

Curating is making connections and...

My curatorial experience

Presented by Yan Zhou, curator-in-residence

In: 9540/9543 Graduate Studio Seminar, Visual Arts, Western University.

Professor: Christof Migone

September 18, 2025

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<https://www.cacnart.com/>

<https://utoronto.academia.edu/yanzhou>

I love:

People and the world

Being a mother

Cooking

Gardening

Poetry and language

and curating

For me, curating is:

- ✓ Learning
- ✓ Exploring something together with...
- ✓ Creating encounters
- ✓ Making connections

Curating responds to:

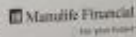
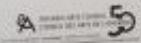
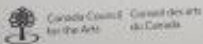
- Questions and curiosities
 - Social issues and concerns
 - Art creations and expectations for art
 - Invitations
 - Communities
-
- I work with artists at various stages of their careers—senior, mid-career, and emerging—as well as with students, amateurs, mavericks, and the general public.
 - I collaborate with a variety of institutions, independent spaces, art collectives, and grassroots societies.

THROUGH THE BODY

LENS-BASED WORKS BY CONTEMPORARY CHINESE WOMEN ARTISTS
CHEN ZHE, CHUN HUA CATHERINE DONG, FAN XI, FANG LU, JIN HUA,
LADYBIRD THEATRE, LEI BENBEN, LI XINMO, MA QIUSHA, YE FUNA



A primary exhibition of the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival
Organized by UTAC and CONTACT
Curated by Matthew Brower, Fu Xiaodong, Yan Zhou



The first important exhibition co-curated:

Through the Body: Lens-Based Works by Contemporary Chinese Women Artists.

Co-Curators: Yan Zhou, Matthew Brower, and Fu Xiaodong.

A primary exhibition of 2014 Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival.
The University of Toronto Art Center, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. 2014.

Artists include Chen Zhe, Chun Hua Catherine Dong, Fan Xi, Fang Lu, Jin Hua, Ladybird Theatre, Lei Benben, Li Xinmo, Ma Qiusha, and Ye Funa.

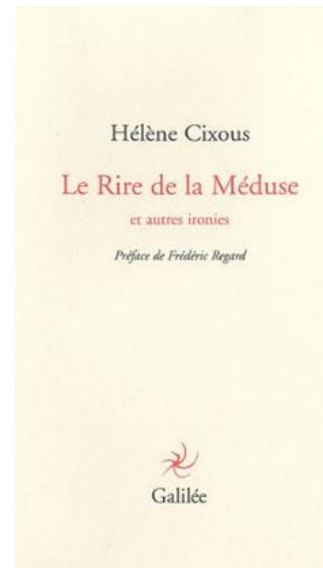
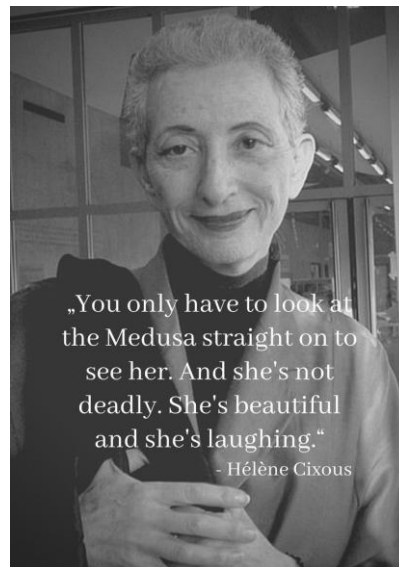


Responding to a social issue: women's expression and feminism.

A social topic: Guo Meimei (Chinese: 郭美美; born 15 June 1991), is a Chinese internet celebrity nicknamed Queen of the Fuedais (second-generation rich Chinese). She was involved in several scandals and crimes, particularly related to the corruption in the Red Cross Society of China, and also Illegal casinos, prostitution, and drug trafficking.

Some of my Chinese friends responded to the scandal: the Chinese women were enjoying great sexual freedom; they were using their sex to take advantage of men.

I was reading and translating Hélène Cixous's *The Laugh of the Medusa*, and Clarice Lispector.



Through The Body: Lens-Based Works by Contemporary Chinese Women Artists

Chen Zhe, Chun Hua Catherine Dong, Fang Lu, Fan Xi, Jin Hua, Ladybird Theatre, Lei Benben, LI Xinmo, Ma Qiusha, Ye Funa

Over the past three decades, Chinese contemporary art has had a profound impact on the international art world. Yet, outside of China, this impact has been predominantly encountered through the work of male artists. *Through the Body* brings together the recent work of a number of Chinese women artists and artist collectives from two generations, based both inside and outside of China. Focusing on lens-based practices, the exhibition is structured by the Chinese concept of *Ti Shi*, learning through bodily experience. The artists in the exhibition evoke this idea in their work by reflecting on and transforming their personal situations, experiences, and bodies to speak to the broader social and political situations they inhabit. The works explore issues related to family, sexuality, reproduction, cultural legacies, and social expectations, while examining the tensions between the new possibilities opened up by China's political reforms, rapid economic growth, intense urbanization and industrialization, and the residues of tradition. By making visible their desires and exposing the contradictions they encounter in trying to occupy continuously shifting gender roles, these artists offer a vision of an emerging range of contemporary Chinese femininities.

Chen Zhe's photographic series *The Bearable* (2007–2010) is a sometimes ethereal and sometimes violent engagement with corporeality. The *Body/Wound* images in the series range from abject close-ups of wounds, scars, clumps of hair, and bloodstains, to glamorized close-ups of her lips and eyes. By documenting her self-harm practices, the artist makes her internal struggles with depression publically visible in order to allow personal healing. An exploration of the blurring of physical and psychic limits, her often brutally explicit photographs of her wounds and scars present a challenge to the idea of the feminine as fragile and delicate. The out-of-focus *Gir/friend (se.f.portrait)* works from the series highlight the gap between ideals of femininity and corporeal experience. Taken as a whole, *The Bearable* reveals the tensions felt by many young Chinese women as they try to forge an independent identity.

Chun Hua Catherine Dong's performance-based piece *Husbands and I* (2010) is a response by a recent Canadian immigrant to the Western fascination with Asian female sexuality. The work is staged as a deliberate provocation in which Dong presents herself as an Asian bride searching for a Western husband. Photographs depict the artist partnered with random strangers on the streets of Vancouver as she poses in traditional garb and acts as their one-minute wife. A video documents a series of day-long performances where she adopts the role of a fantasy mail-order Chinese bride with a series of partners found through online personal ads. Taking up the stereotypes projected onto her, Dong puts her body on the line to humorously make visible the political constraints that shape her identity in her new home.

Fang Lu's four-channel video piece *Lovers Are Artists (Part 1)* (2012) is inspired by Roland Barthes' comparison of artistic creativity and the experience of love in his book *A Lovers Discourse*. The stop-motion silent videos follow a young woman as she re-imagines her relationship to life in the city. Wandering the traditional side streets of Beijing, the woman goes grocery shopping (an act often associated with feminine activity) but then, beginning with playing hopscotch with scallion pancakes, lightheartedly engages with the foodstuffs on the city streets. In doing so, she finds new ways of relating to the environment by linking the experience of love and the expression of creativity. Her rewriting of the city's psychogeography speaks to the possibilities for reinvention open to young women.

Fan Xi's series *Up Front* (2011–14) explores the performance of gender and sexuality through its presentation of "butch" lesbian women. The portraits are a collaboration between the artist and her subjects, women who take on masculinized personas. The women present themselves to the camera and the viewer as active participants in their representation. Their half-nakedness is both an embrace of women's vulnerability and exposure of their private selves, and a partial stripping away of the costumes through which they perform their identity. The series is intimate



Organized with the University
of Toronto Art Centre

Curated by Matthew Brower,
Fu Xiaodong, Yan Zhou

University of Toronto Art Center
April 29 – June 28
Opening Thu May 15
Tue–Fri 12–5pm, Wed 12–8pm,
Sat 12–4pm
15 King's College Circle
416.946.9687
www.uafac.utoronto.ca



FAN XI, UP FRONT (2011-14).
PHOTO BY TONI HAFKENSCHIED



Ladybird Theatre, *Riding a Roller Coaster, Flying into the Future*, 2013. Video still.

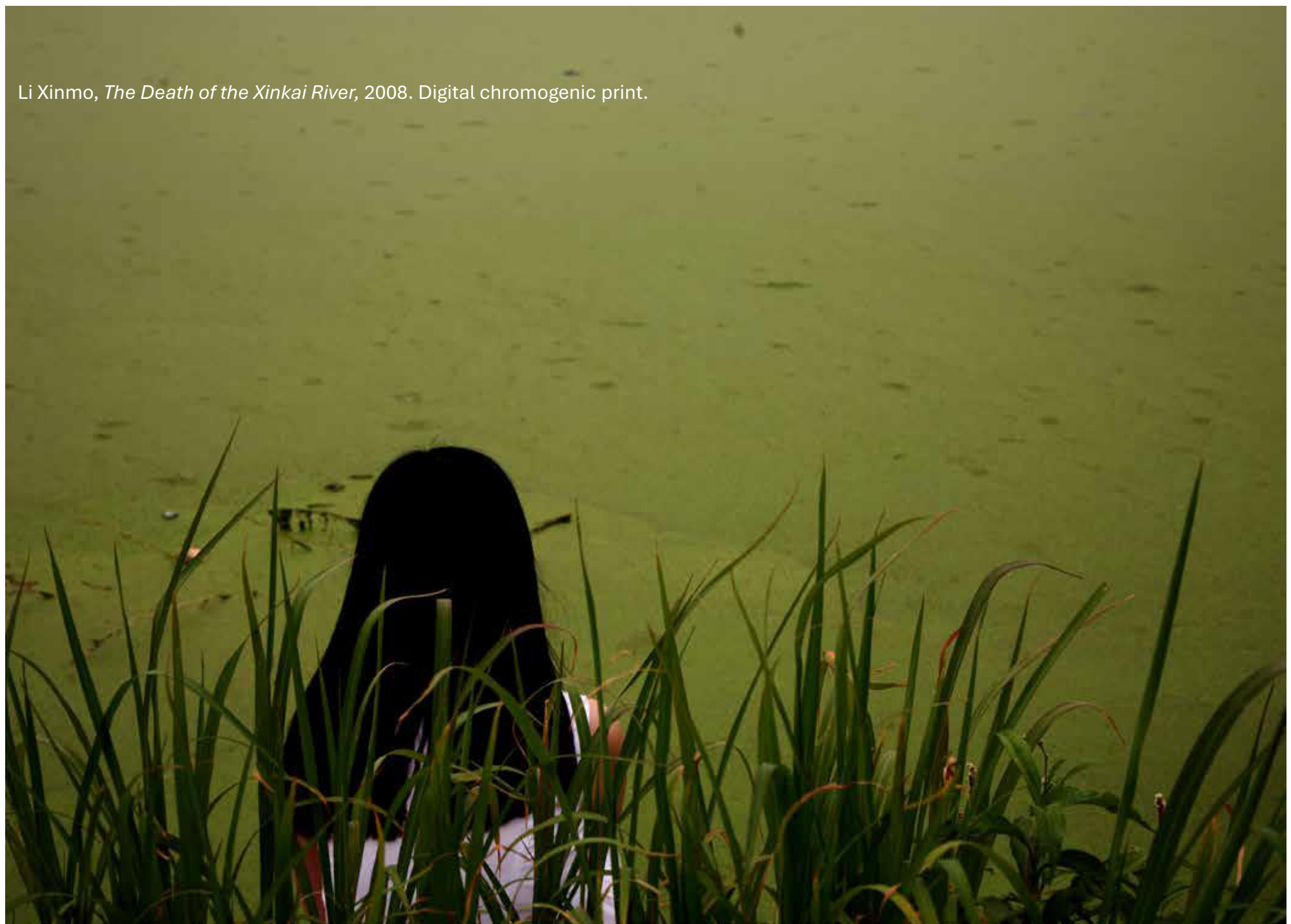


Chun Hua Catherine Dong, *Husbands and I*, 2010. Digital chromogenic print.
Photo: Ruth Skinner and Chad Dumford.



Fang Lu, *Lovers Are Artists (Part 1)*, 2012. Video still.

Li Xinmo, *The Death of the Xinkai River*, 2008. Digital chromogenic print.





Lei Benben, *Leopard*, 2009. Video still

加拿大艺术中人与风景的改造
THE TRANSFORMATION OF CANADIAN LANDSCAPE ART
INSIDE & OUTSIDE OF BEING

The Transformation of Canadian Landscape Art: the Inside & Outside of Being

Curators: Zhou Yan, Yang Chao
Assistant Curator: Christine Platt
Academic Consultant: Dr. Mark A. Cheetham

Artists:
Michael Snow, Iain Baxter&, Edward Burtynsky, Wanda Koop, Rebecca Belmore
Ed Pien, Gu Xiong, Bonnie Devine, Robert Youds, Andy Patton, Jamelie Hassan, Ron
Benner, Isabelle Hayeur, Jean-François Côté, Andrew Wright, and Gearshifting
Performance Works.

Xi'an Art Museum, Xi'an, China, August 10, 2014-September 20, 2014
Today Art Museum, Beijing, China, January 31, 2015-March 8, 2015

2015.1.31-3.8
北京今日美术馆1号馆3-4层, 2号馆1层
3/F & 4/F of Building No.1, 1/F of Building No.2
Beijing Today Art Museum

策展人: 杨超 周扬
助理策展人: 克里斯蒂·普拉特
驻地策展人: 游敏珊
西安美术馆协调人: 舒阳 郝伊
学术顾问: 马克·切西姆博士

Curators: Yang Chao, Zhou Yan
Assistant Curator: Christine Platt
In House Curator: Daphne You
Xi'an Art Museum Coordinator: Shu Yang, Hao Yi
Academic Consultant: Dr. Mark A. Cheetham

迈克尔·斯诺 Michael Snow	邦妮·迪文 Bonnie Devine
伊恩·巴克斯特 IAIN BAXTER&	边亦中 Ed Pien
爱德华·伯廷斯基 Edward Burtynsky	罗伯特·尤兹 Robert Youds
旺达·库珀 Wanda Koop	伊莎贝尔·海厄尔 Isabelle Hayeur
安迪·巴顿 Andy Patton	詹建志 Jean-François Côté
丽贝卡·贝尔莫尔 Rebecca Belmore	安德鲁·莱特 Andrew Wright
杰米莉·哈桑 Jamelie Hassan	顾雄 Gu Xiong
罗恩·本纳 Ron Benner	乔安娜·贝里杰舞蹈团 Jolene Bailie Gearshifting Performance

加拿大文化局 Canada 国家文化局



《中央地带》
迈克尔·斯诺
放映厅请走这边



放映时间：
8月10日16:00-19:00
8月12日至9月21日，每天下午14:00-17:00
放映地点：西安美术馆二楼学术报告厅



The connection with and the departure from the Group of Seven and Canadian dominant landscape tradition



Michael Snow, *La Région Centrale*, Michael Snow, 16mm film (transferred to HD video), colour, sound, (190:44 minutes), 1971

Other works exhibited:

Condensation (A Cove Story), video installation, Blu-ray loop, colour, silent, (10:28 minutes), projection (dimensions variable), edition of 4 and one AP, 2009, Collections of CNAP (France), McIntosh Gallery (London, ON), Sisita Soldevila and Yves Gevaert.

In the Way, DVD video loop, colour, silent, (23:10 minutes), projection on floor, (maximum dimensions 3.6 x 2.7 meters), edition of 4 with one AP, 2011, Collections of the National Gallery of Canada and Jerry Speyer.



Andrew Wright, After Kurelek, Andrew Wright, diptych, chromogenic print, (overall 150 x 400cm), 2013.



Media, technology,
industrialization and
urbanization
encroached life and
landscape



Iain Baxter&.

One Canada, IAIN BAXTER&,
installation with video, car,
projection on windshield, 1992.

Television Works, 2014, acrylic
paint on reclaimed televisions,
(dimensions variable), 2014.



Installation view. Today Art Museum. Beijing, China. 2015.

Rebecca Belmore, *Perimeter*, video, cinematography and editing by Darlene Naponse, music by Julian Cote, produced by Pine Needle Productions, (22:50 minutes), 2013.

Edward Burtynsky, *Xiaolangdi Dam #3, Yellow River, Henan Province, China*, mounted print (121.92 x 147.32cm), 2011; *Alberta Oil Sands #14, Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada*, mounted print, (121.92 x 147.32cm), 2007.



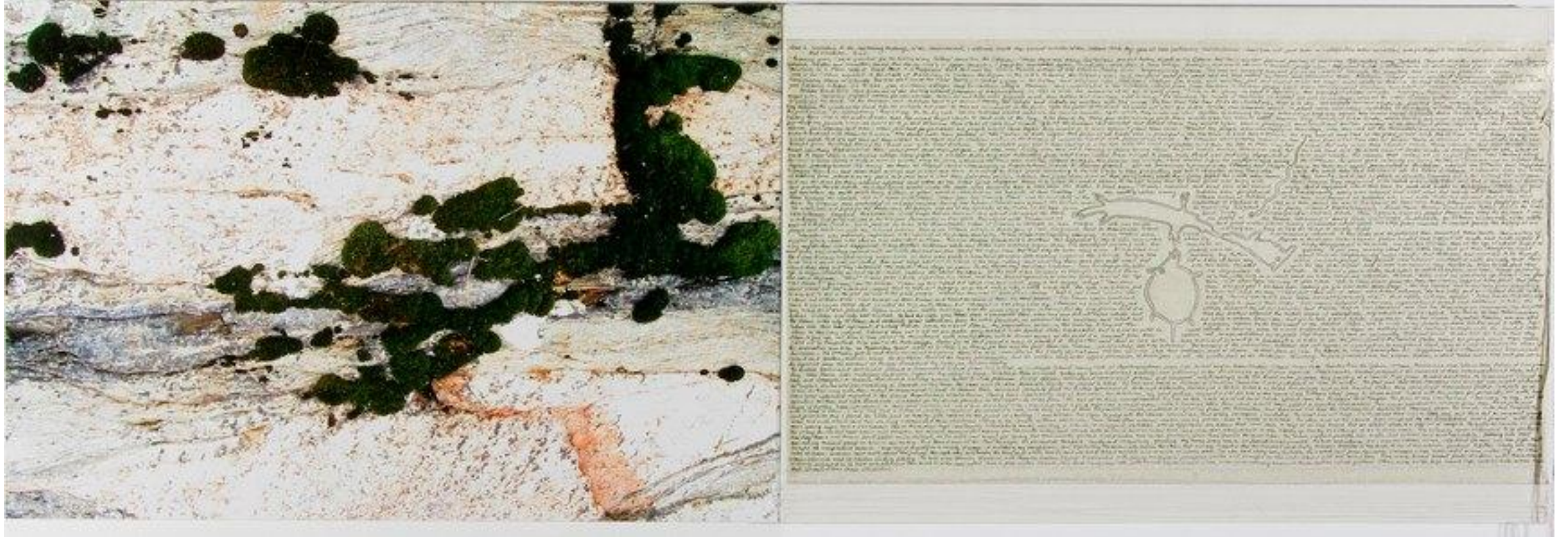
Wanda Koop, Brilliant Orange Screen, Wanda Koop, Hybrid Human series, acrylic on canvas, (293 x 405cm), 2010.

Gearshifting Performance Works. Hybrid Human Xian, dance around Wanda Koop's Brilliant Orange Screen, Jolene Bailie and Gearshifting Performance Works in collaboration with Wanda Koop, 2014.

Different relationship with the land, identity, perspectives of indigenous people and immigrants



Gu Xiong, Invisible in the Light, Gu Xiong, tomatoes and pins, (12 x 9 m), 2014.



Bonnie Devine. Letter to Sandy, Bonnie Devine, diptych, giclee print, graphite and cotton thread on paper (overall 76.2 x 121.92cm), 2008.

Connections of cultures



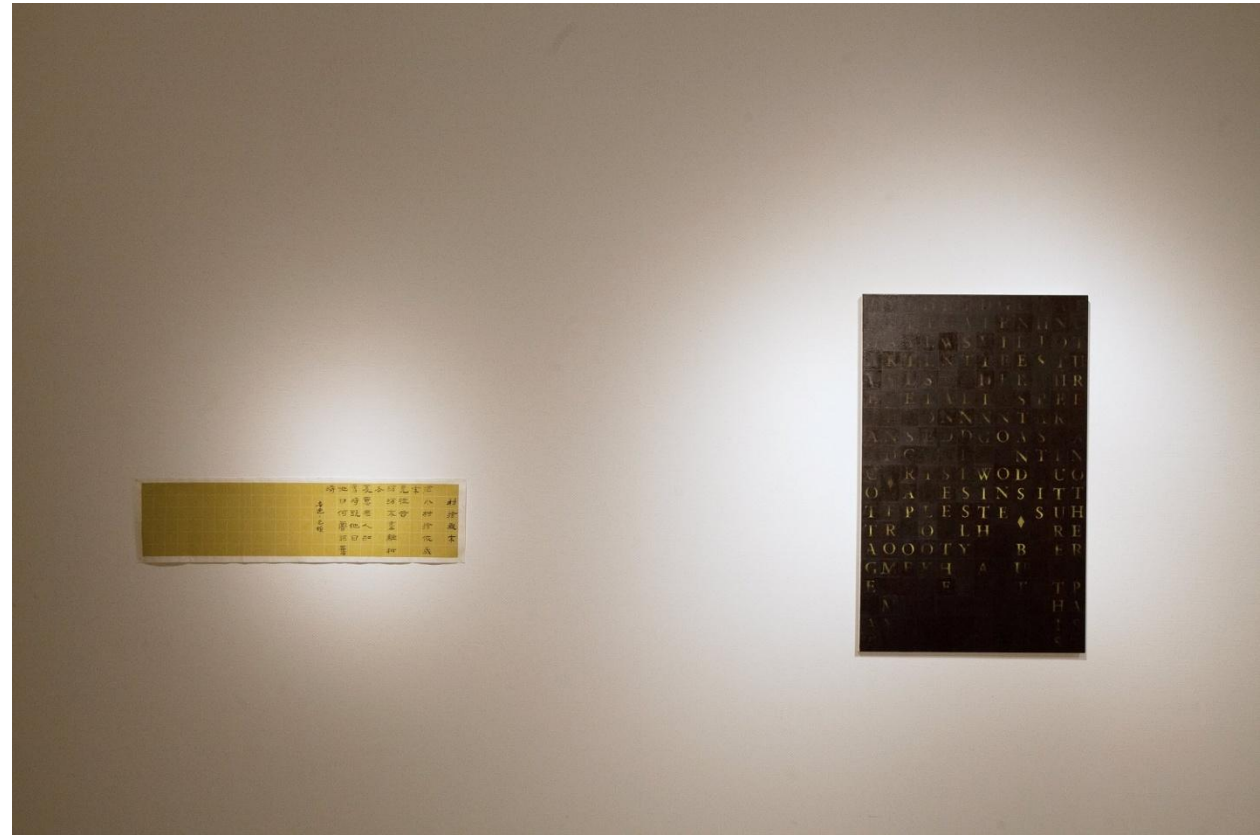
Jamelie Hassan, Nur (Qur'an, sura 24:35; "The Light Verse"), mixed media, site-specific installation including hand painted calligraphy ceiling panels inspired by 16th Century calligraphy from the central cupola of Hagia Sophia Mosque (Istanbul), and glass lamps from Cairo (Egypt), 2014, Collection of Great Mosque of Xian (donated by the artist with support from the Xian Art Museum).

Ron Benner, Trans/mission: Vectors, Ron Benner, mixed media photographic installation, 2014.



Andy Patton.

A Cottage at Year's End, Andy Patton, oil on canvas, (121.9 x 91.4cm), 2010.



Splendours of the Imperial Capital, Andy Patton, oil on canvas, (167.6 x 121.9cm), 2008, Collection of Doctors Ron and Alice Charach.



Ed Pien, *Revel*, Ed Pien, hand-cut mylar, video projection and sound element, (518.16cm diameter x 259.08cm high), 2011.

Breathing: A Project's Journey



Installation view. Hamilton Art Gallery. 2023

Two Initial Questions

How could Chinese and Canadian artists communicate with each other in work collaboration?

What do smog, pollution, climate crisis, Anthropocene, environment ethics, and etc. mean for people living in different "worlds" and on the same "earth/planet"?



Canadian artists' field research in Beijing, China, 2017



M'room

“M 的房间”艺术项目

M'room Art Project

THE BREATHING ROOM 呼吸的房间



Mireille Lavoie
Alexandre David

2017年11月4日下午3点
Time: 3:00pm, November 4, 2017

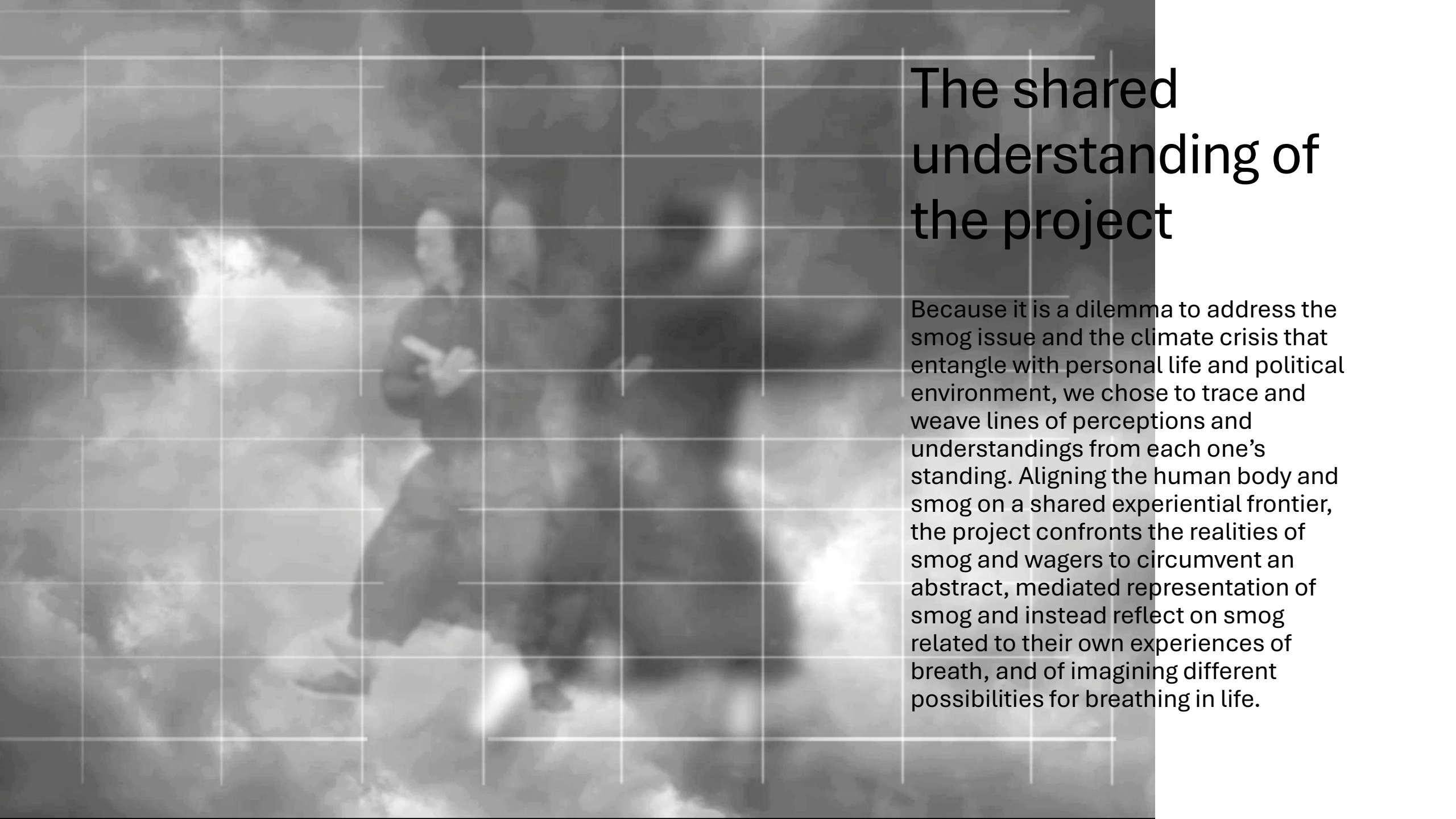
北京朝阳崔各庄鼎桥中心艺术幼儿园 Mstudio
Address: Mstudio, Hei qiao central kindergarten,
Cui Ge village, Chao Yang district, Beijing







Jean-François Côté, Smoke and Fog. Video installation. 2017-2023.

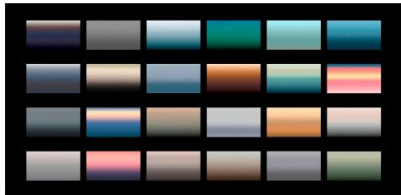


The shared understanding of the project

Because it is a dilemma to address the smog issue and the climate crisis that entangle with personal life and political environment, we chose to trace and weave lines of perceptions and understandings from each one's standing. Aligning the human body and smog on a shared experiential frontier, the project confronts the realities of smog and wagers to circumvent an abstract, mediated representation of smog and instead reflect on smog related to their own experiences of breath, and of imagining different possibilities for breathing in life.

Smog and global capitalism

Smog is not only an environmental problem; it is a result of failed and corrupted political, economic, and cultural systems. The appearance and movement of smog mirrors that of the global state-capitalism-techno mechanism: both beset the people. In their worst and most anarchical forms, smog and capitalism operate together, particularly in authoritarian countries.



Air pollution linked to 3.2 million new diabetes cases in one year
By Sandee LaMotte, CNN Updated 6:31 PM ET, Fri June 29, 2018



How deadly is air pollution?
By Sandee LaMotte, CNN Updated 6:31 PM ET, Fri June 29, 2018

AIR POLLUTION LINKED TO 3.2 MILLION NEW DIABETES CASES IN ONE YEAR
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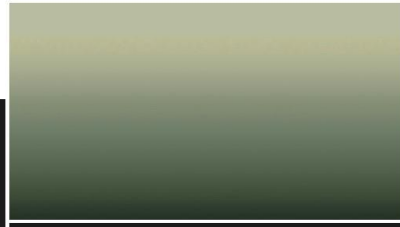
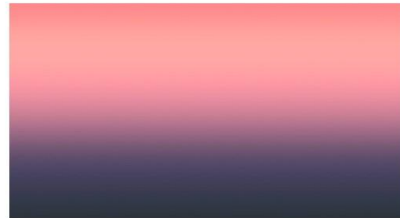


Air Pollution is Stealing a Year of Life From People Around the Globe
The particles that contribute to lung disease, strokes and heart attacks are killing thousands of a month and over 1.6 years of life expectancy



AIR POLLUTION IS 'BIGGEST ENVIRONMENT HEALTH RISK' IN EUROPE
Governments are failing to tackle the crisis that causes 1,000 early deaths a day, says damning EU report

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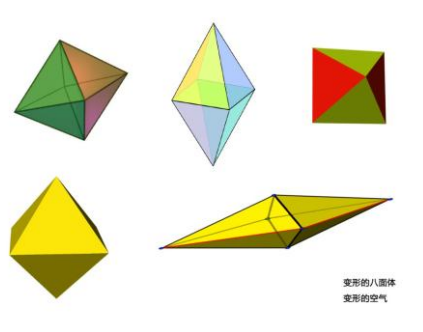


Hua Jin, The Color of The Air. Inkjet print on silk. Dimensions: 60 x 32 inch. 24 pieces in total, 4 pieces in the exhibition. 2018-2023.



Zhang Xiao, Shanxi. Archival ink jet print. Dimensions: 40" x 40" (1m x 1m). 2007.

Ren Jie, *Something Inside, Something in Between*. Sculpture installation, felt cloth, ultralight clay, metal grid, strings. Dimension: 200 x 115 x 30 cm. 2019.



aesthetic-ethical
reflections on the
counter-
correspondence of the
micro life systems and
the macro
environmental, political,
and cultural systems



Mireille Lavoie, Plants and Lungs. 2023. Ink on Paper. Dimensions: 640 cm x 254 cm. 2017-2023.

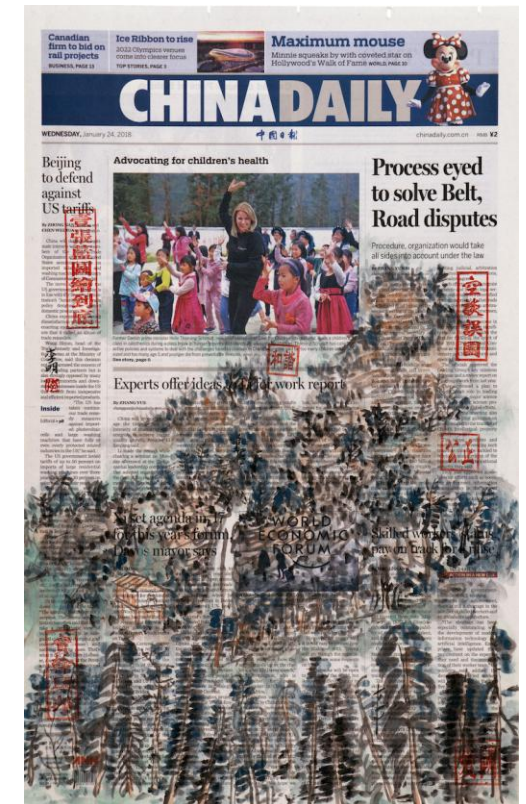
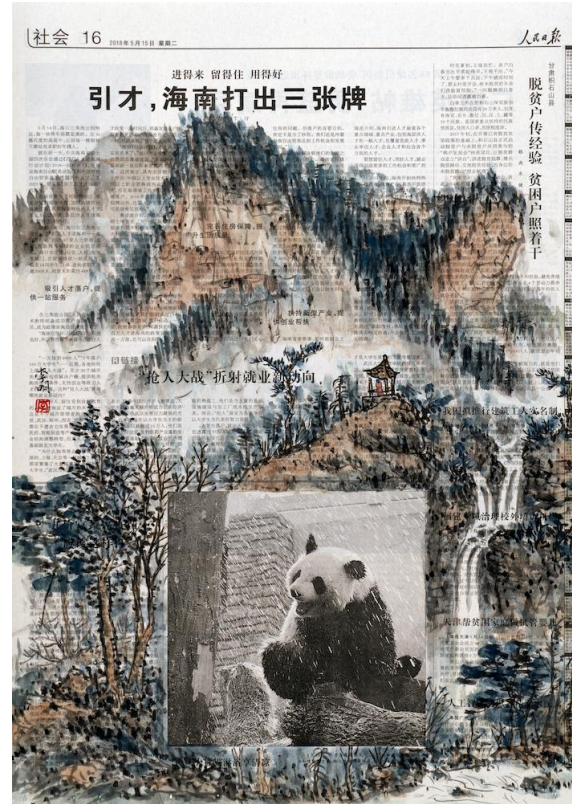
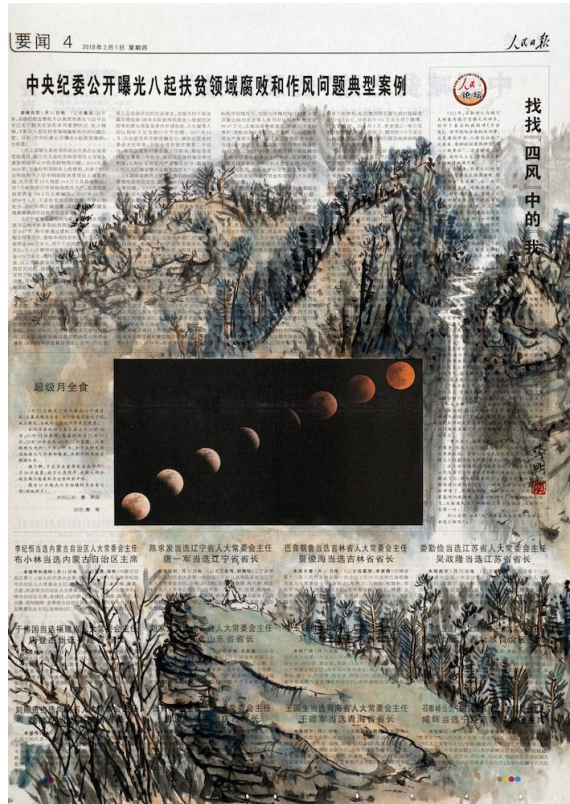


Zhang Qingfan, Imagined Gardens. Drawings mounted in an album. Dimension: 8" x 10". 2016-2019.

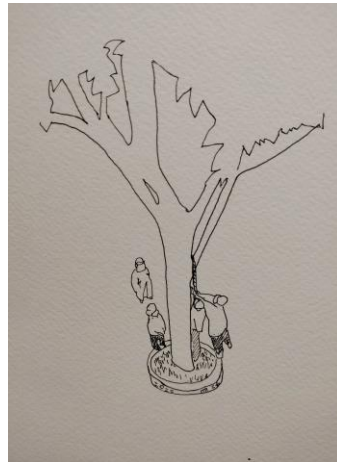
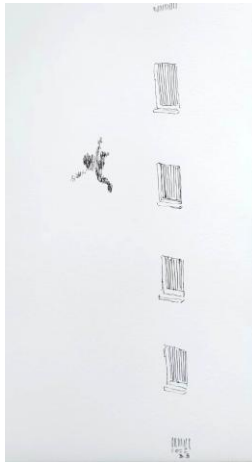
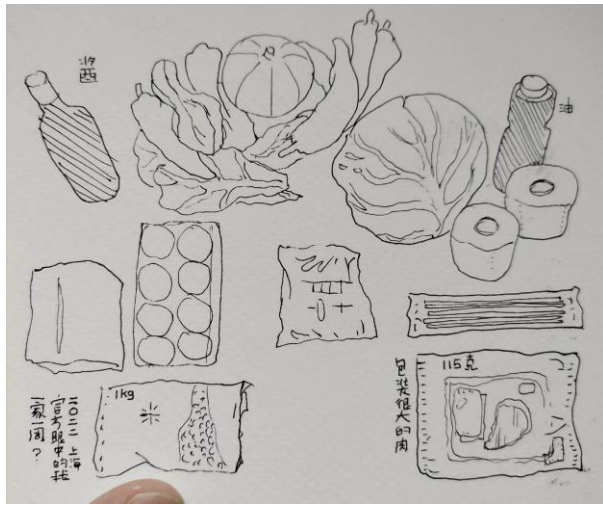




Xu Tan, When My Mother Lost in the Woods. Four channel videos. 2015-2018.



Li Ming, Traveling in the Mountains. Classical Chinese landscape paintings. Self-made paint using wastewater collected from domestic air purifiers mixed with watercolour paints, waste China Daily newspapers. Dimensions: 53.58cm x 33.07cm and 53.58cm x 38cm. 2017-2018. 12 in total, four sheets of paintings in the exhibition.



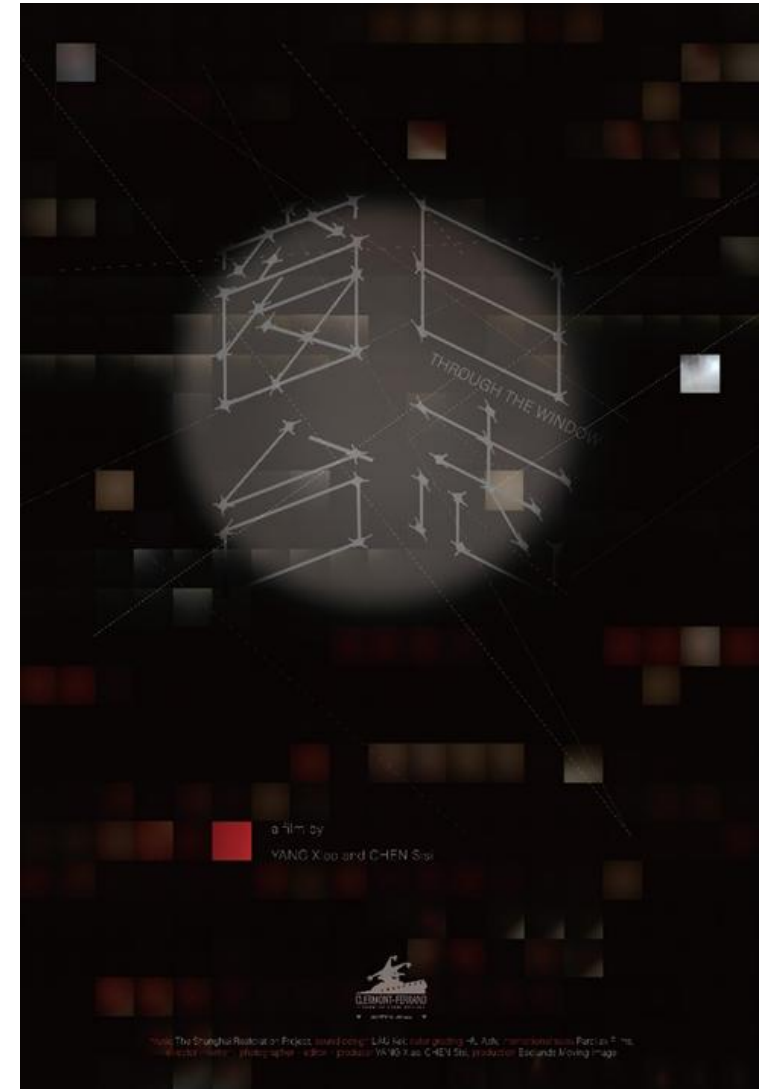
Gao Jie, Diary, drawings on paper, 2022.

COVID-19, violence of the state's abusive power, and traumatic memories

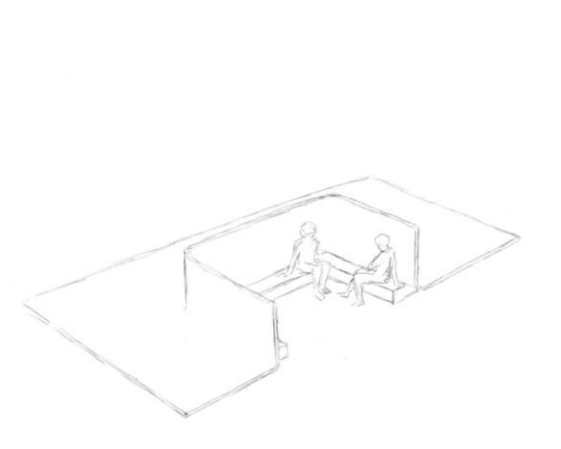
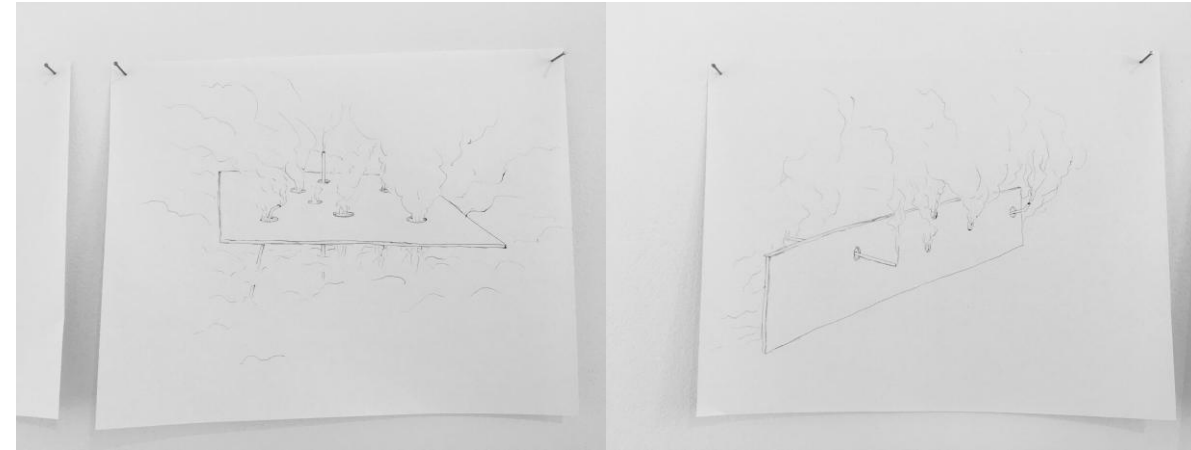


Yang Xiao and Chen Sisi, Through the Window, documentary film, 30 minutes, 2022.

The winner of 2023 the 60th Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival, Best Documentary Short Film.



Commitment and flexibility



Alexandre David, Just Like Air, 2023.

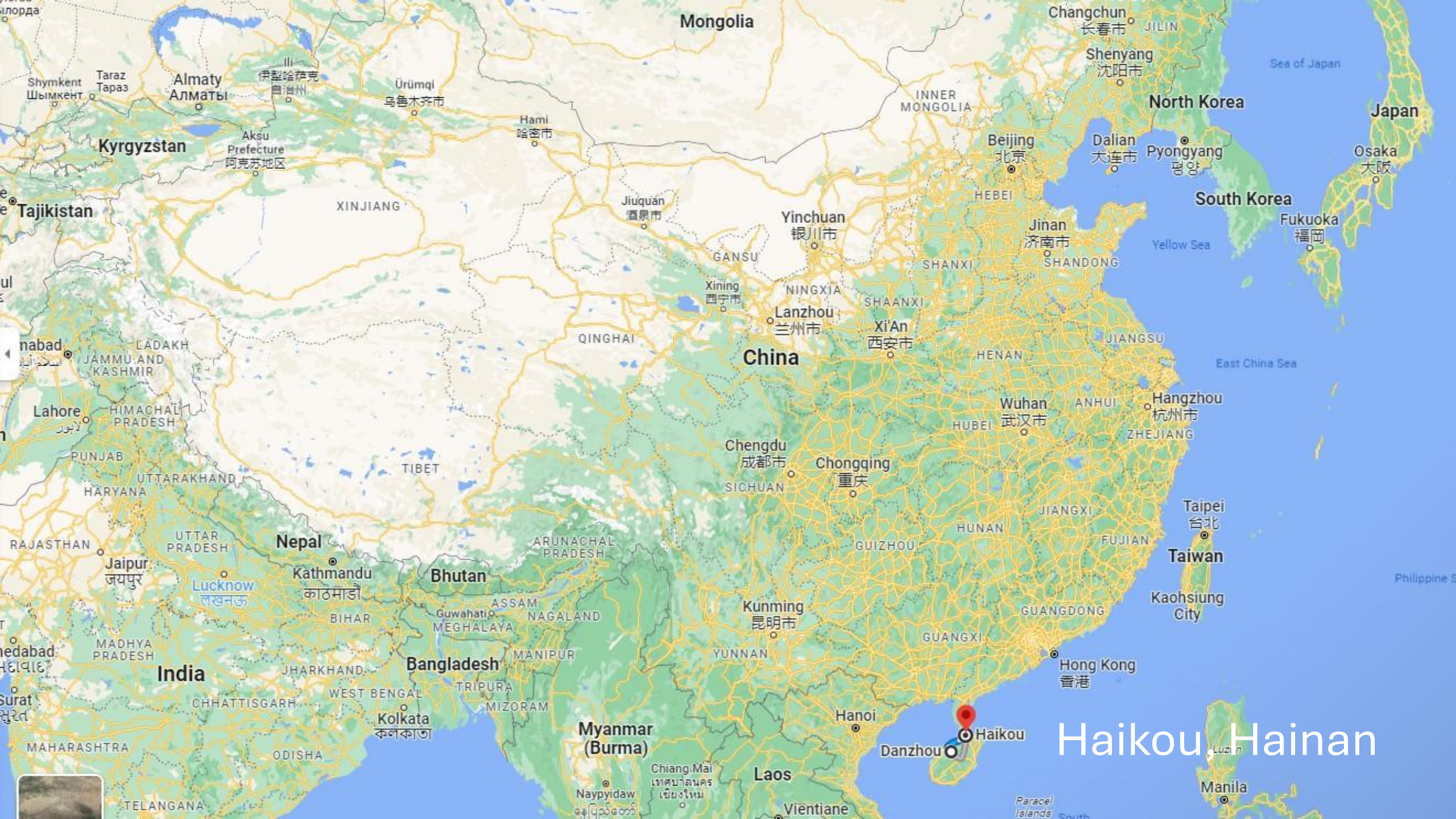


Frolic and Play

The 3rd Children's Art Festival of The Kindergarten Without Walls

August 23-28, 2024

Haikou, Guangzhou



Haikou, Hainan

Mongolia

Changchun
长春市

Shenyang
沈阳市

North Korea

Japan

Sea of Japan

Beijing
北京市

Dalian
大连市

Pyongyang
平壤

Osaka
大阪

South Korea

Fukuoka
福岡

Yellow Sea

East China Sea

Philippine S...

Taipei
台北

Taiwan

Kaohsiung
City

Hong Kong
香港

Danzhou
Haikou

Hanoi

Laos

Vientiane

Myanmar
(Burma)

Naypyidaw

Chiang Mai
เชียงใหม่

Kunming
昆明市

YUNNAN

Chengdu
成都市

SICHUAN

Chongqing
重庆市

GUIZHOU

HUNAN

JIANGXI

FUJIAN

GUANGXI

GUANGDONG

ZHEJIANG

ANHUI

HUBEI

Wuhan
武汉市

Hangzhou
杭州市

JIANGSU

SHANDONG

Jinan
济南市

SHANXI

Yinchuan
银川市

NINGXIA

Lanzhou
兰州市

GANSU

Xining
西宁市

QINGHAI

Jiuquan
酒泉市

Hami
哈密市

Ürümqi
乌鲁木齐市

XINJIANG

Almaty
Алматы

Aksu
Prefecture
阿克苏地区

Kyrgyzstan

Taraz
Тараз

Shymkent
Шымкент

Tajikistan

Lahore
لاہور

Jaipur
जयपुर

Lucknow
लखनऊ

Kathmandu
काठमाडौं

Guwahati
গুৱাহাটী

Kolkata
কলকাতা

Surat
સુરત

Medabad
মেদাবাদ

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- In ancient times, the Han Chinese ruling population considered Hainan the land of “barbarians” and exiles, imagining it as the end of the world.
- Hainan Island was a meeting hub of worlds, connecting China, Asia, and Africa.
- In the 1990s, it was an adventurer’s paradise, in particular, real estate and stock speculative investment. Its prominence declined as Shanghai emerged as the economic center of China. Since 2020, the Chinese government planned to build the Hainan Free Trade Port as the largest special economic zone in mainland China.
- Today, it is a resort destination for middle-class Chinese from the mainland and northern regions. They are called “migratory birds”.
- Local Hainan indigenous people and their cultures have been largely integrated into the tourism industry and turned into spectacles.
- The local population cherishes freedom and a relaxed lifestyle over the competitive, exploited wage jobs.



Tang Haoduo and Moon

Moon's mother calls Tang Haoduo: "friend".

Moon calls Tang Haoduo: "Son", "Old Tang", and "Teacher Tang".

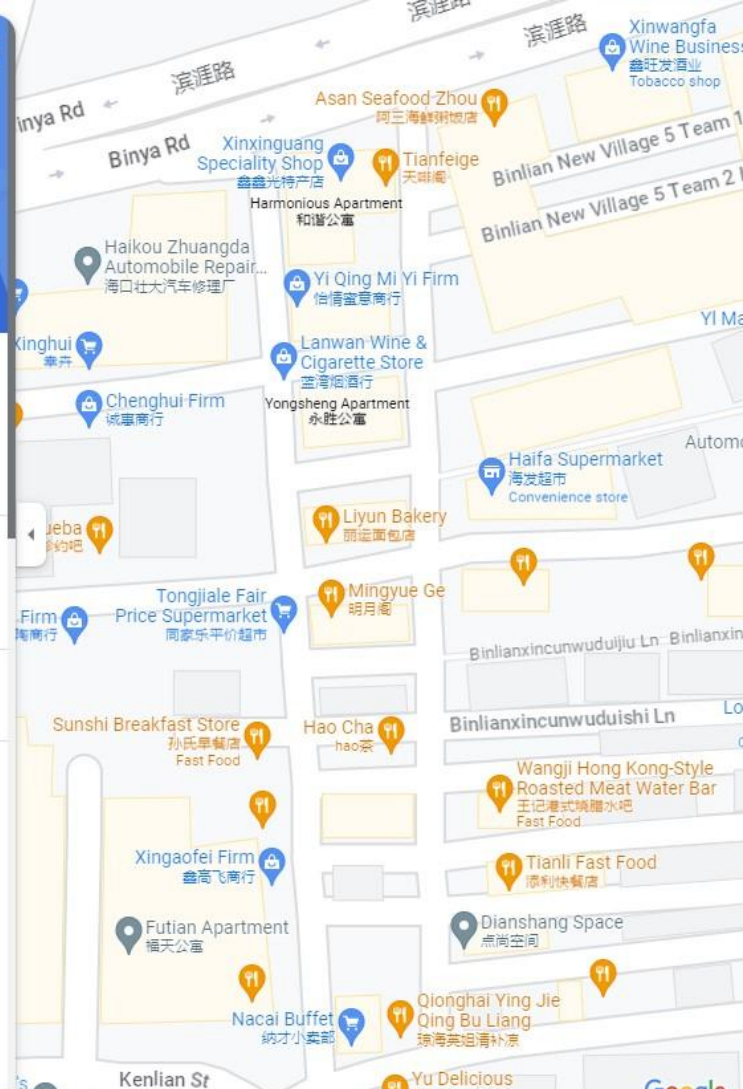
Special Supporting Programs for Moon



"The Kindergarten Without Walls" at "Quality Time Time Variety Store", Haikou.



A screenshot of a mobile application interface for 'Banban Grocery Store'. The top section features a blue header with a cityscape illustration and a close button. Below the header, the store name 'Banban Grocery Store' is displayed, followed by the address: 'CN 海南省 海口市 龙华区 滨滨新村五队 113, China, 570216'. The interface includes navigation options like 'Overview' and 'About', and a list of actions: 'Directions', 'Save', 'Nearby', 'Send to phone', and 'Share'. A section titled 'In-store shopping' is also visible, with a right-pointing arrow. The bottom part of the screen shows a list of additional actions: 'Send to your phone', 'Claim this business', and 'Add a label'.



The Kindergarten Without Walls in An Urban Village Community

People, communities, and culture of the Kindergarten Without Walls:

- Local migrant children and their families live in the neighbourhood of a densely populated urban village in Haikou.
- Local Hainan culture: traditional and patriarchal, not elitism.
- Hainan is not a center of contemporary art.
- Local and non-local people and communities engage with the kindergarten regularly and irregularly. The kindergarten networks with a great variety of communities across Hainan and mainland China, including the art world, educators, NGOs, media, etc.
- The kindergarten emerged and prospered during the prevalent depression in art communities in China since 2019, due to the political atmosphere and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The kindergarten and its communities are well prepared for an art festival:

- 1: The kindergarten organizes all kinds of activities, including Friday Movie Night, cardboard boxes parade, workshops, tours, exhibitions, and two previous annual art festivals.
- 2: Children creatively use the space and organize their activities.
- 3: The kindergarten has built an intimate relationship with the community (families, neighbours, shops, and the authority).
- 4: The kindergarten has become a grassroots cultural hub in Hainan.



Let's frolic and play games! 2024 the 3rd Children's Art Festival of "The Kindergarten Without Walls"

- **Inclusivity:** We want the Children's Art Festival to be open to everyone. Therefore, we suggest participants stay away from repressive and enforced concepts or discourses.
- **Respect for Children:** We don't think it's easy to face and interact with children. Adults should refrain from imposing their own habits and behaviors onto children arbitrarily.
- **Exploring Children's World:** We're curious about how children create their world through play and activities they invent and organize. We wonder whether adults still remember how to frolic and play.
- **Embracing Children's Perspective:** Through play and games, we try to intimate the perspective of children. We question whether the world is also designed for children. Can we reimagine and repair our world through the eyes of children, engaging in shared play, and being accepted by them?

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/aJhXeCyLsil2Y6ezb1NatQ>

https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/K-TzXOnrR_fygXAqafa-kA

LET'S FROLIC AND PLAY GAMES!

2024 the 3rd Children's Art Festival of 'The Kindergarten Without Walls'

Founded in 2019, 'The Kindergarten Without Walls' is a nonprofit community art and education space for children.

It is a children's haven for free play and various activities.

Over thirty projects participated in the Children's Art Festival in 2022 and 2023, along with activities and shows curated entirely by the children themselves.

Open call for participation in: 2024 the 3rd Children's Art Festival

1. Invited Participants from Various Fields: Participants from diverse fields and interests will be invited to create activities and projects based on their field interaction with the children in the kindergarten.

2. Open Participation: Other interested individuals are welcome to attend the festival to play with children and adults alike, they're encouraged to organize impromptu activities during the event.

3. Affiliated Programs: unable to physically conduct field research and attend the festival in Haikou, but who are eager to participate, we propose the option of organizing activities and projects in their own communities, schools, or families. These affiliated programs will serve as extensions of the festival, allowing broader participation and engagement.

For details:

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/aJhXeCyLsil2Y6ezb1NatQ>

Time: the last week of August 2024 (exact date to be determined)

Venue: 'The Kindergarten without the Walls', Binlianxincun Village, Haikou, Hainan Island, China.

Curator and organizer: Tang Haoduo;

Guest Curator: Yan Zhou (Canada)

Emails:

Yan Zhou: yannias@gmail.com

Tang Haoduo: tanghaoduo@163.com

WeChat QR Codes:



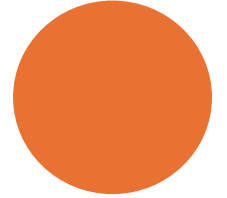
Yan Zhou

Tang Haoduo

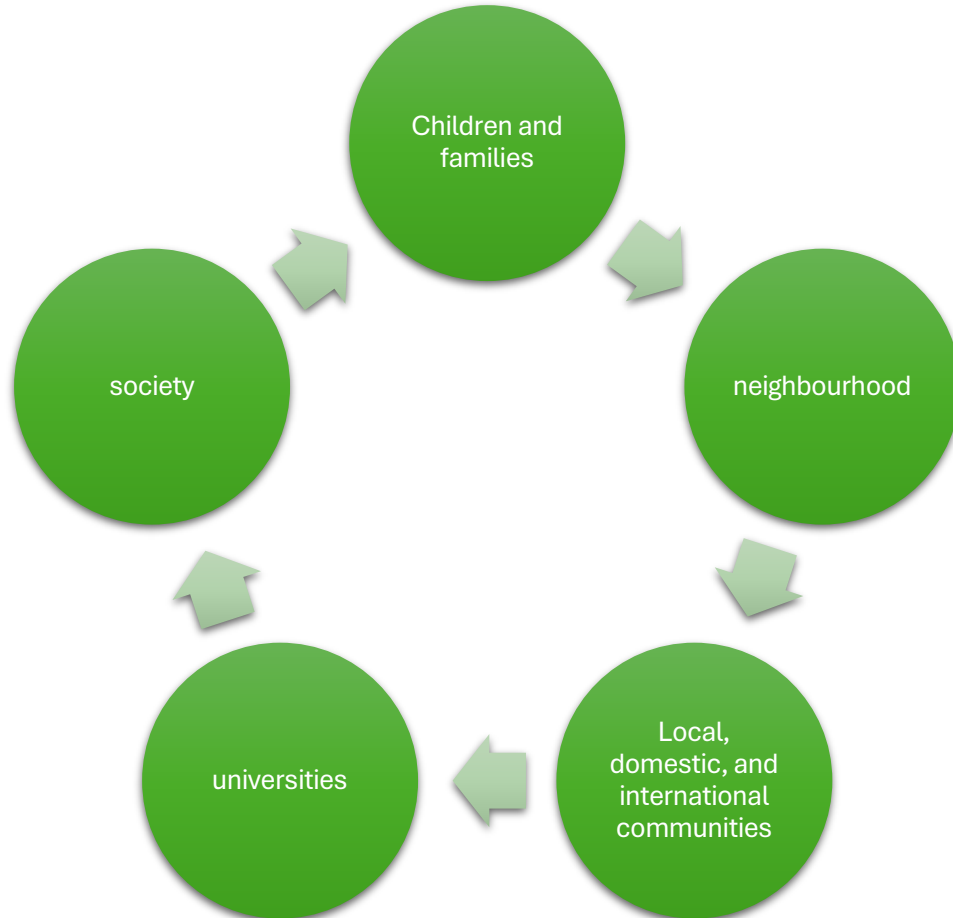
Connecting Communities:

Ripples and correspondence (co-responding)
A mycorrhizal network thrives after a rain (Robin Wall
Kimmerer, “Braiding Sweetgrass”)

- Invited Participants: Participants from diverse fields and interests were invited to create activities and projects based on their field interactions with the children in the kindergarten.
- Open Participation: Other interested individuals are welcome to attend the festival to play with children and adults alike, they were encouraged to organize impromptu activities during the event.
- Affiliated Programs: Those who were unable to conduct field research and attend the festival in Haikou could organize activities and projects in their own communities, schools, or families. These affiliated programs would serve as extensions of the festival, allowing broader participation and engagement.



Structure of the festival



- **Activities curated by children**
- **Curated projects**
- **Hainan local participants' projects**
- **Open participation**
- **Alliance & affiliated programs**
- **Local communities involvement (neighbourhood and families)**

Involved university educators and students

Yan Zhou, University of Toronto

Yam Lau, York University

Kathleen Hearn, Sheridan College

Alexandre David, École d'art | Université Laval

Ye Xuan, Waterloo University

Nika Dubrovsky, David Graeber Institute

Lu Sipei, Art Museum of Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts

Inez Zhou, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China

Zhu Fa, Shanghai Normal University

Xu Zhiqiang, Architecture and City Planning College, Guangzhou University

Pantopie Workshop, the Department of Music, Nantong University



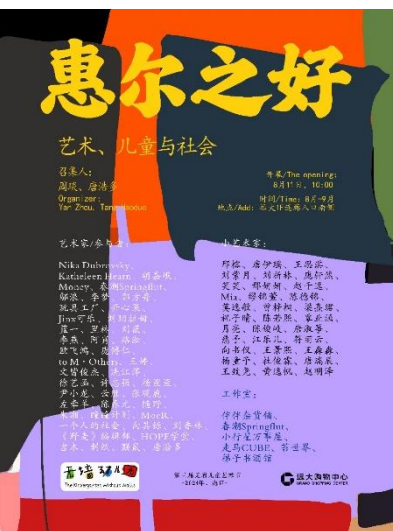
Let's look at the money:

The Kindergarten Without Walls is a grassroots urban village children's education experiment, operating on a low-cost principle.

The total annual expenditure is about 35,000 yuan (about CAD 7,000). The annual renting fee for the space is about 22,000 yuan (about CAD 4,400). These expenses were covered by Tang Haoduo in the past 6 years (2018-2023).

Donations from society and communities have covered the costs for the kindergarten's activities, volunteer subsidies, and art festival expenses. For instance, the 2nd Children's Art Festival in 2023 received over 30,000 yuan (about CAD 6,000) in donations, which allowed the festival to be held successfully.

In 2023, the Kindergarten won the Outstanding Design Award for the 1st Children-Friendly Design Award in Shenzhen, with 120,000 yuan (about CAD 24,000). After paying back the previously overdue rent of the space, the remaining 80,000 yuan (about CAD 16,000) was used as the fund for the 3rd Children's Art Festival in 2024.



The total budget for the 3rd children's art festival is approximately CAD 30,000. Charity sales for the 3rd children's art festival, held online, at a local art fair, and in a department store sales 15,000 yuan (CAD 3000) + donations of 25,000 yuan (CAD 5000) + CAD 6000 grants for two participating Canadians Online sale events were organized as talks, seminars, and sharing events, including educators, artists, curators, and psychotherapists.

- Charity Sale Call https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/GDOaqF6_G7xBQD-gU2pP8g
https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/RMDDJ7L_brJAPj8U4Clz0A
- Charity Sale Sharing Session | Xu Yajun (psychoanalyst and psychotherapist): Where will this evolution of life take us? <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/dgdCuTgkKMxYdFQdKCP4Qw>
- Charity Sale Sharing – How can we play with our children? Ju Rui (psychoanalyst and a psychotherapist at a special school in the Greater Paris area of France) https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/7vxpeJ60kyX-ftQbvsZM_Q
- Charity Sale Sharing Session | Reflections on the Possibilities of Art Practice since 2020; How to break through the boundaries of the art world, communicate and connect with children, society, non-art circles, and people with different intellectual and artistic backgrounds, and how to develop and maintain an autonomous art ecology? Panelists: Wang Yiquan, Ni Kun, Wu Jianping, Wang Pengjie, Autumn.Clf, Lu Ye, Huang Weiqi, Li Suitang, Crow <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/dgdCuTgkKMxYdFQdKCP4Qw>
- Sale Campaign Works by Nika Dubrovsky, Kathleen Hearn, and Hu Jiamin <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/MtjROls3rMu2EoL0mTSwYw>
- Charity Sale Sharing Session | Social Contexts and Possible Methods of Social Practice. Panelists: Li Yifan, Wang Pengjie <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/3XsGlXxt6yFC8TFvt9Z4oQ>
- Charity Sale Sharing Session | Animals in Life and Art. Panelists: Wen Jiejunjie, Hu Jiamin <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/L-HPQwJ4Sz37JRAzPqIYVg>
- Charity Sale Sharing –Toys Factory <https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/nh4uO3zulHh4MWTSUWsCqA>
- Charity Sale –Haikou Grand Shopping Center https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/cG81WJ1_NflDrFtsQ8TCww



CURATOR AND ORGANIZER: TANG HAODUO
 GUEST CURATOR: YAN ZHOU (CANADA)
 2024 the 3rd Children's Art Festival of The Kindergarten Without Walls

时间 Time	活动/艺术家 Activity/Artist	地点 Site
8月26日上午 9: 30—12: 00 9:30 am-12 pm, August 26	1. 贵人精灵工作坊/春潮 Springflut: "Guiren Elf Workshop"	珍亮母婴生活馆, 室外 Zhenliang Mother and Baby Center and outdoors
	2. 眼泪的形状/洗江萍 Jiang Ping: The Shape of Tears	伴伴杂货铺 Banban Grocery Store
	3. 欢乐童年、心愿之旅/符家赫、陈正凯 Fu Jiahe and Chen Zhengkai: Happy Childhood, a Journey of Wishes	滨澜新村五队小花园 The little garden of Team 5, Binlian New Village.
	4. 色块记忆大挑战/庄雅萍 Zhuang Yaping: Color lock Memory Challenge	104公寓大厅 The lobby in Apartment No. 104
	5. 咕卡游戏/何南霞、唐伊瑶 He Nanxuan, Tang Yiyao: Guka Game	柠记手打柠檬 Ningji Hand-Punched Lemons
8月26日下午 15: 00—18: 00 15:00 pm-18:00 pm, August 26	1. 石膏魔法/张诗涵、林雨生 Zhang Shihan, Wang Xiaohui, Tang Shuzheng: Plaster Magic	伴伴杂货铺 Banban Grocery Store
	2. 气球炸弹/许积麟 Xu Jilin: Balloon Bomb	滨澜新村五队小花园 The little garden of Team 5, Binlian New Village.
	3. 单车巡游/潘赫 (也可在晚上开展) Pan He: Shared bicycle carnival parade	室外 Outdoors
	4. 无墙儿童市集/黄吴恙 Huang Wuyang: The Kindergarten Without Walls Fair	滨澜新村五队小花园 The little garden of Team 5, Binlian New Village.
8月27日上午 9: 30—12: 00 9:30 am-12 pm, August 27	1. 文字游戏/蔚科、子津 Ake and Zijin: Word Game	云燕芳饮品店 Yunyanfang Drinks
	2. 儿童笑话工作坊/晓程、青寒、小黄帽 Xiaomian, Qinghan, Little Yellow Hat: Children's Joke Workshop	伴伴杂货铺 Banban Grocery Store
	3. 玩转阅读: 让阅读开出花儿来! /吴昊、好远、小铂 Haohao, Haoyun, Xiaobo: Have fun with reading-let reading blossom!	柠记手打柠檬 Ningji Hand-Punched Lemons
	4. 牙签运球/林道亮 Lin Daoliang: "Toothpick Dribble" Game	滨澜新村五队小花园 The little garden of Team 5, Binlian New Village.
8月27日下午 15: 00—18: 00 15:00 pm-18:00 pm, August 27	1. 竹筒水炮制作/庞博仁 Pang Boren: Making Bamboo Water Cannon	伴伴杂货铺 Banban Grocery Store
	2. 老少皆宜走圈打的飞盘/开心果、husky Pistachio -husky: Walking and Throwing Frisbee for All Ages	室外 Outdoors
	3. 套圈游戏/庄子葵 Zhuangzhui: Ring Toss Game	滨澜新村五队小花园 The little garden of Team 5, Binlian New Village.
	4. 蒙眼敲树/叶良哲Ye Minzhe: Blindfold/Knock on the Tree	滨澜新村五队小花园 The little garden of Team 5, Binlian New Village.
	5. 无墙儿童市集/黄吴恙 Huang Wuyang: The Kindergarten Without Walls Fair	滨澜新村五队小花园 The little garden of Team 5, Binlian New Village.



2024 the 3rd Children's Art Festival of "The Kindergarten Without Walls" Participating Programs

Art Festival Games and Activities

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<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/eB9fl8Ms OoNUO9cKUmkmgw>

Art Festival Schedules

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/eB9fl8Ms OoNUO9cKUmkmgw>



CURATOR AND ORGANIZER: TANG HAODUO
 GUEST CURATOR: YAN ZHOU (CANADA)
 2024 the 3rd Children's Art Festival of The Kindergarten Without Walls

时间 Time	活动/艺术家 Activity/Artist	地点 Site
During the art festival	1. 田园童诗班 童诗展出/陈小华 "Pastoral Children's Poetry Class" + Chen Xiaohua: Children's Poetry Exhibition	柠记手打柠檬 (展出5天) Ningji Hand-Punched Lemons, five days
	2. 感知儿童日常生活空间、器物、社会空间/城中村自建房调查小组 Urban Village Self-built House Investigation Team: Perceive children's daily living space, objects, and social space	云燕芳饮品店 (展出5天) Yunyanfang Drinks, exhibition for five days.
	3. 动物录像/胡嘉璇 Hu Jiamin: Animal Videos	伴伴杂货铺 (展出5天) Banban Grocery Store, five days.
	4. 玩串珠/蔡颖 Dun Dun: Playing with Beads	室外 (开展4天半) Outdoors, four and a half days.
	5. 无墙游乐园/贝卡、小瓜、李文慧、范乐德 Becca, Melon, Li Wenhui, and Fan Leyi: Playground without Walls: Playground without Walls	滨澜新村五队小花园 The little garden of Team 5, Binlian New Village.
	6. 童钱/刘钰钧 Yam Lau: Children's Currency	艺术节期间 During the art festival
	7. 肖像合作/凯瑟琳·赫恩 Kathleen Hearn: Collaborative Portraits	甜八厘饮品店 (展出5天) Tianbadu Drinks, five days
8月23日上午 9: 30—12: 00 9:30 am-12 pm, August 23	1. 开幕演出/怀美摇滚电台 Embrace Beauty Rock Radio: opening performance	滨澜新村五队小花园 The little garden of Team 5, Binlian New Village.
	2. 《奇幻森林》儿童剧音乐剧/万象之园 Pantopie Workshop: The Fantastic Forest (A musical theatre created and performed by children)	滨澜新村五队小花园 The little garden of Team 5, Binlian New Village.
	3. 开幕演出/星期六乐队 The Saturday Band: opening performance	滨澜新村五队小花园 The little garden of Team 5, Binlian New Village.
	4. 三战/马英杰 PONY's game project: World War III	柠记手打柠檬 Ningji Hand-Punched Lemons
8月23日下午 15: 00—18: 00 15:00 pm-18:00 pm, August 23	1. 无墙小报/廖林、拉姆 Lhamo Yue Liu and Lili: The Kindergarten Without Walls Tabloid	甜八厘饮品店 Tianbadu Drinks
	2. 与自然共振: 声音的造型/叶轩、何静雅、王伊帆 Xuan Ye, Sissie, and Wang Yifan: Resonate with Nature	废品站 (原韵达快递) Yihengyang Recycling Station
	3. Bookmaking 制作手工书/Jinx 可乐 Make Accordion Fold Art Books with Jinx Kele	伴伴杂货铺 Banban Grocery Store
	4. 纸筒创意工坊/邢榕、邢栋 Xing Rong and Xing Dong: Cardboard creative workshop	云燕芳饮品店 Yunyanfang Drinks
	5. 甲骨文——汉字小的时候/刘良朋 (小象汉字) "Little Elephant Chinese Characters" + Liu Liangpeng: Let's Draw Oracle Bone Inscriptions Together	柠记手打柠檬 Ningji Hand-Punched Lemons
8月24日上午 9: 30—12: 00 9:30 am-12 pm, August 24	1. 手作木工自给自足竹子杯子/林全 Innocent Wood Workshop + Lin Quan: Self-made bamboo cup	伴伴杂货铺 Banban Grocery Store
	2. 儿童七彩丙烯画/李燕 Li Yan: Children's Colorful Acrylic Room	云燕芳饮品店 Yunyanfang Drinks
	3. 小果实森林艺术实验室/幼秋 Youqiu + Small Fruit Forest Art Laboratory	静怡美甲店 Jingyi Nail Salon
	4. 日常狂欢的游乐场/妮卡 Nika Dubrovsky: Play Ground As An Everyday Carnival	滨澜新村五队小花园 The little garden of Team 5, Binlian New Village.
8月24日下午 15: 00—18: 00 15:00 pm-18:00 pm, August 24	1. 嗷嗷嗷诗歌工作坊/周周笛、影尾、Fidel Inez, Olivia, and Fidel: Bloup! Bloup! Bloup! Poetry Workshop	珍亮母婴生活馆 Zhenliang Mother and Baby Center
	2. 咕咚魔法学院/胖丁 Jia-yue Ding: "Gudong Magic Academy—Find your Guardian Fairy"	伴伴杂货铺 Banban Grocery Store
	3. 蔬菜乐器大乱炖 /Vis Vis: "Vegetable and Musical Instrument Stew"	云燕芳饮品店 Yunyanfang Drinks
	4. 玩耍的结构/亚历山大·大卫 Alexandre David: Playable Structures	滨澜新村五队小花园 The little garden of Team 5, Binlian New Village.

第三届无墙儿童艺术节活动地图

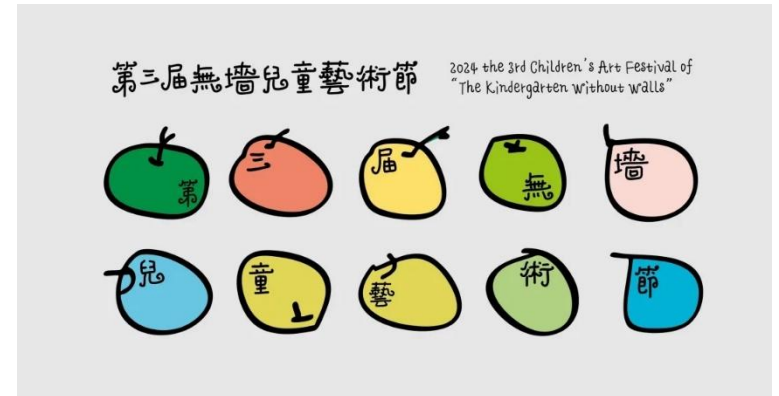
2024 the 3rd Children's Art Festival of "The Kindergarten Without Walls" Participating Programs



Gift economy and exchange in the community



Art festival coupons for children to be used in supporting shops in the community.



Art festival art medals for children and visitors



An example of a kid's curated projects:

Xu Wenhao, 12 years old
Blowing Ping Pong Balls

The player first places a ping-pong ball in 10 cups filled with water. Then use your mouth to blow the ball from the first cup to the third cup. You have three chances to try.

Urban Village Self-built House Investigation Team:
Initial plan: investigate children's daily living space, objects, and social space



Xu Zhiqiang:

We spent seven days communicating with the children and designing four chairs.

We asked them to describe and draw the chairs they wanted.

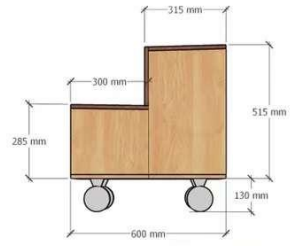
We then optimized the structure and searched for materials.

Each child participated in the production process.

I was surprised by the children's happiness!

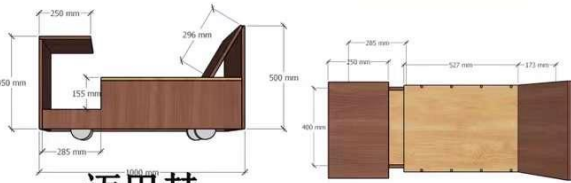
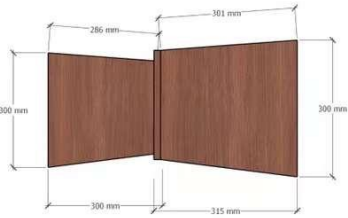
A simple stool with wheels could make them so happy!





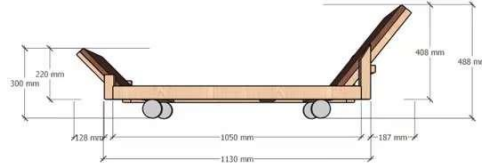
马头战车

李家宇 四年级 9岁 1.32m



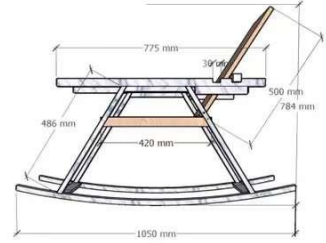
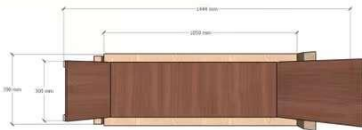
迈巴赫

林道亮 五年级 11岁 1.37m



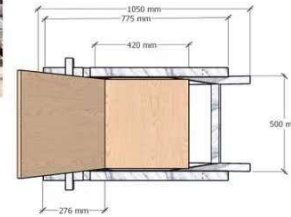
睡觉战车

韦浩铭 五年级 11岁 1.47m



天空摇椅

陈正凯 五年级 11岁 1.43m





Playground without Walls

Becca, Melon, Li Wenhui, Fan Leyi

The engineering design utilizes simple principles of physics, relying on gravity, wind power, and other non-powered mechanisms. The equipment incorporates activities that engage the five senses: touch, hearing, sight, vestibular sense, and proprioception, providing space for children's imagination and cooperative play. By introducing games with varying levels of challenge into the community, adults also find enjoyment in the playground.





nikadubrovsky 11h



Liked by china_town_man and others

nikadubrovsky What struck me the most was what I would call a "guerrilla playground" (similar to guerrilla gardening) — a deliberately created and installed playground literally placed in a passageway between streets.



Nika Dubrovsky: Playground As An Everyday Carnival
Visual Assembly workshop
David Graeber Institute



Reimagination of Children and The World: Social Movements

Visual Assembly is a democratic form of creative collaboration – used to re-imagine new ways to run and organize our social systems.

It is using artistic tools, but this is not only an art project. Mainly it is about a public debate on how to rearrange our social spaces (the Health Care system, Education and so on).

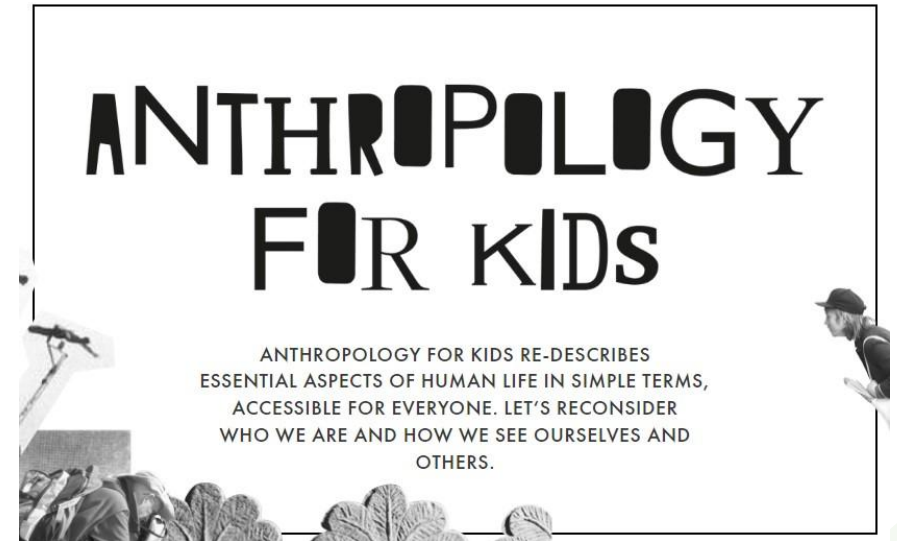
<https://v-a.city/>

Anthropology For Kids. <https://a4kids.org/>

The Museum of Care: educational and cultural spaces of care. <https://museum.care/>

Playgrounds – the history of public art projects and the City of Care. <https://museum.care/room/apart/playgrounds-the-history-of-public-art-projects-and-the-city-of-care/>

Radical Playgrounds: From Competition to Collaboration. Berliner Festspiele 2024. <https://www.berlinerfestspiele.de/en/programm/2024/radical-playgrounds>



Alexandre David: “Playable Structure”, “Over us” or maybe “Cover us”

The work for the children’s festival consists of an immaterial proposition, some sort of instruction or plan that can take multiple shapes depending on the setting and materials used.

The idea is to cut out in any type of fabric surface the proposed shapes and assemble them in any of the ways outlined in the instructions.

Materials are relative to body size.

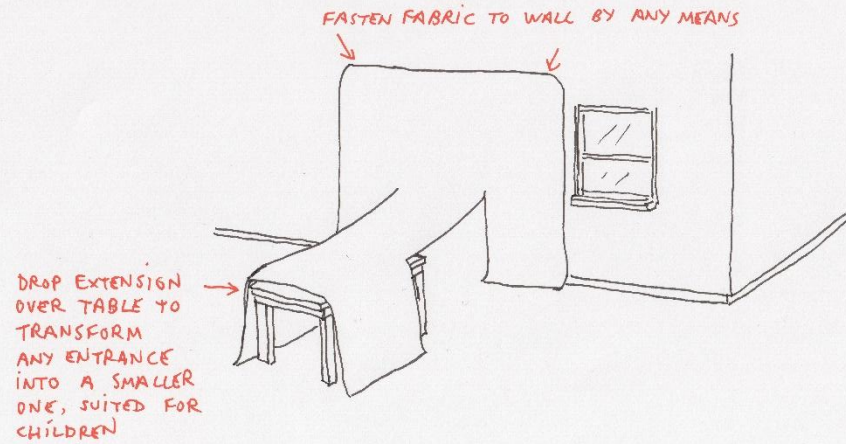
Assembled, these soft shapes should be combined with existing spaces and objects to form a protective tent-like space, a coat, a blanket, and a parasol.

This project aims to function as some sort of skin whose shape will depend on what it covers.

As a child I would pull a sheet over chairs and a table to make protective shelters and years later, I’m more or less doing the same thing.

This project is a variation on such activities: A sheet-like structure made to be pulled over anything, fixed to anything around to create some sort of space children and adults as well can momentarily occupy and put to whatever use they wish.

③ SMALL ENTRANCE



① LANDSCAPE WITH MOUNTAINS AND FINGERS

USE LARGE SHEET

SLICE AND CUT AS MANY FINGER SIZE HOLES IN LARGE SHEET AS YOU WISH, WITH TWO SETS OF FIVE HOLES FOR EACH PARTICIPATING CHILD (FOR EXAMPLE, IN THIS PLAN, THERE ARE SIX GROUPS OF FIVE HOLES FOR THREE CHILDREN)







Group photos taken by Kathleen Hearn



Kathleen Hearn: Collaborative Portraits



Springflut in collaboration with Bloup! Bloup! Bloup! Poetry Workshop
World Kitchen



Adults' homework workshop





无墙幼儿园

The Kindergarten Without Walls

童心自治游乐场

Ciblings Autonomous Playground

孩童般 Childlike
创造 Creativity
合作 Collaboration
欢庆 Celebration

Curatorial Projects

1. Curator. "Let's Frolic and Play Games!" 2024 the 3rd Children's Art Festival of "The Kindergarten Without Walls". Haikou, Hainan Island, China. August 2024.
2. Curator. Breathing in China: Art, Ethics, and Environment. Hamilton Art Gallery. Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. June–December 2023.
Artists include Jean-François Côté (Québec City), Alexandre David (Montréal), Dong Dawei (Beijing), Xin He (Toronto), Ren Jie (Guangzhou), Gao Jie (Shanghai), Hua Jin (Montréal), Yam Lau (Toronto), Mireille Lavoie (Montréal), Li Ming (Beijing), Zhang Qingfan (Beijing), Xu Tan (Guangdong), Yang Xiao and Chen Sisi (Guangzhou), and Zhang Xiao (Chengdu).
3. Curator. Letters That Flutter in the Sūnyatā Illusions. 2020.
Commissioned by art media Echo in China (招隱), I invited ten Canadian artists and poets, each to write a letter to me and the Chinese people during the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020. Later, I curated an online series publication based on these correspondences. They include Michael Snow, John Reibetanz, Roo Borson and Kim Maltman, Janice Gurney, Andy Patton, Robert Fones, Clive Holden, Yam Lau, and Alexandre David.
4. Curator. The Blind Examining an Elephant. 2020.
Commissioned by the Center for Experimental Film in China, I curated an online exhibition presenting films and video works by Hung Tzu Ni (Taiwan), William Song (New York), Xuan Ye (Toronto), Adad Hannah (Vancouver), Clive Holden (Toronto), and Yam Lau (Toronto).
5. Curator. Breathing. Galerie B312, Montréal. Canada. 2020.
6. Curator. Wang Yishu: Caught In-Between. 2018 Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival Public Installation. Toronto, Ontario, Canada. 2018.
7. Curator. Canadian Focus Exhibition: Suzy Lake and Sara Angelucci. Lianzhou Foto Festival. Lianzhou, China. 2017-2018.
8. Curator. Wavelength Redux. 2015-ongoing.
Artists include Michael Snow (Toronto), Jean-François Côté (Québec City), Alexandre David (Montréal), Clint Enns (Toronto), Yam Lau (Toronto), Renée Lear (Toronto), Minwoo Lee (Toronto—Seoul), Mani Mazinani (Toronto), and Li Ming (Hangzhou).
9. Curator. Overload: Tian Xiaolei's Solo Show. Katzman Contemporary. Toronto, Ontario, Canada. 2017.
10. Curator. Undulating Surfaces: Elena Willis and Jin Hua. The Fourth Xishuangbanna International Foto Festival. Xishuangbanna, Yunnan Province, China. 2016.
11. Curator. Idiorrhhythmic: Canadian & Chinese Artists Urban Art Creation Project. Suzhou High-Tech Industry Zone. Suzhou, China. 2016.
Artists include IAIN BAXTER& (Windsor), Ian Carr-Harris (Toronto), Alexandre David (Montréal), Yvonne Lammerich (Toronto), Yam Lau (Toronto), Mani Mazinani (Toronto), Nadia Myre (Montréal, an Algonquin member of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinaabeg First Nation), and Scott Harber (Toronto).
12. Co-Curator, with Matthew Brower. Meditated Memory. Featured Canadian Exhibition in the 6th Beijing International Art Biennale. National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China. 2015.
Artists include Sara Angelucci (Toronto), Douglas Coupland (Vancouver), Wally Dion (New York), Pierre Dorion (Montréal), Angela Grossman (Vancouver), Yam Lau (Toronto), Gord Peteran (Toronto), Ed Pien (Toronto), Max Streicher (Toronto), and Carol Wainio (Ottawa).
13. Co-Curator, with Christine Platt and Yang Chao. The Transformation of Landscape in Canada: The Inside & Outside of Being. Touring exhibition in Xi'an Art Museum (Xi'an, China) and Today Art Museum (Beijing, China). 2014-2015.
Artists include Michael Snow, IAIN BAXTER, Rebecca Belmore, Ron Benner, Edward Burtynsky, Jean-François Côté, Bonnie Devine, Gu Xiong, Jamelie Hassan, Isabelle Hayeur, Wanda Koop, Andy Patton, Ed Pien, Andrew Wright, Robert Youds, and Gearshifting Performance Works.
14. Co-Curator, with Matthew Brower and Fu Xiaodong. Through the Body: Lens-Based Works by Contemporary Chinese Women Artists. A primary exhibition of 2014 Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival. The University of Toronto Art Center, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. 2014.
Artists include Chen Zhe, Chun Hua Catherine Dong, Fan Xi, Fang Lu, Jin Hua, Ladybird Theatre, Lei Benben, Li Xinmo, Ma Qiusha, and Ye Funa.
15. Co-Curator, with Michael Devaney and Trish Terrill Small. Earthly Inspiration: The Process and Expression of Craft. U.S and International Departures Lounges at Toronto Pearson International Airport. A graduate student project supported by the Faculty of Information of the University of Toronto, the GTAA, Harbourfront Centre, and Toronto Pearson International Airport. April-October 2011.