

Wanxin Zhang



ART & EXHIBITS

Wanxin Zhang shares 'Long Journey' at Museum of Craft and Design

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Wanxin Zhang's "Teapot Without Handle" (2016) is more than 3 feet tall
.Photo: Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco

The sculptor Wanxin Zhang is prolific and, to judge from his recent exhibition record in the Bay Area, enormously popular. Catharine Clark Gallery's expansive recent exhibition closed in January. At **Sonoma Valley Museum of Art**, a show that had its start at the Santa Clara

University art gallery pairs his work with that of the great Richard Shaw through Sunday, April 7.

Now, San Francisco's Museum of Craft and Design is presenting "Wanxin Zhang: The Long Journey" through July 24.



Wanxin Zhang, "Foggy (Horse)" (2010). Photo: Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco

Don't hold his popularity against him, however. Zhang may be a descendant of such masters of monumental ceramic sculpture as Shaw, **Viola Frey**, Peter Voulkos and, above all, Robert Arneson, but he is a worthy heir. Like them, his skills are so extraordinary he can confidently violate every rule, turning that technical irreverence to humorous, polemical and artistic effect. Having come to the U.S. from China in his 30s as an already accomplished artist, he adds his own unique twist.

Zhang's "Teapot Without Handle" (2016), for example, is uselessly massive, at more than 3 feet high, and in form closer to landscape than to a functional vessel. An exhibition label offers the informational tidbit that interrogations by Chinese police often start with a shared cup of tea.

"Wanxin Zhang: The Long Journey": 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Through July 24. \$6-\$8; children 12 and

under free. Museum of Craft and Design, 2569 Third St., S.F. 415-773-0303. <https://sfmcd.org>



Wanxin Zhang, "Me Too' Panda" (2015). Photo: Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco