current records is not viewable for the public. Finally, there are no related names under the main record.

Sections to enhance

1. Biography
2. Resources
3. Related Names

Biography from trusted sources

Ai Weiwei was born in 1957 in Beijing. Shortly afterward, his father, the poet Ai Qing, was sent to a labor camp as an enemy of the revolution; the family lived in exile, mostly in the remote Xinjiang region, until 1976. Ai attended the Beijing Film Academy from 1978 through 1981, after which he relocated to the United States, settling in New York and briefly attending Parsons School of Design. In 1993 he returned to China, where he helped establish Beijing East Village, a community of experimental artists. Ai's practice, which encompasses architecture, Conceptual art, curating, installation, and photography, is driven by the artist's social activism and is often critical of the Chinese government.

(<https://www.guggenheim.org/artwork/artist/ai-weiwei>)

Recourses

This section can be fortified by including representative artworks by Ai Weiwei. The most efficient way to gather the information was to harvest data through an API. The Digital Public Library of America's (DPLA) API brought back many objects that positively enrich the SNAC record. Also, supplemental objects were found on Google Arts & Culture, ARTLINKART, and the Guggenheim Museums and Foundation.

Accessing data

Link to API Request:

https://api.dp.la/v2/items?sourceResource.creator=Ai Weiwei&fields=sourceResource.title,sourceResource.identifier,sourceResource.relation,sourceResource.date,object.isShownAt&page_size=20&api_key=eb131446715d2818548bdce4e0f884fc

https://api.dp.la/v2/items?sourceResource.creator=Ai Weiwei&fields=sourceResource.title,sourceResource.identifier,sourceResource.relation,sourceResource.date,object.isShownAt&page_size=20&api_key=eb131446715d2818548bdce4e0f884fc

GET https://api.dp.la/v2/items?sourceResource.creator=Ai Weiwei&fields=sourceResource.title,sourceResource.identifier,sourceResource.relation,sourceResource.date,object.isShownAt&page_size=20&api_key=eb131446715d2818548bdce4e0f884fc

Params Authorization Headers (6) Body Pre-request Script Tests Settings Cookies

<input type="checkbox"/>	dataProvider	Guggenheim
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	sourceResource.creator	Ai Weiwei
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	fields	sourceResource.title,sourceResource.identifier,sourceResource.relation,sourceResource.date,object.isShownAt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	page_size	20
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	api_key	eb131446715d2818548bdce4e0f884fc
	Key	Value
		Description

Body Cookies Headers (6) Test Results Status: 200 OK Time: 96 ms Size: 5.91 KB Save Response

Pretty Raw Preview Visualize JSON

```
1 {
2   "count": 14,
3   "start": 1,
4   "limit": 20,
5   "docs": [
6     {
7       "sourceResource.title": "Study of Perspective - White House",
8       "sourceResource.identifier": [
9         "358.2000",
10        "117097"
11      ],
12       "sourceResource.relation": "The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) -Artworks",
13       "sourceResource.date": {
14         "displayDate": "1995-2003",
15         "end": "2003",
```

List of objects



Title: Study of Perspective - White House
Creator: Ai Weiwei
Medium: Gelatin silver print
Created Date: 1995-2003
Contributing Institution: The Museum of Modern Art
<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/117097>



Title: Study of Perspective - Hong Kong
Creator: Ai Weiwei
Medium: Gelatin silver print
Created Date: 1995-2003
Contributed Institution: The Museum of Modern Art
<http://www.moma.org/collection/works/117100>



Title: Study of Perspective - Berne
Creator: Ai Weiwei
Medium: Gelatin silver print
Created Date: 1995-2003
Contributed Institution: The Museum of Modern Art
<http://www.moma.org/collection/works/117099>



Title: Study of Perspective - Eiffel Tower
Creator: Ai Weiwei
Medium: Gelatin silver print
Created Date: 1995-2003
Contributed Institution: The Museum of Modern Art
<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/117095>



Title: Study of Perspective - Mona Lisa
Creator: Ai Weiwei
Medium: Gelatin silver print
Created Date: 1995-2003
Contributed Institution: The Museum of Modern Art
<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/117094>



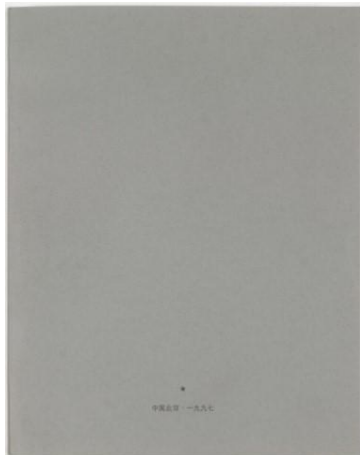
Title: Study of Perspective - Tiananmen Square
Creator: Ai Weiwei
Medium: Gelatin silver print
Created Date: 1995-2003
Contributed Institution: The Museum of Modern Art
<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/117098>



Title: Study of Perspective - San Marco
Creator: Ai Weiwei
Medium: Gelatin silver print
Created Date: 1995-2003
Contributed Institution: The Museum of Modern Art
<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/117096>



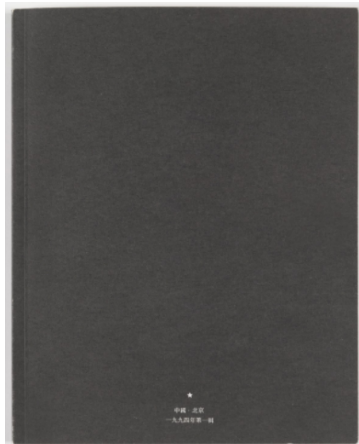
Title: Marble Chair
 Creator: Ai Weiwei
 Medium: Marble
 Created Date: 2008
 Contributed Institution: Minneapolis Institute of Art
<https://collections.artsmia.org/art/109147>



Title: The Grey Cover Book
 Creator: Ai Weiwei
 Medium: Artist's book
 Created Date: 1997
 Contributed Institution: The Museum of Modern Art
<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/150072>



Title: The White Cover Book
 Creator: Ai Weiwei
 Medium: Artist's book
 Created Date: 1995
 Contributed Institution: The Museum of Modern Art
<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/150071>



Title: The Black Cover Book

Creator: Ai Weiwei

Medium: Artist's book

Created Date: 1994

Contributed Institution: The Museum of Modern Art

<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/150070>



Title: FUCK OFF

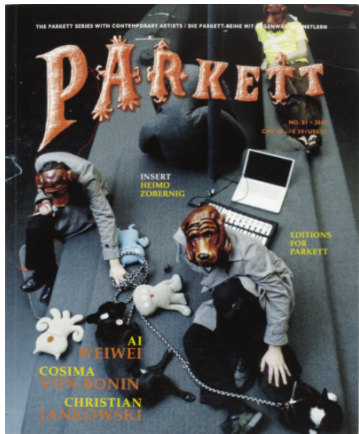
Creator: Ai Weiwei

Medium: Exhibition catalogue

Created Date: 2000

Contributed Institution: The Museum of Modern Art

<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/150073>



Title: Parkett no.81

Creator: Christian Jankowski, Cosima von Bonin, Ulla von Brandenburg, Ai Weiwei, Heimo Zobernig

Medium: Journal

Created Date: 2008

Contributed Institution: The Museum of Modern Art

<https://www.moma.org/collection/works/126300>

Supplementing DPLA Objects:

- Google Arts & Culture
- ARTLINKART
- The Guggenheim Museums and Foundation



Title: Camera with Plint

Creator: Ai Weiwei

Medium: Marble

Created Date: 2015

Publisher/repository responsible for object: Ai Weiwei Studio

<https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/camera-with-plint/kAEUaLLCHFARgA>



Title: No.7 (Series: Bird's Nest)

Creator: Ai Weiwei

Medium: Photography

Created Date: 2009

Publisher/repository responsible for object: Unknown

http://www.artlinkart.com/en/artist/wrk_sr/196bzu/fc7arzn



Title: Sunflower Seeds

Creator: Ai Weiwei

Medium: Porcelain

Created Date: 2010

Publisher/repository responsible for object: Unknown

http://www.artlinkart.com/en/artist/wrk_sr/196bzu/b5aa



Title: China Log

Creator: Ai Weiwei

Medium: Ironwood

Created Date: 2005

Publisher/repository responsible for object: The Guggenheim Museums and Foundation

<https://www.guggenheim.org/artwork/18758>

Related Names

This section can be enriched through links to entries of individuals Ai associated with and individuals Ai was influenced by during his Lifetime. Rationale information of names listed below were found on [Ai Weiwei's Wikipedia page](#).

Ma Desheng

Permalink: <http://n2t.net/ark:/99166/w6ff4wn4>

SNAC ID: 21347120

Rationale: In 1978, Ai was one of the founders of the early avant garde art group the “Stars”, together with Ma Desheng and other six artists. The group disbanded in 1983, yet Ai participated in regular Stars group shows, *The Stars: Ten Years*, 1989 (Hanart Gallery, Hong Kong and Taipei), and a retrospective exhibition in Beijing in 2007: *Origin Point* (Today Art Museum, Beijing).

Wang Keping

Permalink: <http://n2t.net/ark:/99166/w6769k0h>

SNAC ID: 54465649

Rationale: In 1978, Ai was one of the founders of the early avant garde art group the “Stars”, together with Wang Keping and other six artists. The group disbanded in 1983, yet Ai participated in regular Stars group shows, *The Stars: Ten Years*, 1989 (Hanart Gallery, Hong Kong and Taipei), and a retrospective exhibition in Beijing in 2007: *Origin Point* (Today Art Museum, Beijing).

Li Shuang

Permalink: <http://n2t.net/ark:/99166/w6x645fp>

SNAC ID: 40347745

Rationale: In 1978, Ai was one of the founders of the early avant garde art group the “Stars”, together with Li Shuang and other six artists. The group disbanded in 1983, yet Ai participated in regular Stars group shows, *The Stars: Ten Years*, 1989 (Hanart Gallery, Hong Kong and Taipei), and a retrospective exhibition in Beijing in 2007: *Origin Point* (Today Art Museum, Beijing).

Lu Qing

Permalink: <http://n2t.net/ark:/99166/w67h2jxn>

SNAC ID: 51574495

Rationale: Ai is married to artist Lu Qing.

Bruce Dorfman

Permalink: <http://n2t.net/ark:/99166/w66x1xcg>

SNAC ID: 55308514

Rationale: Ai attended the Art Students League of New York from 1983 to 1986, where he studied with Bruce Dorfman, Knox Martin and Richard Pousette-Dart.

Knox Martin

Permalink: <http://n2t.net/ark:/99166/w6fr0gt0>

SNAC ID: 6145321

Rationale: Ai attended the Art Students League of New York from 1983 to 1986, where he studied with Bruce Dorfman, Knox Martin and Richard Pousette-Dart.

Richard Pousette-Dart

Permalink: <http://n2t.net/ark:/99166/w67m10k6>

SNAC ID: 47973412

Rationale: Ai attended the Art Students League of New York from 1983 to 1986, where he studied with Bruce Dorfman, Knox Martin and Richard Pousette-Dart.

Allen Ginsberg

Permalink: <http://n2t.net/ark:/99166/w64q7thm>

SNAC ID: 71468702

Rationale: Ai befriended beat poet Allen Ginsberg while living in New York, following a chance meeting a poetry reading where Ginsberg read out several poems about China. Ginsberg had traveled to China and met with Ai's father, the noted poet Ai Qing, and consequently Ginsberg and Ai became friends.

Marcel Duchamp

Permalink: <http://n2t.net/ark:/99166/w61836dw>

SNAC ID: 54154794

Rationale: Ai dropped out of school after 1986 and made a living out of drawing street portraits and working odd jobs. During this period, he gained exposure to the works of Marcel Duchamp, Andy Warhol, and Jasper Johns, and began creating conceptual art by altering ready made objects.

Andy Warhol

Permalink: <http://n2t.net/ark:/99166/w6z60pnc>

SNAC ID: 16398848

Rationale: Ai dropped out of school after 1986 and made a living out of drawing street portraits and working odd jobs. During this period, he gained exposure to the works of Marcel Duchamp, Andy Warhol, and Jasper Johns, and began creating conceptual art by altering ready made objects.

Jasper Johns

Permalink: <http://n2t.net/ark:/99166/w6bv7gqd>

SNAC ID: 18555001

Rationale: Ai dropped out of school after 1986 and made a living out of drawing street portraits and working odd jobs. During this period, he gained exposure to the works of Marcel Duchamp, Andy Warhol, and Jasper Johns, and began creating conceptual art by altering ready made objects.