

“Play and Loop” — a 7-week screening programme
Week 2 | 17.7 - 21.7.2018

Hao Jingban

In week 2 of “Play and Loop”, Blindspot Gallery is delighted to present two video works by Hao Jingban, including the most recent *Slow Motion* (2018) and *take care. Harun* (2016). These two works make present again the same documentary subject – the proletariat of the Chinese society – highlighting their existence in the society, and the moral hazard in its alienation as the country prospers and moves forward.

Slow Motion is the most recent work by Hao Jingban. On November 18, 2017, a tragic fire raged in a Beijing apartment building inhabited by migrant workers, killing 19 people. What followed was just as sudden: a mass eviction of residents and migrant workers living in countless ‘unsafe’ buildings across the capital in the dead of a winter night. In response to images of the newly homeless that soon spread across social media, which were then censored, the artist urgently went to the eviction sites and documented footages of displaced citizens gathering their scattered belongings. For the artist, *Slow Motion* is a personal response: “these slowed down moments that you cannot see retain a potency that surpasses far beyond the imagination.”



take care. Harun is inspired by Harun Farocki’s “Labour in a Single Shot”, a film workshop that Hao Jingban partook in 2014. Hao used two parallel screens to cross-edit among three different sets of images that portray labour. The three sources are the news documentary on China’s Great Leap Forward filmed by an American journalist in 1958, a Chinese propaganda feature film on an iron factory in 1962, and footages Hao filmed in a steel factory in her hometown, Linfen, Shanxi, in 2016. Hao analyses and cross-references these different sources to re-examine the perception of labour and manufacturing, and their connections to the concept of progress of the country.



About Hao Jingban (b.1985)

Hao Jingban completed a BA in Media and Communication from Goldsmiths College in 2007, and a MA in Film Studies from University of London in 2010. In addition to her solo exhibition “New Directions: Hao Jingban” (Ullens Center of Contemporary Art, Beijing, China, 2016), Hao has participated in screenings and exhibitions in important institutions and biennials such as Centre Pompidou, the Shanghai Biennale and the FRONT Triennial in Cleveland. She won the Art Sanya Huayu Youth Award Grand Jury Prize in 2016, and the Young Artist of the Year award at the 11th Award of Art China in 2017. Hao currently lives and works in Beijing.