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SEPTEMBER 18, 2013

AGO EXHIBIT: AI WEIWEI: ACCORDING TO WHAT?



If you haven't seen Ai Weiwei's 12 sculpture series, "Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads", at City Hall yet, it's worth checking out before they're taken down on the September 22nd. Weiwei has reinterpreted the bronze animals once displayed on the Chinese fountain-clock zodiac of the YuanmingYuan. Toronto will be the ONLY Canadian city to feature the sculptures. The sculptures are a preview of the Art Gallery of Ontario's upcoming exhibit, *Ai Wei Wei: According to What?* (<http://www.ago.net/aiweiwei/>), which runs until October 27th.

Ai Weiwei is said to be one of the most provocative and influential artists in the world today. He is also a social activist and outspoken critic of his domestic government. He has risked his life to create global awareness of the injustices in Chinese society. In 2011 he was incarcerated for 81 days that resulted in the confiscation of his passport making him unable to leave his country.

This artwork is special because it is his first major public series and it's a privilege for Toronto to host such an exclusive collection of art. Unfortunately Weiwei will never get the chance to see his work displayed around the world. Symbolically, the zodiacs are on display to the public at Nathan Phillips Square under the Freedom Arches.

On September 5th, AGO First Thursdays consisted of a live video chat with Ai Weiwei, you can watch the video of this event [here](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HulbggnwOf4) (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HulbggnwOf4>).



<http://swovv.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Aiweiwei-Gao-Yuan-370.jpg>

Ai Weiwei



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