

# **Sue Williams**

Senior Lecturer  
University of Wales Trinity Saint David  
Research Group: Fine Art

**Evidence Portfolio: *Open Books***

**Output Number: 2 of 2**

Output Code: WIRAD-UWTSD-SW02

Output Type Code: M

Output Description: Exhibition

Author: Williams, Sue

Year of Publication / Production: 2012

Location / Venue(s): Sanshang Museum of Contemporary Art Gallery, Hangzhou, China, and other venues (2014)

Media: Artist's folded paper book

Number of Works: 1



*OPEN BOOKS, 2012*

## **Research Context**

The *OPEN BOOKS* folding book was produced by Williams as part of her ongoing exploration of issues around the sexualisation of girls and young women and modes of communication between genders. Men and women communicate differently for reasons beyond their sexual differences and individual personalities; factors including cultures and traditions as well as backgrounds and upbringings are also potentially influential. Whilst social and sexual identity has formed an important backdrop to communication between genders within western culture, the status of women in Chinese culture has traditionally been considered inferior to that of men. The current gender imbalance resulting from the preference for male children in relation to China's policy restricting couples to one child is an additional factor affecting the male-female communications.

## **Research Imperatives**

Williams developed the *OPEN BOOKS* project to address the following questions:

How is communication between men and women in China different to communication between the sexes in western culture; and how do Chinese women relate to their own femininity and sexuality within a state of gender unbalance, particularly when confronted by their counterparts in western culture? The work explores this key theme through the traditional Chinese format of the folding and expanding book.

## **Project Methods**

Williams used a range of sources for the book, including imagery from western magazines and publications and using advertising and 'street culture' images from China. She incorporated text as well as collage to inject a new dynamic into the Chinese folding book tradition.

## **Outcomes and Dissemination**

Williams' work *OPEN BOOKS* has been presented in the group touring exhibition *OPEN BOOKS PLUS* at the following venues:

- National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, Wales 30<sup>th</sup> June – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2012
- Sanshang Museum of Contemporary Art, Hangzhou, China, November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> 2013 as part of the Museum's annual *DECANTER INK* celebration

Williams has also been invited to present a talk associated with her work at The China Academy of Art, Hangzhou, supported by Wales Arts International funding to undertake workshops as part of her participation in the project.

Forthcoming exhibition tour dates are:

- 14<sup>th</sup> May – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014: Logan Art Gallery, Queensland, Australia

- July 2014: ADFA (Australian Defence Force Academy) Library, Canberra, Australian Capitol Territory, Australia
- April 2014: Hui Gallery, CUHK (Chinese University of Hong Kong), New Territories, Hong Kong

### **Publication**

The *OPEN BOOKS PLUS* touring exhibition is accompanied by the publication Husted M. ed. (2013) *OPEN BOOKS PLUS – CHINA: Artists and the Chinese Folding Book* with a foreword by Welsh poet Tony Curtis and essays by Frank Vigneron and Sanshang Museum of Contemporary Art curator Joe Zhu.



*OPEN BOOKS, 2012*





*OPEN BOOKS, 2012*

**OPEN BOOKS** 艺术家与他们的中国册页  
Artists and the Chinese Folding-book

2012-2013 杭州跨年展·醒墨  
December Inky Hangzhou Cross-year Exhibition 2013



时间：2013年10月—12月  
地点：中国·杭州·三尚当代艺术馆

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