

Kiang Malingue Drawing Life

馬凌畫廊

kiangmalingue.com

10 Sik On Street, Wanchai, Hong Kong
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(Artist) Zheng Bo

(Date)

9 Jul – 31 Aug 2024

(Opening Hours)

Tue to Sat, 11 AM – 7 PM
Closed on public holidays

(Location)

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Hong Kong

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Kiang Malingue is pleased to announce a display of three sets of Zheng Bo's "Drawing Life" works on paper on the 12th floor of its Tin Wan space. The new iterations of *Drawing Life (Beginning of Spring)*, *Drawing Life (Rain Water)*, and *Drawing Life (Waking of Insects)*, all made in 2022, bind the individual works in the form of traditional Chinese art albums, emphasising the intimacy and counter-encyclopedic aspect of Zheng Bo's drawing practice.

Since 2020, Zheng Bo has been creating an ongoing series of "Drawing Life" drawings by visiting their plant neighbors up the hills behind their village on Lantau Island and sketching them. For Zheng Bo, drawing means spending time getting to know the plants. They describes how this peaceful practice "feels like a meditation." The title of the series inverts the conventional artistic practice of life drawing in which people are depicted, signalling instead how Zheng Bo focuses their attention beyond the human.

Individually named after 24 terms in the traditional East Asian lunisolar calendar—such as *Beginning of Spring* (the 1st of the 24 solar terms, referring often to the day when the Sun is exactly at the celestial longitude of 315°), *Rain Water* (the 2nd of the 24 solar terms), and *Waking of Insects* (the 3rd of the 24 solar terms)—the drawings correspond to particular ecological events and signify diverse developments of natural phenomena. In recent years, Zheng Bo has become less interested in identifying the species by using apps, websites, and books, than in simply sitting and being with them, slowing down, looking carefully and appreciating nature.

With "Drawing Life", Zheng Bo has developed an understanding of the politics of plants, as well as making notes that serve as both prologues and epilogues in-between other major artistic-ecological projects, recording the cycle of life in detail.

(About Zheng Bo)

Zheng Bo is an ecoqueer artist of ethnic Bai heritage who lives in a village on the south side of Lantau Island, Hong Kong. In 2024, they presented the commissioned installation *Bamboo as Method* at Somerset House, London. In 2023 Zheng Bo worked on the Artist's Garden commission at Jameel Arts Centre in Dubai and three botanical public works outside Rockbund Art Museum in Shanghai, and opened the exhibition "The Pleasure of Slowness" at Göteborgs Konsthall, Gothenburg. In 2022, they presented a forest dance film titled *Le Sacre du printemps* at the 59th Venice Biennale. In 2021, they staged "Wanwu Council" at the Gropius Bau in Berlin and "Life is hard. Why do we make it so easy?" at Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden in Hong Kong. They participated in Sydney Biennale (2022), Liverpool Biennial (2021), Yokohama Triennale (2020), Manifesta (2018), Taipei Biennial (2018), and Shanghai Biennial (2016). Their works are in the collections of Power Station of Art in Shanghai, Hong Kong Museum of Art, Singapore Art Museum, Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, among others.

Zheng Bo studied with Douglas Crimp and received their PhD from the Graduate Program in Visual & Cultural Studies, University of Rochester.

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They taught at China Academy of Art from 2010 to 2013, and currently teaches at the School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong, where they lead the Wanwu Practice Group.