My Life as an Art Soldier in Mao's China: Art and Politics

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Abstract:
The author narrates how in Mao's China his personal experience took unexpected turns when China dramatically transformed politically, economically, and culturally, and how in reacting to these overwhelming changes he evolved from the role of artist to student activist, businessman, political prisoner and academic. The article focuses on the relationship between art and politics in Mao's China and how the two evolved into what the author characterizes as "market communism" in today's China.

Keywords:
Mao's China, art and politics, market communism

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