

## **CAI GUO-QIANG: GUNPOWDER ART**

25 October 2019–19 April 2020 | Chinese Paintings Gallery

---

Cai Guo-Qiang (b. 1957, Quanzhou, China) is, quite literally, one of the world's most ground-breaking artists. He is best known as the artistic director of the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympics where he treated awestruck viewers to possibly the greatest fireworks show in history. His practice ranges over painting and drawing, video, installation and performance, but in all disciplines he is known for pushing the boundaries of what is possible. This exhibition looks at experiments with his signature medium – gunpowder. Including pieces from the 1980s right up to the present, it explores Cai's cutting-edge work with traditional Chinese materials like paper, porcelain and silk. Coinciding with the Ashmolean's *Last Supper in Pompeii* exhibition, it also shows a selection of objects from one of his most recent projects made in the amphitheatre of Pompeii where a wooden boat, life-size reproductions of Roman sculptures, terracotta pots and glass dishes were sprinkled with black and coloured gunpowders and ignited in a spectacular display that lasted more than three minutes.

