



Signboard of Dazhen Institute of Chinese Studies(DICS)  
in the courtyard of the Imperial Library of Wenlan in

In 1980s, a group of artists and scholars from China Academy of Art(中國美術學院), Zhejiang University(浙江大學), Nankai University(南開大學) and Xiling Seal Art Society(西泠印社) came together to form an independent institution for Chinese art and culture studies that echoes to the Imperial Art Academy<sup>[3]</sup> founded by Emperor Gaozong(宋高宗) 800 years ago on the lakeside of Hangzhou(杭州).

In 1995, their vision was implemented by the establishment of Dazhen Institute of Chinese Studies(DICS) at the ruins of the Imperial Library of Wenlan(文瀾閣) on the island of Solitary Hill(孤山 (西湖)) as the predecessor of Wulin Academy. In 1997, as the archaeological excavation at the Imperial Library of Wenlan began<sup>[4]</sup> and lack of research funding, the Institute moved out of the island and cooperated with the Government of Gongshu District to run Hushu Society of Art(HSA). Later in the same year, the members of the institute left HSA and became independent again as Meilan Society of Art(MSA) to do research and was financially self-sufficient in arts management. The influence of MSA had grown in art creation and Chinese studies as the MSA took efforts to rebuild the connection of the disintegrated Chinese civilization since New Culture Movement in mid 1910s and ten years' Cultural Revolution started from 1966. However in 1999 the government cancelled the MSA's license of arts management for 'political' reasons to suppress its independent studies<sup>[5]</sup>, the society struggled to survive under severe financial strain during that period and many of its members fled to Europe and America for extrication.

After four years' crisis, the MSA reserved on 13th May 2002 and was given a new name of Wulin Academy of Arts(WA) for Wulin(武林) as an ancient name of Hangzhou with puns to the meaning of strength and courage. On the year 2006, the academy moved its location to the shores of the West Lake from the foot of Mount Wu(吳山 (杭州)) and facing the Solitary Hill(孤山 (西湖)) across the lake that witnessed the tortuous history of Wulin Academy and its visions of the renaissance of Chinese culture.

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