

## **Ian Boyden Bio** (370 words)

**Ian Boyden** is a visual artist, translator, and writer. Consistent across his productions are an intense interest in material relevance, place-based thought, and ecology, with a deep awareness of East Asian aesthetics. He studied for several years in China and Japan, and ultimately received degrees in the History of Art from Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT) and Yale University. His work is interdisciplinary, and collaborations have involved a variety of scientists, poets, composers, and other visual artists.

Boyden's art often links the literary, material, and visual imaginations, paying keen attention to how his work can shape ecological awareness. Boyden makes his own paints and inks from unusual materials such as meteorites, shark teeth, freshwater pearls, and carbon sourced from the aftermath of forest fires. He selects materials to establish a direct link between them and the subjects of his paintings, establishing a new form of material translation. His work has been exhibited widely, including a recent solo exhibition at the I.M. Pei designed Suzhou Museum. His books and paintings are found in many public collections including Reed College, Stanford University, the Portland Art Museum, and the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Boyden is also a speaker, writer, translator, and curator. While serving as Director of the Sheehan Gallery at Whitman College (1998–2007), he curated numerous exhibitions exploring diverse subjects including contemporary artists of the Northwest, Chinese calligraphy and scholars stones, genetic imaging, and climate change. Pursuing his interest in human rights, he has worked with two Chinese dissident writers and artists, Tsering Woeser and Ai Weiwei. In 2016, Boyden curated the exhibition *Ai Weiwei: Fault Line*, which led to his current manuscript of poems "A Forest of Names." His translations of Woeser's poems have appeared on several human rights and Tibetan cultural websites, including Radio Free Asia, Invisible Tibet, and High Peaks Pure Earth. He has authored and co-authored several books and essays including *The Tables of Jupiter: Graphic Work by Timothy C. Ely* (2004), *Reflections on Forgotten Surfaces: The Calligraphy of Hua Rende* (2005), and *Roots of Clouds, Transcendence of Stones* (2006). In 2011, Boyden returned to China to research the history and production of carbon inks for a forthcoming book. He currently lives on San Juan Island in Washington State.

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