Cai Guo-Qiang

NATIONALITY  Chinese
LIFE DATES   Quanzhou, Fujian, China 1957 -

Cai Guo-Qiang was born in Quanzhou, Fujian Province in China, the son of an historian and a painter. He studied stage design at the Shanghai Drama School and spent nearly a decade living in Japan. He now maintains studios in both New York City and Beijing. He has exhibited internationally in both East and West, and his work is represented in the collections of major contemporary museums world-wide.

Cai’s works include sculptures and installations, and incorporate references to Chinese medicine, feng shui, landscape painting, gardens, and traditional narratives. His work has received many honors, including the grand prize at the 48th Venice Biennale. In 2008, he was given a major retrospective exhibition at the Guggenheim Museum in New York (and which traveled to the Guggenheim in Bilbao, Spain). He was a member of the artist team that designed the glorious opening and closing ceremonies for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.