

**Times**

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**Art Center**

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**Berlin**

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**February 15–Aug 1, 2020**

**Zhou Tao**

***Winter North Summer South***

Curated by Nikita Yingqian Cai (Chief Curator, Guangdong Times Museum)

Times Art Center Berlin is pleased to present a solo project by video artist Zhou Tao developed from the commissioning of Guangdong Times Museum in 2019. Zhou Tao spent nearly two years in the Gobi Desert capturing our modernist obsession and utopian desire to turn deserts into habitat. The result is a rich repertoire of images swiftly alternating between landscapes of sandstorms, dust clouds, changing seasons, portraits of humans, animals and plants cohabiting on ephemeral ecosystems left behind as byproducts of industrial intervention. In a state of exception, even the sublime of nature is burdened by human traces: winds batter through poplar trees, swirling sand scours metal surfaces of voluminous flora lying hopelessly in the desert, and voluptuous red buds are abandoned to appeal to no particular audience.

Situated at the core of Zhou Tao's practice are the complicities and particularities of locales: the horizon in a tortoise's eyes, the concrete overpass and the recreational activities it shelters, the ecological enclaves of a mine pit, the alien dome of an urban theatre, the idyllic song of an occupied square, the reservoir collapsing into sands, the kid, the plant, the cow, the goat, the chicken and the dog all cohabiting with rusty machines... It is precisely by allegories of topography that Zhou Tao attempts to capsule the organic coalescence between human, machines and environment. His works speak of planetary realities contaminated with local details and personal memories.

Born in 1976 in Changsha, Hunan Province, Zhou Tao studied at the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in oil painting in 2001 and a Master of Fine Arts in mixed-media studies in 2006. He currently lives in Guangzhou.

His work has been shown in international exhibitions and biennials including: *Viva Arte Viva*, 57th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, 2017; Sharjah Biennial 13, Sharjah, 2017; *Tales of Our Time*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, 2016; *APT8*, Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Brisbane, 2015.

**Times Art Center Berlin**

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Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday 12:00–19:00

Free admission

Founded by the Guangdong Times Museum in 2018, Times Art Center Berlin is the first parallel institution set up overseas by an Asian art museum.