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**Davis Museum and Cultural Center Receives  
International Association of Art Critic Awards:**

**First Place for Best Installation and  
First Place for Best Thematic Museum Show  
in a Museum, New England**

**Wellesley, MA** —The Davis Museum and Cultural Center at Wellesley College received the First Place Award for Best Thematic Museum Show in the Boston Area at the Fifth Annual AICA/New England awards ceremony for their Spring '06 exhibition *On the Edge: Contemporary Chinese Artists Encounter the West*. The Davis also received First Place for Best Installation or Single Work of Art in a Museum, New England, for the site-specific installation *Xu Bing: Any Opinions?*.

Featuring experimental work from the 1980's through 2004 by 12 of China's leading avant-garde artists, *On the Edge: Contemporary Chinese Artists Encounter the West* explored the Chinese artists' position in a West-centric global art world, and China's political situation in regard to the West. The exhibition aimed to replace old assumptions concerning China's contemporary art with a fresh appreciation of its form and substance and of its interconnectedness with the international art world. **On the Edge** was curated by Britta Erickson. The Wellesley venue was organized by the Davis Museum's Anja Chavez, Curator of Contemporary Art/Curator of Exhibitions.

Known for his provocative and politically controversial language-based work, contemporary Chinese artist Xu Bing's installation, *Xu Bing: Any Opinions?*, was presented in conjunction with *On the Edge* and organized by Chavez.

Each year the United States Section of the International Association of Art Critics invites its nearly 400 members to vote for the best exhibitions created during that season as a way to acknowledge the important efforts of artists, in recognition of the exceptional work contributed by artists, curators, and dealers in the field of the visual arts. These prestigious annual awards are the art-world's equivalent to those given each year by the New York Film Critics Society, the Drama Desk and the Academy of Motion Pictures awards.

The 2006-2007 AICA New England awards ceremony was held on Wednesday, February 28, 2007 at The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and hosted by the Director AICA New England, Francine Koslow Miller, with guest Arthur Dion, Director of Gallery NAGA and President of BADA (Boston Association of Art Dealers).

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### **Davis Museum and Cultural Center**

The museum's collection spans the history of art from ancient Greece to the present, with nearly 10,000 objects of diverse cultures and media.

The Davis Museum and Cultural Center is closed to Fall 2007 for repairs and will reopen on Wednesday, September 19 with an opening reception for *Global Feminisms* -- a large-scale international survey of cutting edge, contemporary art of 40 artists most under the age of 40. Along with *Global Feminisms*, the Davis will feature "Don't Look." *Drawings from an Alumna's Collection* (Martina Yamin, class of 1958), and Phase I of the reinstallation of the permanent collection.

For more information visit [www.davismuseum.wellesley.edu](http://www.davismuseum.wellesley.edu)

