

Wang Ziquan: Creatures of the Air

Artist	Wang Ziquan
Curator	Miao Zijin
Opening	January 8, 2022 16:00 – 19:00
Exhibition Period	January 8 – March 4, 2022
Venue	MadeIn Gallery, No.1, -1F Sunken Garden, Lane 9 Qufu Road, Jing'an District, Shanghai
Guest Performers	Beio, Lu Boyu
Sound	Yan Yulong
Visual Design	Chen Xi
FPV Pilots	Brant Bai, Cao Weixi, Derek Ding, Gaige, Huang Jing, Charles Li, Ton Qi, Riorano Wang, Vincent Young, Zhang Li
Technical Support	OddityRC 
New Media Support	Shanghai Helu Cultural Communication Co., Ltd. 

MadeIn Gallery is delighted to present Wang Ziquan's solo show "Creatures of the Air" on January 8, 2022, which is the first solo exhibition of the artist at MadeIn Gallery. Wang Ziquan transforms the entire exhibition space into a large-scale installation *Creatures of the Air*, building a complex access system across sculpture, performance, sound, racing, and video. In this system, the perspective and operation of the apparatus, just like an external organ, becomes an infinite extension to all humankind. The pipeline suspended in the gallery, on the other hand, is constructed as the gloomiest landscape, becoming an extraterritorial place beyond the control of management mechanisms established by technology.

Inside the pipeline, the first-person-view drones acting as prosthetic limbs for the audience initiate a three-hour-long uninterrupted survey under the control of the pilots. And on the screens set up outside the pipeline, the cameras on the drones transmit to the audience in real-time all the mysteries and unpleasantness inside the pipeline. The visibility or concealment of information is ultimately an artist's joke. The countless races that occur in this dark space, the unlocatable sounds, are just the wreckage of signal transmission.

Wang Ziquan identifies the pipeline as the bare landscape at the backside of the human society, and at the same time sees it as the "storage device" that admits personal and social materials and memories. The exhibition "Creatures of the Air" is an experimental field built by the artist, navigating between technology, sculpture and body. Its purpose is to continually access the massive storage device through a self-organized system, in which it is possible for us to question our identity.

About Wang Ziquan

Wang Ziquan, born in Shenyang in 1993, currently lives and works in Shanghai. He graduated from the Central Academy of Fine Arts with a B.A. degree in sculpture in 2017 and from the Royal College of Art with an M.A. degree in 2019. Wang's practice is rooted in his unique observation and understanding of the Internet and the postulations of the virtual world. Through the speculative use of game engines and testing software for engineering development, Wang Ziquan "copies" and "pastes" between spaces of the virtual and the real to explore the threshold values between virtuality and reality.

Recent exhibitions include: "Tangle of Revolution and Political Soul", Shanghai Gallery of Art, Shanghai, 2021; West Bund Art & Design "xiàn chǎng" sector and "Video AI Plaza" sector, Shanghai, 2021; "USB Multi-Port Linking Exhibition", MadeIn Gallery, Qiao Space, Shanghai, 2021; "Hereditary Territory", Powerlong Museum, Shanghai, 2021; "Ensemble Urban", APSMUSEUM, Shanghai, 2020; "The Picture Is Not at Ease", MadeIn Gallery, Shanghai, 2020; "Kung Fu or Disco?", Wooton Gallery, Changsha, 2020; Shanghai "Illusive Particles", MadeIn Gallery, Shanghai, 2020; "Fragmentation", The Coningsby Gallery, London, 2019; "Material Statement", Dyson Gallery, Royal College of Art, London, 2019 and etc.; Wang Ziquan was shortlisted for the Ashurst Emerging Artist Prize in 2020.

About Miao Zijin

Miao Zijin is an independent curator. In 2013, she graduated with BA in Creative Advertising Strategy, London College of Communication, University of the Arts London. In 2015, she graduated from MFA Curating, Goldsmiths, University of London. Miao Zijin worked at LEAP magazine as an editor in 2017. From 2019 to 2021, she worked at Taikang Space. Her research interests include art production and circulation in the post-medium condition in relation to digital infrastructure, alternative spaces and self-organization. She treats curatorial practice as a site-specific testing ground which deals with power relations, especially the technology of governance and the politics of display.

Her recent curatorial projects include: "Boomerang—The Ninth OCAT Biennale: Attention! The Show Goes On", OCAT Shenzhen, 2021; "JIMEIARLES Discovery Award: A Forensic Play", Xiamen, 2021; "A Fund of Gifts", Gallery Func, Shanghai, 2021; "USB Multi-Port Linking Exhibition", MadeIn Gallery, Qiao Space, In the Park, Shanghai, 2021; "The Comfort Zone at A Distance", Taikang Space, Beijing, 2018-19; "Shared Narrative(s)", realized in four chapters, ShanghART S-Space, Beijing, 2018; "Paul McCarthy's Lounge", M WOODS, Beijing, 2018; "I Do (Not) Want To Be Part Of Your Celebration", Qiao Space & TANK Shanghai Project Space, Shanghai, 2017.