

Tang Contemporary Art Presents

In the Desert Below a Constellation in the Sky

Zhao Zhao Solo Exhibition

Artist: Zhao Zhao

Curator: Jérôme Sans

Opening: Saturday, October 7, 2017, 4 PM

Dates: October 7 to November 8, 2017

Venue: Tang Contemporary Art Beijing, Space II

Tang Contemporary Art is proud to present “In the Desert Below a Constellation in the Sky,” a solo exhibition for artist Zhao Zhao, curated by Jérôme Sans, from October 7 to November 8, 2017. “In the Desert Below a Constellation in the Sky” is a journey through Zhao Zhao’s artistic universe and approach to life; it is an existential encounter with humanity’s perpetual and extreme fragility.

At a time when society is mutating at unprecedented speed and traditional convictions are constantly challenged, Zhao Zhao has developed a radical position by continually questioning art and its history, but also the systems of thought behind every gesture.

Zhao Zhao’s ongoing series of paintings *Sky* represents a sky that the artist has fabricated. In these paintings, he presents his personal perceptions based on memories of the sky, but not actually observations of it. The blue of the sky is abstracted into a concept in his paintings.

Zhao Zhao’s works are never simply visual outcomes; they are perceptions of reality produced by a series of incidents. In his series *Constellation*, holes are produced in the glass by bullets and cracks spread in all directions from those bullet holes. The energy of the explosion is amplified as it spreads outward. As an extension of it, in his *Constellations* series he depicts the moment that the bullet passes through the glass in an oil painting on canvas. Both *Constellation* and *Constellations* follow an infinite cycle of destruction and reconstruction.

Constellations series, originally rendered in oil on canvas, is shown here as embroidery for the first time in China. After working with his mother on *Suit*, Zhao Zhao has taken this opportunity to collaborate with her on this work.

当代唐人艺术中心 - 北京 地址：中国北京市朝阳区酒仙桥路 2 号

大山子 798 艺术区 邮编：100015 电话：0086 10 5978 9610 传真：0086 10 5978 9379 电邮：info@tangcontemporary.com

Tang Contemporary Art – Beijing Add: 798 Art District, No. 2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100015, P.R. China T:

0086 10 5978 9610 F: 0086 10 5978 9379 E: info@tangcontemporary.com

Web: <https://www.tangcontemporary.com/>

Fragments series stemmed from a car accident that Zhao Zhao experienced in 2007, when he hit his head on the windshield. With reference to that piece of cracked glass, he created his first stainless steel fragments, and since then, *Fragments* has become an important ongoing series for the artist. After the massive explosions in Tianjin in August 2015, Zhao Zhao used copper plate to replicate and transform pieces of fragmented glass from the explosion. In changing the material properties of *Fragments*, personal memory is deepened into collective memory and communal expression. He no longer permits himself to face the world as an individual; instead, he has placed himself within the collective and presents the story of a group within society. In this exhibition, *Fragments* has been transformed once again, evolving into a new work: *Desert*. The piece was created by joining copper and steel plates, linking past civilizations with modern industry, pointing to an alienation from primitive lifestyles, and the regional conflicts taking place between different cultures in society today. As independent individuals, this piece places us back within the course of human history. This seemingly rational and restrained piece contains great sadness that comes from a larger perspective, thereby renewing the meaning of *Fragments* in another context.

ABOUT Artist

Born in 1982 in Xinjiang, China, Zhao Zhao graduated from the Xinjiang Institute of the Arts in 2003 and later attended the Beijing Film Academy. The former assistant to Ai Weiwei and now regarded a significant figure among the young Post-80s generation of contemporary Chinese artists - Zhao Zhao's work is often renowned for confronting existing ideological structures and exercising the power of individual free will in his work. His provocative, multidisciplinary artist practice has garnered him international attention in recent years as an 'artist to watch'.

ABOUT Curator

Jérôme Sans, curator, art critic, artistic director and director of internationally renowned institutions, Jérôme Sans is the co-founder of the Palais de Tokyo in Paris, which he headed until 2006. After being director of the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) in Beijing from 2008 to 2012, affirming his role as a major contemporary art hub in Asia, he is now artistic director for the urban redevelopment and public art scheme Rives de Saône - River Movie led by the Greater Lyon council.

A curator of many exhibitions throughout the world (Taipei Biennale, 2000; Lyon Biennale, 2005; Nuit Blanche 2006 in Paris; Milan Triennale, 2010, etc.), Jérôme Sans was appointed

co-artistic director of the Grand Paris Express cultural project, from 2015 to 2017. He is now artistic director of the Ile Seguin cultural hub. He also jointly co-founded Perfect Crossovers in Beijing, a consultancy group for cultural projects between China and the rest of the world.

ABOUT Tang Contemporary Art

Founded in 1997, Tang Contemporary is headquartered in Beijing, with art spaces in Bangkok and Hong Kong. Since its inception, Tang Contemporary has promoted the development of experimental art in various regions. For nearly twenty years, Tang Contemporary has not only held groundbreaking art exhibitions in its own spaces, but has also collaborated with important domestic and international art institutions on outstanding art projects. In February 2015, we collaborated with the Bangkok Art & Culture Center on a dual solo exhibition of Huang Yongping and SakarinKrue-On. In June 2015, we successfully held AiWeiwei's first solo exhibition in mainland China, titled Ai Weiwei, and in October, held his first Hong Kong solo exhibition, Wooden Ball. Through these many exhibitions and projects, Tang Contemporary has played a major role in the development of Chinese and Asian.

Tang Contemporary Art
798 Art District, No.2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang Dst.,
Beijing, 100015
Gallery Hours: Tuesday to Sunday, 11am – 6:30pm

info@tangcontemporary.com | +86 59789610
WeChat: tang_contemporary / IG:
tangcontemporaryart
www.tangcontemporary.com

Artist will be present and available for interviews, please contact us in advance for scheduling.