

WANG Tuo

Wang Tuo (b. 1984, Changchun, Jilin province, China) interweaves Chinese modern history, cultural archives, fiction and mythology into speculative narratives. Equating his practice to novel writing, he stages an intervention in historical literary texts and cultural archives to formulate stories that blur the boundaries of time and space, reality and imagination. His work spans across film, painting and drawing, to construct multidimensional chronologies. Embracing a uniquely Chinese hauntology, Wang proposes “pan-shamanization” as an entry point to unravel the suppressed and untreated memories of 20th century China. Through historical inquiry, Wang’s works, often unsettling and dramatic, disentangle collective unconsciousness and historical traumas.

Wang's recent solo exhibition “Wang Tuo: The Second Interrogation” was presented at Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong in 2023. His other solo exhibitions were held at UCCA Center for Contemporary Art (Beijing, 2021) and Taikang Space (Beijing, 2016). Wang also participated in group exhibitions at Aranya Art Center (Beidaihe, 2023), M+ (Hong Kong, 2023), KADIST (San Francisco, 2022), He Art Museum (Guangdong, 2022), Song Art Museum (Beijing, 2022), Incheon Art Museum (Incheon, 2021), National Museum of Singapore (Singapore, 2021), OCAT Institute (Beijing, 2021), Power Station of Art (Shanghai, 2021), Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art (Shanghai, 2021), National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Seoul, 2020), Serpentine Gallery (London, 2020), Today Art Museum (Beijing, 2019), Kunsthalle Baden-Baden (Baden-Baden, 2019), Julia Stoschek Collection (Düsseldorf, 2018), Zarya Center for Contemporary Art (Vladivostok, 2018), and Queens Museum (New York, 2017), among others.

Wang is the winner of the K21 Global Art Award 2024 and the Sigg Prize 2023. He was selected for the OCAT x KADIST Emerging Media Artist Residency Program in 2020 and was artist-in-residence at Queens Museum in New York from 2015 to 2017. Furthermore, he was awarded the 10th Three Shadows Photography Award in 2018.

Wang currently lives and works in Beijing.

Education

- 2014 MFA in Painting, Boston University, School of Visual Art, USA
- 2012 MA in Painting, Tsinghua University, China
- 2007 Bachelor of Science in Biology, Northeast Normal University, China

Solo Exhibitions

- 2023 “Wang Tuo: The Second Interrogation”, Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2021 “Wang Tuo: Empty-handed into History”, UCCA Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China

- 2020 "Standing at the Crossroads", White Space, Beijing, China
- 2019 "WANG Tuo: Smoke and Fire", Present Company, New York, USA
- 2018 "Only the Lonely: Nadim Abbas & Wang Tuo", Gallery EXIT, Hong Kong
"Spiral", Beijing Contemporary, Beijing, China
- 2017 "Myths We don't Outgrow", White Space, Beijing, China
"The Monkey Grammarians", Salt Project, Beijing, China
- 2016 "A Little Violence of Organized Forgetting", Taikang Space, Beijing, China
"Only the Lonely: Nadim Abbas & Wang Tuo, Incube Arts", New York, USA
"Chorus", Riverviews Art Space, Lynchburg, USA
- 2015 "A Study for Human Opera: Prelude", Bromfield Gallery, Boston, USA

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2024 "Etched in Time: The Experience and Transformation of Contemporary Art Collection in China", ENNOVA Art Museum, Langfang, China
- 2023 Beijing International Short Film Festival Film 2023, Beijing, China
"Edges as the Center: Riverine Borders, Bridges and Memory Spaces between China, Mongolia, North Korea and Russia, G Museum, Nanjing, China
"How Far, How Close", Aranya Art Center, Beidaihe, China
Sigg Prize 2023, M+, Hong Kong
"Motion is Action: 35 Years of Chinese Media Art", By Art Matters, Hangzhou, China
"Walking China: Stories yet to be told", Institute of Contemporary Arts at NYU Shanghai, Shanghai, China
Singapore International Film Festival 2023, Singapore
Indie Chinese Cinema Week 2023, Berlin, Germany
- 2022 Image Forum Festival, Tokyo, Japan
"THE TERMINAL", SNAP, Shanghai, China
"Frequencies of Tradition", Kadist, San Francisco, USA
"ON | OFF 2021: Carousel of Progress", He Art Museum, Guangdong, China
"Rhythm and Refrain", Song Art Museum, Beijing, China
"The Note of Food", Qiong Jiu Tang, Beijing, China
"Soul Hunters", Surplus Space, Wuhan, China
"Play and Loop IV", Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2021 "Frequencies of Tradition", Incheon Art Platform, Incheon, Korea
"32nd Singapore International Film Festival", National Museum of Singapore, Singapore
"The Precarious Field of Optimism: The Re-definition and Re-production of Failure", OCAT Institute, Beijing, China
"The Exhibition of Annual of Contemporary Art of China 2020", Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, China
"Unknown Games", Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, China

- “The 13th Shanghai Biennale ‘Bodies of Water’”, Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China
 “The Circular Impact: Video Art 21”, OCAT Shanghai, Shanghai, China
 “The 4th Today’s Documents – ‘A Stitch in Time’”, Museum of Contemporary Art Chongqing, Chongqing, China
- 2020 “The Exhibition of Annual of Contemporary Art of China 2019”, Shanghai Duolun Museum of Modern Art, Shanghai, China
 “Cao Fei for LOOP — VIDEOCLOOP”, LOOP Barcelona, online
 “Kino Der Kunst 2020”, Munich, Germany
 “Étude”, Aranya Art Center, Beidaihe, China
 “MMCA Asia Project – Looking for another family”, MMCA, Seoul, Korea
 “Out of Blueprints”, Serpentine Gallery, online
 “A Light Without Shadow, Cuchifritos Gallery + Project Space”, New York, USA
 “OCAT × KADIST Emerging Media Artist Program 2020”, OCAT Shanghai, Shanghai, China
 “Anonymous Society for Magick”, Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2019 “The 4th Today’s Documents – A Stitch in Time”, Today Art Museum, Beijing, China
 “Long March Project: The Deficit Faction”, Long March Space, Beijing, China
 “Sunset on a Dead End: The Notorious and Their Inexplicable Modes of Existence”, Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China
 “Forget Sorrow Grass: An Archaeology of Feminine Time”, Times Museums, Guangzhou, China
 “A White Space Odyssey”, White Space Beijing, Beijing, China
 “Now Is the Time: 2019 Wuzhen Contemporary Art Exhibition”, Wuzhen, China
 “Hic Sunt Leones”, Surplus Space, Wuhan, China
 “Hic Sunt Leones”, 798 Art Center, Beijing, China
 “Psyche and Politics”, Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, Baden-Baden, Germany
 “Remapping Reality – Selected Video Collection from Wang Bing”, OCAT Shanghai, Shanghai, China
 “Roadside Picnic-Drawings”, Owen Art Gallery at Gould Academy, Maine, USA
 “The Life Apps”, How Art Museum, Shanghai, China
- 2018 “8102 - On Reality”, OCAT Shanghai, Shanghai, China
 “Replay”, White Space Beijing, China
 “Docile”, SNAP Art Center, Shanghai, China
 “Light! Heat! Power!”, Spare Space-Frank F. Yang Art and Education Foundation, Shanghai, China
 “New Metallurgists”, Julia Stoschek Collection, Düsseldorf, Germany
 “One Northeast”, Zarya Center for Contemporary Art, Vladivostok, Russia
 “Confusing Public and Private”, The 3rd Beijing Photo Biennial, Beijing, China
 “40 Years of Chinese Contemporary Photography”, OCAT Shenzhen, China
 “Encounter Asia — Multi-vision of Youth Art”, Museum of Sichuan Fine Arts Institute, Chongqing, China
 “The Exhibition of Annual of Contemporary Art of China 2017”, Beijing Minsheng Art Museum, Beijing, China
 “Ten Directions: The 10th Anniversary Exhibition of the Three Photography Award”, Three Shadows Photography Art Center, Beijing, China

- “Assembling”, chi K11 art space, Shenyang, China
 “Interlink: The 10th Three Shadows Photography Award Exhibition”, Three Shadows Photography Art Center, Beijing, China
 “Infinite Rehearsal”, Mocube, Beijing, China
 “Play and Loop”, Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2017 “Roadside Picnic”, Chambers Fine Art, New York, USA
 “Bi-city Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture: Ideas on the Move”, Sally Project, Shenzhen, China
 “Indoors Universe: The 5th HuaYu Youth Award”, Sanya, China
 “Phantom Pain Clinic”, Jimei × Arles International Photography Festival, China
 “To Be An Image Maker”, Jimei × Arles International Photography Festival, China
 “If Art Can Start A New Again”, Oil Pump Plant Factory, Lishui City, China
 “The Latch : That Obscure Object of Portraits”, C-Space+Local, Beijing, China
 “Nine”, Queens Museum, New York, USA
 “Dream-atic”, Christian Louboutin, Beijing, China
 “What You See Is Not What You See”, LEAP Screen @ PHOTOFAIRS, San Francisco, USA
- 2016 “Re-juvenation”, Thornwillow Institute, Newburgh, China
- 2015 “The Real Thing”, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taichung
 “House of Flying Boobs”, Nuyorican Poets Club & Bowery Poetry Club, New York, USA
 “Peekskill Project VI”, Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, Peekskill, USA
 “Archimedes's Bathtub”, Lorimoto Gallery, New York, USA
 “Tirana International Film Festival”, Albanian National Center of Cinematography, Tirana, Albania
 “Re-make/Re-build/Re-stage”, Vox Populi, Aux Performance Center, Philadelphia, USA
 “CURATICISM |The Gam #2”, NARS Foundation, New York, USA
- 2014 “6th Cairo Video Festival”, Gezira Art Center, Cairo, Egypt
 “IMA International Film Festival”, Kerala Sahitya Academy, IMA Film Society, India
 “The Drift”, 222Lodge, Dordrecht, Netherlands
 “Convergence”, 808 Gallery, Boston, USA
 “Reminiscence of the Land”, 798 Photo Gallery, Beijing, China
 “WEB VIDEO BIENNIAL”, Web Art Center
 “9th Annual Boston Young Contemporaries”, 808 Gallery, Boston, USA
 “Boston University School of Visual Art MFA Thesis Exhibition”, 808 Gallery, Boston, USA

Awards, Residency & Scholarships

- 2024 Winner, K21 Global Art Award 2024, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany
- 2023 Winner, Sigg Prize 2023, Hong Kong
- 2020 OCAT x KADIST Emerging Media Artist Residency Program, Artist-in-residence, USA
- 2019 Winner, Youth Contemporary Art Wuzhen Award, China

- 2018 Winner, the 10th Three Shadows Photography Award, China
China Top Shorts Award, Beijing International Short Film Festival, China
Outstanding Art Exploration Award for Chinese Short Films, Beijing International Short Film Festival, China
- 2017 Shortlist, The 5th HuaYu Youth Award, China
- 2015-2017 Queens Museum, Artist-in-residence, USA
- 2015 Songyang Fieldwork Station, Songyang, China
Residency Unlimited, USA
NARS Foundation International Artists Residency, USA
- 2014 Award of Merit: Experimental, The Accolade Global Film Competition, USA
Video Biennial featured artist award, Stigmat10 VIDEOFOCUS, EU
NYFA IAP Mentoring Program, USA
- 2013 Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center Prize, Boston University, Winner, USA
Constatin Alajalov Scholarship, Boston University, Boston, USA
- 2012 Bronze Award “2012 Annual Nomination Exhibition for Young Contemporary Artists”,
Today Art Museum, China
Constatin Alajalov Scholarship, Boston University, USA

Collections

Boston University Mugar Memorial Library, USA
Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
De Ying Foundation, China
Fondazione In Between Art Film, Italy
Guangdong Times Museum, China
Hartwig Art Foundation, the Netherlands
Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, USA
KADIST Art Foundation, France/USA
Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany
Long Museum, China
M+, Hong Kong
New Century Art Foundation, China
Power Station of Art, China
Sigg Collection, Swiss
Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, China
Tsinghua University Art Museum, China
Today Art Museum, China