

Zheng Wenzhi

Zhang Wenzhi (b. 1993, Dalian, Liaoning Province, China) creates collagesque ink paintings which interweave Chinese modern history, folklore, popular science, and archival materials. Using his hometown as an entry point, Zhang spotlights the convoluted history of Northeast China, particularly the period dating to the late Qing Dynasty, delineating the repercussions of the past in the present. The region was once exploited by various colonial powers before undergoing rapid urbanization, leaving it in a collective state of amnesia. Zhang depicts spirit animals and mythological creatures, including the Deer god, pointing to the prominence of shamanism in Northeast China. They become metaphoric of life and prosperity in a place once subjected to trauma and constant shifts in power. In Zhang's paintings, these auspicious creatures are juxtaposed against a vast landscape where historical and mythological motifs are nestled within industrial infrastructures, bearing witness to the region's ever-unfolding changes and complex historical tapestry.

Zhang obtained his BA in Fine Arts in 2015, and MFA in 2018 from the Central Academy of Fine Arts. He participated in group exhibitions at Wind H Museum (Beijing, 2024), White Rabbit Gallery (Sydney, 2024), Beijing Times Art Museum (Beijing, 2024), Macalline Art Center (Beijing, 2022), OCAT Shenzhen (Shenzhen, 2021), Garry Culture Center (Beijing, 2020), "Anren Biennale" in Anren Old Town (Sichuan, 2019), Dongguan Culture Center (Guangdong, 2018), Guardian Art Center (Beijing, 2018), National Agricultural Exhibition Center (Beijing, 2016) and CAFA Art Museum (Beijing, 2016).

Zhang Wenzhi currently lives and works in Beijing, China.

Education

2018 MFA, School of Experimental Art, Central Academy of Fine Arts, China

2015 BFA, School of Experimental Art, Central Academy of Fine Arts, China

Solo Exhibitions

2024 "Ride the Waves of Whales", ART LABOR Gallery, Shanghai, China

2023 "Tiger in Mountains, Deer at Ocean", Blindspot Gallery, Hong Kong

2022 "Zhang Wenzhi: The Northern Hills", ART LABOR Gallery, Shanghai, China

2020 "Zhang Wenzhi: Alice's Natural History Museum", ART LABOR Gallery, Shanghai, China

2019 "Zhang Wenzhi: The Journal of The Black Dragon", ART LABOR Gallery, Shanghai, China

Group Exhibitions

- 2024 “Thresholds, Flaneur and Whirlpools”, Wind H Museum, Beijing, China
“Laozi’s Furnace”, White Rabbit Gallery, Sydney, Australia
“Era of Encore”, Beijing Times Art Museum, Beijing, China
“Shanghai Calling”, ART LABOR Gallery, Shanghai, China
“An Unlikely Menagerie and The Resulting Chaos”, Vanguard Gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2022 “Multispecies Clouds”, Macalline Art Center, Beijing, China
- 2021 “OCAT Biennale-Resonances of One Hundred Things”, OCAT Shenzhen, Shenzhen, China
- 2020 “ART POWER 100”, Garry Culture Center, Beijing, China
- 2019 “Anren Biennale: A Confrontation of Ideals”, Anren Old Town, Chengdu, Sichuan, China
- 2018 “Growth”, ART LABOR Gallery, Shanghai, China
“Extending Space” 2018 Dongguan Sculpture and Installation Art Festival, Dongguan Culture Center, Guangdong, China
“Nova 100 Opening Exhibition”, Guardian Art Center, Beijing, China
- 2017 “Four Directions”, Chambers Fine Art, Beijing, China
“Glancing at Contemporary Chinese Artists: Insights into Tradition and Beyond”, Delegation of the European Union to China, Beijing, China
- 2016 “Nova 100 Opening Exhibition”, National Agricultural Exhibition Center, Beijing, China
“Kezikeshe: 6666666666”, Cipa Gallery, Beijing, China
“Nothing happened here?”, IF Salon, Qingdao, Shandong, China
“A Possible World”, CAFA Art Museum, Beijing, China
- 2015 CAFA Graduation Season Undergraduate Students’ Exhibition, CAFA Art Museum, Beijing, China
- 2014 Teaching Achievement Exhibition of School of Experimental Arts of CAFA, CAFA Art Museum, Beijing, China
- 2013 COART Asian Youth Art Scene, Shuhe Ancient Town, Lijiang, Yunnan, China

Collections

CAFA Art Museum, China
Sigg Collection, Switzerland
White Rabbit Gallery, Australia