



The End of Year

Date

2015

Primary Maker

Yun-Fei Ji

Medium

Ink and watercolor on Xuan paper, mounted on silk

Description

Like some of the other artwork in this section that explores the impact of modernization and industrialization on farming communities, Yun-Fei Ji's painting *The End of the Year* interrogates the seismic shifts that have resulted from China's transition from a predominantly agrarian to an increasingly urban society. Using traditional materials like ink and watercolor on Xuan paper mounted to silk, and seemingly traditional subject matter, Ji examines the impact of China's political and social policies through his works. This painting depicts pigs being slaughtered as offerings in preparation for the celebration of a prosperous Chinese New Year. This is a period when a large number of Chinese people travel from the cities where they live and work back to their home regions. In many cases, this is the only time of year when a city worker may be able to reunite with their family.

The End of the Year can be interpreted as a commentary on the

disruption of community, while also acknowledging that urban opportunities may help to alleviate poverty. Whether the viewer interprets this work as predominantly critical or not, Ji has stated that "ritual connects people and gives life meaning."

Dimensions

Sheet: 42 7/8 x 32 1/16 in. (108.9 x 81.4 cm) Frame: 44 1/4 x 33 3/4 x 1 1/4 in. (112.4 x 85.7 x 3.2 cm)