

# The Ethics of Animal Use in Contemporary Art

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Shou Tian Shah  
Artist/Curator/Scholar

## Introduction

Shou Tian Shah (Dhaneshwar Shah) is an International artist, curator and research scholar. He successfully completed Advanced Research in “New Media Art and Chinese Traditional Art” from China Academy of Art, Hangzhou. His artwork strongly influenced by the Tribal and Aboriginal art and its Philosophy, Technique, and Form, which the artist believes to be pure and entirely authentic. These influences can be seen in his artworks through a combination of dotted lines, thick outlines, bright and flat colors, humor, repetition of forms forging a distinct in language and techniques. He emphasized was on how one can be inspired by tradition and how can be given a new direction to art through new experiments.

Artist mostly uses the animal form as a vehicle for his narrative focusing towards the many issues pertaining to it, with animal fighting for their lives around the world. He feels the human species ought to treat them with dignity and offer them rights to freedom and life with an immediate stop put to using them for food, clothing, experimentation, and entertainment.

## Research Aim and Significance

“Use of Animal in Contemporary Art” is the source and theme of this research proposal. This study will deliver assessments of masterful intercession into the topic of standardized viciousness against animals and the morals of the utilization of animals in contemporary art. Contemporary

art has entered a phase where the animals have been dishonored to the status as of simple art as aesthetic material or object in increasingly varied form. The utilization of alive and dead animal in physical form by the artists become wildly popular.

## **Research Questions**

The contemporary artists are performing distinctive types of the experiment by employing in their art with animals, so there is an ethical dilemma with use of animals as an object in the name of contemporary art; the goal of this research is the absolute elimination of animal suffering for experiments in contemporary art.

The artist tried to investigate the following questions through his research:

- Examining the use of animals in artworks ethically objectionable
- Examining the contemporary art practices concerning either live or dead animal ethics in artwork
- Examining the aesthetical and philosophical inquiry, concerned with the question of animal rights

## **Research Methods**

This research is primarily based on analytical and comparative study. The research will be

Investigated by various methodologies such as:

- Formal, Visual or Stylistic Analysis
- Iconographic, Iconological or Semiotic Analysis
- Psychological Analysis

## **Research Outcomes**

This research will provide great inside how artist get associated in the use of animals in their artistic experiments and impact of their action in the lives of the animals. The affirmation of moral considerations when working with the animal is a significant initial action not only in contemporary art, however in all parts of life. This research is an effort to educate artists, art historians, and society on ethics of the use of animals in art.

*Note: References used from different Journals and Publication such as Lipeng Jin, Anthony Cross, Rikke Hansena, Amy L. Mitchell etc.*



Cai Guo-Qiang, Head On,  
installation at Deutsche Guggenheim, 2006



Damien Hirst, A Thousand Years, Damien Hirst, 1991



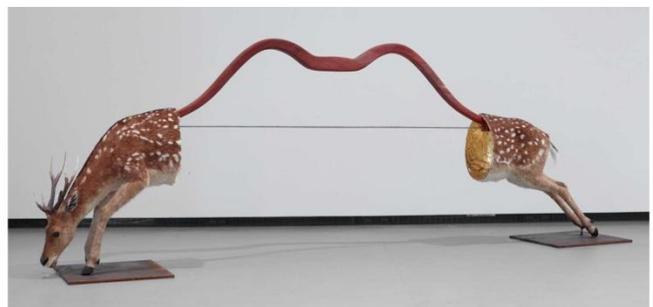
Untitled by Pierre Huyghe



Nicholas Galanin's "Inert," 2009



Spurts V, Angela Singer, 2018



Huang Yong Ping, L'Arc de saint-Gilles, 2015