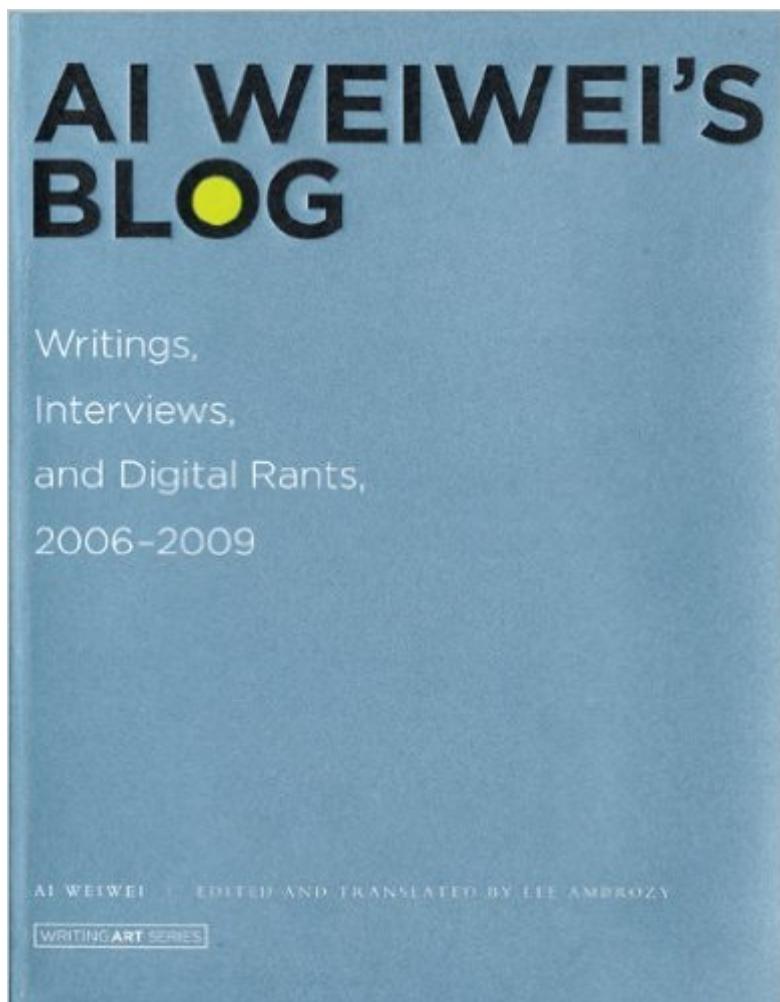


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# Ai Weiwei's Blog: Writings, Interviews, And Digital Rants, 2006-2009 (Writing Art)



## Synopsis

In 2006, even though he could barely type, China's most famous artist started blogging. For more than three years, Ai Weiwei turned out a steady stream of scathing social commentary, criticism of government policy, thoughts on art and architecture, and autobiographical writings. He wrote about the Sichuan earthquake (and posted a list of the schoolchildren who died because of the government's "tofu-dregs engineering"), reminisced about Andy Warhol and the East Village art scene, described the irony of being investigated for "fraud" by the Ministry of Public Security, made a modest proposal for tax collection. Then, on June 1, 2009, Chinese authorities shut down the blog. This book offers a collection of Ai's notorious online writings translated into English -- the most complete, public documentation of the original Chinese blog available in any language. The New York Times called Ai "a figure of Warholian celebrity." He is a leading figure on the international art scene, a regular in museums and biennials, but in China he is a manifold and controversial presence: artist, architect, curator, social critic, justice-seeker. He was a consultant on the design of the famous "Bird's Nest" stadium but called for an Olympic boycott; he received a Chinese Contemporary Art "lifetime achievement award" in 2008 but was beaten by the police in connection with his "citizen investigation" of earthquake casualties in 2009. Ai Weiwei's Blog documents Ai's passion, his genius, his hubris, his righteous anger, and his vision for China.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ai Weiwei's Blog is a collection of courageously honest rants. This book is also a sobering reminder

of the price some pay for testing the boundaries of expression in a country that fears freedom. He has now disappeared and in doing so has become more than an important contemporary artist, (see the Phaidon monograph for a good survey.) His detention is emblematic of China's stumble toward the inevitable. We should all be paying close attention.

A VERY revealing and diverse mix of essays, reflections and observations by the Chinese artist who was arrested and is still being "detained" w/out outside contact. Good insights into the mental and physical state of "modern" China as well as topics such as architecture, contemporary artists and art, politics, etc.

My interest in his blog truly centere on his post 2008 earthquake entries. As usual for him, there were entries which held much depth and insight. For me, the one drawback was that it takes some time to give the book the attention it deserves and I am always short on time. Some of the things he says are incredibly insightful. Certainly I see China more truly than I had before. I cannot believe that the government would redo the fronts of the homes on a street so that they all looked alike. Incredible Worthwhile.

The book arrived in perfect condition. New, clean and fast! The book itself is very interesting, but because the content is of a blog, thoughts are normally pretty disjointed between one blog post and another. Otherwise, great job!

Ai Wei Wei proves himself an very talented and powerful writer. His blogs are motivated by political rage but go far beyond it to involve the meaning of what it is to be human. Beautifully written and beautifully edited.

Honest and informal discussions about art, politics, and society. This is a revealing look at a Chinese dissident with a world view. Get it.

nice

Sellout < Ai WeiWei. NoSellout > Ai WeiWei. NoSellout = Ai WeiWei. YesSellout + Ai WeiWei = money with no heart or soul.

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