

China / Politics

'Tank Man' statue rises in California desert park as democracy activists and Tiananmen survivors gather to mourn and remember

- Chinese sculptor Chen Weiming is a driving force behind annual anniversary events as well as the park, which he bought with fellow activists in 2015
- The US 'is the world's original example of the struggle for freedom and democracy', says Chen, explaining the American symbolism throughout the ceremony

Eileen Guo [+ FOLLOW](#)

Published: 6:28am, 5 Jun, 2019

[Why you can trust SCMP](#)

Tiananmen Square crackdown 30th anniversary

[+ FOLLOW](#)

Get more with myNEWS

A personalised news feed of stories that matter to you.

[Learn more](#)

TOP PICKS

Volunteerism at heart of HSBC's long-term philanthropic efforts

Paid Post: HSBC



News

China should draw lesson from downing of US drone, expert says

7 May 2023



News

1MDB scandal: banker's ex-wife says US\$93 million belongs to her

7 May 2023



This Week in Asia

'Extreme weather events': Asia set for supercharged heat as El Nino looms

7 May 2023



News

China says aircraft carrier group handled foreign reconnaissance 'prudently'

6 May 2023



1.5k

- Facebook
- Twitter
- WhatsApp
- Telegram
- LinkedIn
- Reddit
- StumbleUpon
- Next Issue
- Print
- Share



Chen Weiming's statue stands with a rendering of a Chinese tank in a sculpture park in Yermo, California. Photo: Eileen Guo

For an event marking a dark moment of modern Chinese history, there were a striking number of American flags.

One of them was wrapped tightly around the star of the show, a 2,000-pound statue of "Tank Man," the unknown Beijing resident captured in the most iconic photo of the time, single-handedly staring down a column of tanks, grocery bags in hand.

On Monday, around 300 people descended on Liberty Sculpture Park in Yermo, California, a 36-acre strip of sand and sagebrush on the south side of the I-15 freeway halfway between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, for the unveiling of the Tank Man sculpture in front of a replica tank, hastily built in just 10 days.

Become a subscriber to access past articles

The must-reads you missed; deep-dive into our past features and analysis.

RECOMMENDED

1-YEAR [SAVE 27%](#)