The book is not a product of the academic library only but comes from my personal experience in both practical and academic life, in China and in the States, over the last three decades. I am very grateful to the people who have supported my work during this time.

The book draws on my research work of the 1980s, including the book *Zhongguo dangdai meishushi 1985–1986*, coauthored by myself, Zhou Yan, Wang Xiaojian, Shu Qun, Wang Mingxian, and Tong Dian. I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the collaboration of these colleagues, as noted in detail in the following chapters.

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