

# Kunsthalle Winterthur

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## **Timur Si-Qin – *Ecotone Dawn***

9 July – 17 September 2023

Opening Saturday 8 July 2023, 5 pm

Timur Si-Qin (b.1984, lives and works in New York) engages with the relationship between contemporary society and nature. In contrast to many dualistic conceptions around technology and the environment, he sees these two realms not as antagonistic opponents or rivals, but as collaborators; humanity, including all of its civilizational and technological achievements, is rather an integral part of nature. In his artistic exploration, this worldview extends to an interest in the functioning of ecosystems. Using motifs frequently derived from our natural environment, Si-Qin creates elaborate digital models and renderings that become quasi-independent organisms. The artist grants us access to the resulting visual worlds, particularly in the form of sculpture and photorealism.

Titled *Ecotone Dawn*, Timur Si-Qin (b.\*1984, lives and works in New York) refers to the so-called “ecotone”, which in ecology refers to the transitional zone between two different ecosystems or biotope types; typical ecotones include forest edges or shoreline zones. The nature of the actual separation or boundary can take various forms; permeability and interaction are variable, but ecotones as a whole are characterized by increased biological diversity. As hinges for interaction between bio-diverse areas, ecotones are also bridges for the affects of climate change.

In the brightly lit main hall, Timur Si-Qin freezes a desert sunset in four wide-format light boxes (*Sharaan Sunbreak*, 2023). The images are a rendered panorama using original footage from the Saudi Arabian oasis of Al-Ula. In the centre of the space, *Etching the Path to the Sea Within* (2023) features a 3D-printed tree trunk that was found and photographed along a pilgrimage route in Thailand. Various messages carved into the bark by passers-by are preserved by the artist, as are the support structures necessary for stability in the making of a 3D print. Instead of removing and smoothing their evidence away, Si-Qin keeps them as part of the sculpture. The fusion of root extensions and technical support structures creates a cyborg-like hybrid, referring both to the artist’s own production and that of the natural world.

The mystical atmosphere that pervades the bright main hall extends into the darkened smaller halls of the galleries. Four photographic prints from the series *Natural Origin* (2023) depict what appear to be a particularly dense and lush forest, but in truth, the pictures are shots from virtual cameras in a 3D rendering modelled by the artist. Derived from the flora and fauna of Upstate New York, the rendering is both a visually pleasurable composition of digitized nature, and a simulation of an entire ecosystem. The complexity leading to the bucolic image motifs is further enhanced by the projection of moving leaf shadows over the four images.

The exhibition is supported by: Société, Berlin, Magician Space, Beijing.

## Events

Wednesday 16 August 2023, 7 pm

### **Café des Arts and Kunsthalle LateNight: Das Kuratorische Quartett**

With Konrad Bitterli (Director Kunst Museum Winterthur), Oliver Kielmayer (Director Kunsthalle Winterthur), Sabine Schaschl (Director Haus Konstruktiv Zurich) und Nadia Schneider Willen (Collection Conservator Migros Museum). The conversation is held in German and starts 7.30 pm, free entrance.

The exhibition Ecotone Dawn of Timur Si-Qin is open from 7 to 10 pm.

Saturday 23 September 2023, 8 pm

### **Culture Night Winterthur with INDUSTRIA**

8 – 11 pm

Aftershow Party

11 pm – 12 am

Live Performance DJ Emotion