

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 disentangle collective unconsciousness and historical traumas.

His solo exhibitions were held at K21 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen (Düsseldorf, 2024), Blindspot Gallery (Hong Kong, 2023), UCCA Center for Contemporary Art (Beijing, 2021) and Taikang Space (Beijing, 2016), among others. He has also exhibited in institutions and biennales internationally, including Times Museum (Guangzhou, 2025 & 2019), Canadian Center for Architecture (Montreal, 2025), Rockbund Art Museum (Shanghai, 2025), the 11th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (Brisbane, 2024), M+ (Hong Kong, 2023), Incheon Art Platform (Incheon, 2021), National Museum of Singapore (Singapore, 2021), Power Station of Art (Shanghai, 2021), National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Seoul, 2020), Kino Der Kunst 2020 (Munich), 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 was the winner of the K21 Global Art Award 2024, the Sigg Prize 2023 and the 10th Three Shadows Photography Award in 2018. He is selected for the DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Program 2026. He previously participated in the OCAT x KADIST Emerging Media Artist Residency Program in 2020 and was an Artist In Residence at Queens Museum in New York from 2015 to 2017.

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

- 2024 “Wang Tuo: The Second Interrogation”, K21, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Germany

- 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 and Screenings

- 2026 (upcoming) "The China Moment. Contextualizing Individualism in Chinese Contemporary Art", The documenta Institut, Kasseler Kunstverein, Kassel, Germany
- 2025 "Action II: Zoe Chang's Collection", Times Museum, Guangzhou, China
"How Modern: Biographies of Architecture in China 1949–1979", Canadian Center for Architecture, Montreal, Canada
"The Great Camouflage", Rockbund Art Museum, Shanghai, China
"Haori. Men's clothes of the early 20th century narrate Japan", MAO Asian Art Museum, Turin, Italy
"The Utopia of Rules", T:>Works, Singapore
- 2024 The 11th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia
"Retrospective", 5th INSTAR Film Festival, Museum Villa Stuck, Munich, Germany
"Summer Theatre", Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo, Japan
"Pictures of the Post-80s Generation —Generational Leap", TANK Shanghai, Shanghai, China
"LET'S SIT DOWN TOGETHER AND TALK ABOUT A LITTLE CULTURE", Savvy Contemporary, Berlin, Germany
"EMAP x Frieze Film Seoul 2024", Frieze Seoul, Seoul, South Korea
"Liminal Stages: Explorations on Perception, Existence, and Techno-consciousness", Wind H Art Center, Beijing, 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
 "FELLOWS", 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", National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, 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

- 2026 DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Program 2026, Germany
- 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 Artist-in-residence, Queens Museum, USA
- 2015 Residency Unlimited, USA
NARS Foundation International Artists Residency, 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
Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, Australia
Sigg Collection, Swiss
Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, China
Tsinghua University Art Museum, China
Today Art Museum, China